

How do you write Scientific Names?

There is a pattern to writing botanical and zoological names. This pattern is easy to remember:

Family name – use all capitals PROTEACEAE

Genus name – use capital only for the first letter, italicise – *Grevillea*

Species name – use all lower case, italicise – *banksii*

Example: *Grevillea asteriscosa*

If you are referring to all one genus, you can use first letter instead of repeating the full name. For example – *Hakea suberea*, *H. coriacea*, *H. purpurea*

Subspecies and variety

In the case of a subspecies, the shortened form subsp. is not italicised. This is also the case for a variety.

Example: *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea*

Dryandra sessilis var. *cordata*

Hybrid

With a hybrid use italics for the genus only. The hybrid name is in single inverted commas with a capital beginning each word.

Example: *G.* 'Coastal Glow'

G. 'Misty Pink'

No species name

If a plant has not been given a species name, use the shortened form of species, all lower case and without italics - sp. .

Example: *Grevillea* sp.

There are many *grevillea* species. OR There are many *grevillea* spp.

It is preferable to use the full word species where possible so everyone understands.

