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FINAL REPORT Code: CSP76C

Office Use for New Projects

Application Code: _____

COMMENCEMENT DATE: 1 May 97 COMPLETION DATE: 30 Jun 97 Grant code: _____

PROJECT TITLE	Collection of wild <i>Gossypium australe</i> , <i>G. bickii</i> , <i>G. nelsonii</i> , and <i>G. sturtianum</i> in the Australian eastern arid zone	
FIELD OF RESEARCH	New Cultivars	
FIELD CODE	3.1	
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indigenous Australian *Gossypium* species possess a number of attributes that could be used to improve the profitability of cotton cultivation in Australia (see CSP47C & CSP85C). The Australian eastern arid zone was poorly represented in the current CSIRO Cotton Germplasm Collection. The collecting trip funded by this grant provided the accessions needed to rectify this gap in the collection and expanded our knowledge of the natural biology of *G. australe*, *G. bickii*, *G. nelsonii*, and *G. sturtianum*. The herbarium specimens represent important source materials for natural biologists and Flora writers. The germplasm samples will be used in future studies of levels and patterns of genetic and morphological diversity among the arid zone *Gossypium* species. This in turn will provide a base-line for documenting the existence and directionality of gene flow among these wild cotton relatives.