

Status and identification of *Goodenia filiformis* (Goodeniaceae)

Goodenia filiformis R.Br. (Goodeniaceae), a small erect to ascending herb from the south-west of Western Australia, has for a number of years been confused with *G. pulchella* Benth. This communication highlights information useful in distinguishing between the two taxa, alleviating confusion in previous treatments.

Carolin's (1992) treatment of *Goodenia* in the "Flora of Australia" has *G. filiformis* as known only from the type collection, collected by Robert Brown in 1801 "between Princess Royal Harbour and [West] Cape Howe, near King George Sound". After receiving the type collection from the British Museum (BM), the authors have determined that seven specimens housed under the name *G. pulchella* at the Western Australian Herbarium (PERTH) are in fact *G. filiformis*¹. All of the specimens originate from the vicinity of Albany, the same area as where the type was collected. *Goodenia filiformis* and *G. pulchella* seem to both commonly occur in winter-wet depressions, but *G. pulchella* has a much wider range (Figure 1).

Of the seven specimens of *G. filiformis* currently in the Western Australian Herbarium (PERTH) only one is from a nature reserve (Millbrook Nature Reserve north of Albany). This means that the species should be considered for Priority Three listing, as Poorly Known Taxa. Further fieldwork will be required to determine the exact range of *G. filiformis*.

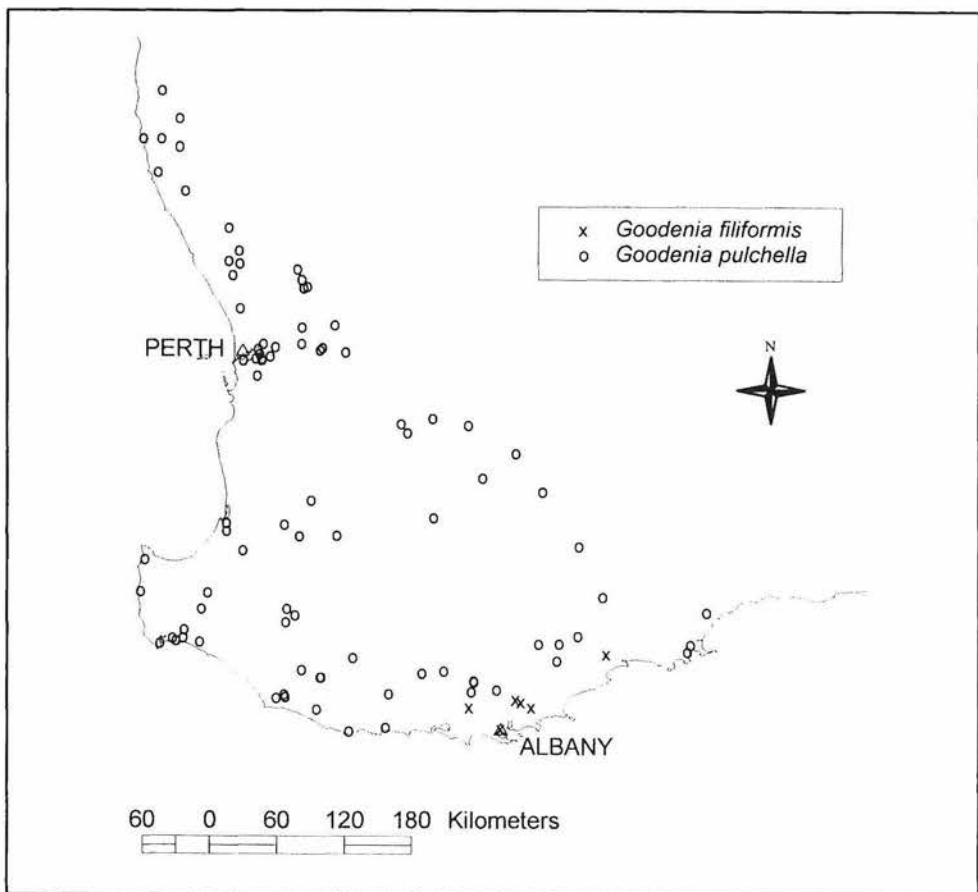


Figure 1. Distribution of *G. filiformis* and *G. pulchella* in the south-west of Western Australia.

¹ R.C. Carolin (1992) did not examine the material the authors have determined as *Goodenia filiformis*.

Table 1 shows the principal morphological differences distinguishing *G. filiformis* and *G. pulchella*. Key indicators, which are height, leaf and sepal shape combined with geographic restriction, separate the taxa.

Table 1. Principal morphological features distinguishing *Goodenia filiformis* and *G. pulchella*.

	<i>G. filiformis</i>	<i>G. pulchella</i>
Height	to 25 cm	to 35 cm
Leaves		
shape	linear-terete	narrowly ovate
margin	entire	entire to crenate-dentate
width	c. 1 mm	greater than 1 mm
Sepals		
shape	ovate	narrowly oblong
length	1.5–2 mm	2–3 mm
Indusium	c. 0.7 mm long	0.8–1 mm long

The "Flora of the Perth Region", pre-dating Carolin's (1992) treatment, contains an illustration (Marchant *et al.* 1987) of a plant under the name *G. filiformis*. Unfortunately the illustration does not include the basal leaves, making identification difficult. As most illustrations for the flora were drawn from fresh material collected in the region, and the sepals are narrowly oblong, the specimen used is most likely *G. pulchella*.

References

- Carolin, R.C. (1992). *Goodenia*. In: "Flora of Australia." Vol. 35. pp. 147–281. (Australian Government Publishing Service: Canberra.)
- Marchant, N.G., Wheeler, J.R., Rye, B.L., Bennett, E.M., Lander, N.S. & MacFarlane, T.D. (1987). "Flora of the Perth Region." Part 2. (Western Australian Herbarium: South Perth.)

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