

11. BOEHMERIA, Jacq.

Flowers monœcious or diœcious, in globular usually unisexual clusters, with small scarious bracts. Male perianth of 4, rarely 3 or 5, segments or lobes, valvate in the bud. Stamens as many as perianth-segments, with a central clavate or globose rudimentary pistil. Female perianth tubular, compressed, more or less dilated below, usually contracted at the orifice, with a 2- or 4-toothed border. Nut dry, included in the persistent perianth, free or more or less adnate to it, sessile or stipitate, with a long linear-filiform papillose-hirsute style or stigma, protruding from the perianth and persistent on the ripe nut. Seed more or less albuminous.—Shrubs or small trees. Leaves alternate or opposite, petiolate, 3-nerved, toothed. Stipules usually deciduous. Flower-clusters axillary, either sessile and solitary or in simple interrupted spikes or short branched panicles.

The genus is spread over the tropical and subtropical regions of both the New and the Old World. No species has as yet been detected on the main land of Australia; the subjoined one is endemic in Lord Howe's island.

U. S. P.

URTICACEAE

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URTICACEAE
Boehmeria glomerul

14. **PARIETARIA**, Linn.

(Freirea, Gaud.)

Flowers polygamous, in axillary cymes often reduced to loose clusters, the external bracts more or less united at the base. Perianth of the hermaphrodite and male flowers deeply divided into 4 rarely 3 lobes, with as many stamens, in the females with a more developed tube and smaller lobes without stamens. Ovary in the hermaphrodite

and female flowers free within the perianth-tube, in the males rudimentary. Style filiform or very short, with a densely tufted linear-spathulate recurved stigma, deciduous after flowering. Nut enclosed in the variously enlarged perianth, that of the hermaphrodite flowers usually cylindrical, not succulent.—Annual or perennial much-branched herbs, pubescent with more or less prehensile hooked hairs. Leaves alternate, entire, 3-nerved or triplinerved. Stipules none.

¶ The genus is dispersed over the greater part of the globe, the only Australian species being one of the widest range.

1. ***P. debilis***, Forst. Prod. 73. A diffuse more or less pubescent branching annual of 6 in. to above 1 ft. Leaves on slender petioles, ovate or cordate, obtuse or acuminate, membranous, green on both sides or hoary underneath, 3-nerved from the base, varying from under $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long in some specimens to above 1 in. in others. Flowers 3 to 7 together in axillary cymes almost reduced to sessile clusters, the 3 or 4 external bracts shortly united at the base. Perianth-lobes usually 4 but sometimes 3 only. Fruiting perianth ovoid, that of the central hermaphrodite flower, although enclosing a perfect nut, often remaining unchanged and scarcely above $\frac{1}{2}$ line long, those of the lateral female flowers more or less enlarged, sometimes $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 line long. Style scarcely any besides the dense stigmatic oblong tuft of hairs.—Hook. f. Fl. Tasm. i. 344; Wedd. in DC. Prod. xvi. i. 235⁴⁵; *P. squulida*, Hook. f. in Hook. Lond. Journ. vi. 285; *Freirea australis*, Nees in Pl. Preiss. i. 638.

N. Australia. Sea Range, *F. Mueller*.

Queensland. Brisbane river, Darebin creek, and Buchan river, *F. Mueller*.

N. S. Wales. Argyle county, *A. Cunningham*; Hunter's river, *Miss Scott*; Shoalhaven gullies, *C. Moore*; New England, *C. Stuart*.

Victoria. In fissures of rocks, *F. Mueller*; Curling creek, *Robertson*; Little river, *Fullogar*; Murray river, *Dallachy*.

Tasmania. Launceston and various places along the coast, *Gunn*; Flinders island, *Milligan*; King's island, *F. Mueller*.

S. Australia. St. Vincent's gulf, *F. Mueller*; Gawler ranges, *Sullivan*; Lake Gillies, *Burkitt*; Kangaroo island, *F. Mueller*.

W. Australia. Swan river, *Drummond*, 1st coll. n. 734, *Oldfield*; Vass and Kalgan rivers, *Oldfield*; Oldfield river, *Maxwell*; Rottenest island, *Preiss*, n. 2399.

The species is spread over the tropical and temperate regions both of the New and the Old World, with the exception of Europe and Northern Asia. It was distinguished by Gaudichaud generically from the common *P. officinalis*, under the name of *Freirea*, on account of its sessile stigma, a character which however does not hold good in the *P. mauritanica*, which is in other respects so closely allied to *P. debilis*.

13. **POUZOLSIA**, Gaudich.

(*Memorialis*, Ham.; *Gonostegia*, Turcz.; *Hyrtanandra*, Miq.)

Flowers monœcious or rarely diœcious, in sessile usually androgynous clusters, with small scarious bracts. Male perianth of 4 or 5 lobes or segments, valvate in the bud. Stamens 3, 4 or 5, with a club-shaped or obovoid rudimentary pistil. Female perianth usually ovate, contracted at the orifice, with a 2- or 4-toothed border, often enlarged in fruit and sometimes winged but not succulent. Nut enclosed in the persistent perianth, the linear filiform style deciduous.—Herbs undershrubs or shrubs. Leaves alternate or the lower ones or rarely all opposite, entire or very rarely toothed. Stipules free, usually persistent. Flower-clusters axillary, solitary or in interrupted spikes.

The genus is spread over the tropical regions of both the New and the Old World. The Australian species are both of them East Indian and represent the two sections into which the genus has been divided and which have been adopted as genera by Weddell as well as by several other botanists. I have, however, followed F. Mueller in reuniting them, the sole character derived from the shape of the male perianth is one of little importance, and the differences in habit, however marked in the typical species of each section, do not run through the whole of the species.

SECT. 1. **Pouzolsia**.—Male perianth-segments concave at the top, but rounded and obtuse on the back.

Stems diffuse. Leaves all alternate 1. *P. indica*.

SECT. 2. **Memorialis**.—Male perianth-segments abruptly bent in near the top, with an acute transverse dorsal angle.

Stems elongated. Lower leaves opposite 2. *P. quinquenervis*.

1. ***P. indica***, Gaudich.; Wedd. Monogr. Urt. 398, t. 13, and in DC. Prod. xvi. i. 220, var. *tetraptera* subvar. *pentandra*, Wedd. A diffuse perennial with the habit of a *Parictaria*, more or less pubescent or hirsute, the stems usually from 6 in. to 1 ft. long. Leaves alternate or the lower ones rarely opposite, shortly petiolate, ovate, acute, entire, sometimes all under $\frac{1}{2}$ in., rarely nearly 1 in. long, 3-nerved, with the lateral nerves undivided. Flowers few in the clusters, the males and females mixed. Perianths hispid, the males of 5 segments in most of the Australian specimens examined. Fruiting female perianth about $\frac{1}{2}$ line long, sometimes ovoid and equally 8- or 10-ribbed, but others in the same axils with 4 of the ribs produced into broad wings. Nuts black and shining.—*P. arnhemica*, F. Muell. Fragm. iv. 87.

N. Australia. Sea Range, Wilson; Sunday island, A. Cunningham.
Queensland. Rockingham bay, Dallachy.

The species is common in East India and the Archipelago, with the male flowers usually 4-merous. The Sea Range specimens correspond to the *P. procumbens*, Wight lc. t. 2099, n. 35 and to the *P. minor*, Wight lc. t. 2100, n. 43, the former with 10-ribbed, the latter with 4-winged fruiting perianths, both correctly reduced by Weddell to *P. indica*.

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URTICACEAE

Pouzolozia zeylandica