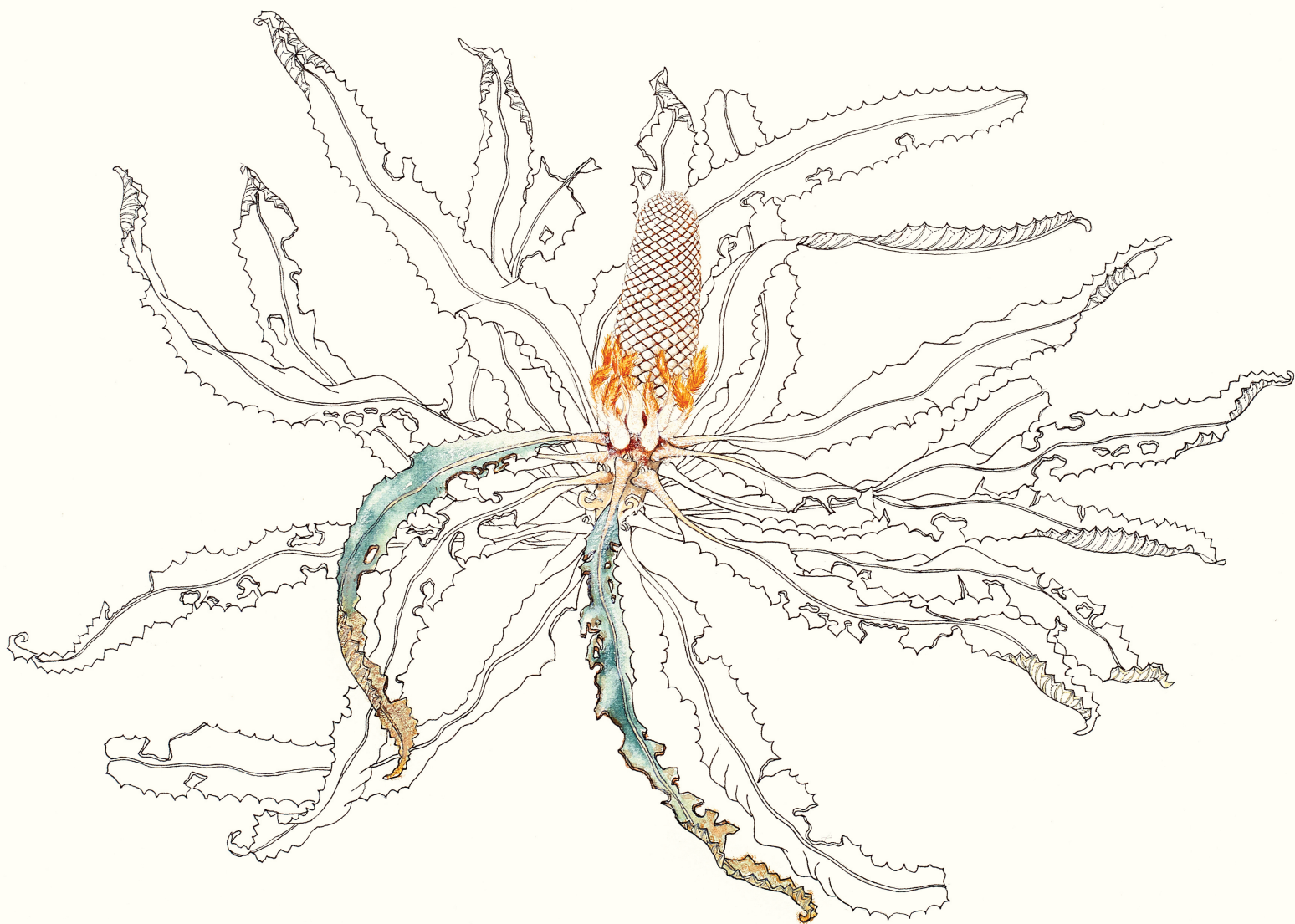


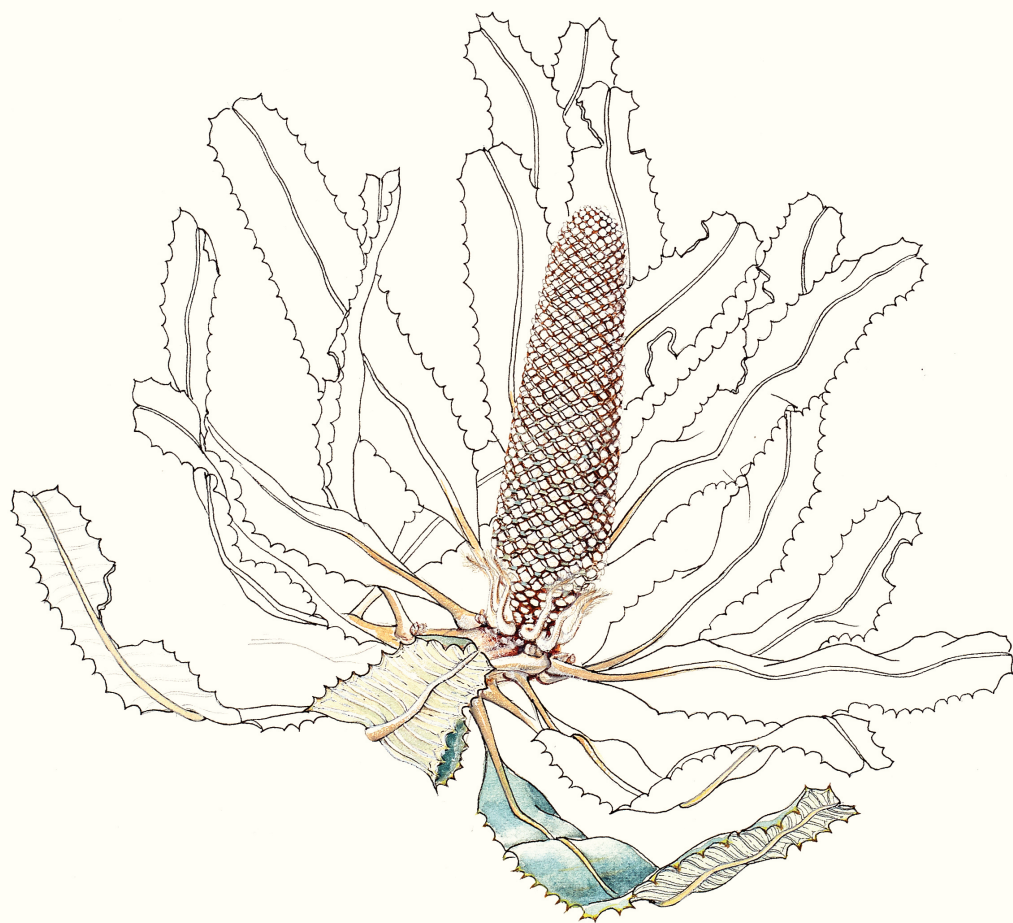
The perfection of the bud of the emerging spike or inflorescence.  
I was attracted to this stage because of the purity of the  
small spike — soft, pale and symmetrical among the rough,  
prickly surrounding leaves.

I often found myself distracted by the leaves and would draw pages  
of them, finding their curves, twists and folds hypnotic.



As the spike develops, the orderly pattern of its surface slowly evolves from the bottom, becoming more complex as tiny flower buds begin to emerge.

When doing my drawings of the developing spike I found it difficult to concentrate on each segment of the pattern. Each time I tried to focus on one part my eyes would jump and follow a different path.





The emerging flower buds gradually spiral upward around the spike until it is completely covered.

In these early stages, the absolute order, the tight patterns and the subtleties of colour are what I found most fascinating.

