

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Forrest Medal

Glasgow Autumn 2022

Microcachrys tetragona

Shown by Stan da Prato



For the second time Stan has won the Forrest medal with a conifer. His *Larix* triumphed in Pitlochry and now his Tasmanian cracker has won here in Glasgow. His *Microcachrys tetragona* has travelled to several shows over the years often provoking the question, "Why is it a conifer. It doesn't look like one". Well it has cones, albeit little ones. You just have to look carefully for them.

Microcachrys tetragona is native to high rocky areas of western Tasmania. Colloquially known as 'creeping pine'. It is a member of the Podocarpaceae. It has a prostrate habit and can reach 2 feet in height in the wild. It looks nothing



like a northern hemisphere conifer. Stan's plant was about ten inches high and 24 inches across. Its whip like branches were clothed in tightly clasped, scale like dark green leaves. Innumerable tiny cones covered the plant. The current year's cones were copper; last year's paler but it is the young red cone which give it its other

name of 'strawberry pine.'

Congratulations Stan!

There are some pictures of *Microcachrys tetragona* growing in the wild on next page



Microcachrys tetragona at home in Tasmania. {Pictures from the web}

