Good grief, what's happening to Goodenia?

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A recent cpDNA phylogenetic analysis of monophyletic Goodeniaceae supported two large clades—the smaller 'LAD' group comprising Lechenaultia, Anthotium and Dampiera, and the 'Core Goodeniaceae' including the monotypic Brunonia australis as sister to Goodenia s.l. and Scaevola s.l. Core Goodeniaceae are characterised by the presence of free anthers and an indusium with a protruding stigma. Goodenia s.l. includes Velleia, Verreauxia, Coopernookia, Selliera, monotypic Pentaptilon, and Scaevola collaris, and is much more variable in floral morphology than Scaevola s.l. The majority of Goodenia s.l. have bilabiate flowers but it is clear that fan flowers and intermediate floral symmetries have evolved multiple times across the group. In contrast, the iconic fan flower floral symmetry is almost ubiquitous within Scaevola s.l., with the notable exception of embedded monotypic Diaspasis filifolia, which has pseudo-actinomorphic flowers. Preliminary phylogenetic analysis of nrITS sequences corroborate cpDNA analyses and indicate that Goodenia s.s. resolves into three major clades with varying levels of support. Currently it appears that no morphological features unite Goodenia s.l., and that most of the included smaller genera are both monophyletic and morphologically well-defined. It is deemed likely that the recognition of new genera from within Goodenia s.s. will be the better course of action, rather than subsuming all included taxa into an expanded genus of more than 190 taxa; however, broader taxon sampling, further cpDNA and nrDNA sequencing, and a re-evaluation of morphological synapomorphies for each new taxonomic entity are required before a formal revision of this charismatic group can be made.



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