

Short Communication

Lectotypification of two Western Australian species of *Micromyrtus* (Myrtaceae)

Among the species of *Micromyrtus* Benth. (Myrtaceae) that Bentham (1867) described in “Flora Australiensis”, were two Western Australian species that had previously been recognised as distinct taxa by Ferdinand von Mueller. One had been described as *Thryptomene elobata* (Mueller 1864) and another had been given the manuscript name *T. racemosa* F. Muell. The purpose of this short communication is to select a lectotype from among the syntypes of each of these species.

Micromyrtus elobata (F. Muell.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 3, 64 (1867). – *Thryptomene elobata* F. Muell., Fragm. Phyt. Austral. 4: 63 (1864). *Type citation*: “In locis arenosis apud sinum Israelite Bay. Maxw.”. *Type*: sandy places inland of Israelite Bay, [Western Australia], G. Maxwell (*lecto*: MEL 71324, here designated). *Excluded syntype*: Israelite Bay, [Western Australia], G. Maxwell (MEL 71325).

Lectotypification. Following requests for type material, two specimens were received from MEL (72324 & 71325) and one from K. All three specimens appeared to be from separate collections. Both of the MEL sheets had a corner of the label turned over and labelled with a B, indicating that they had been examined by Bentham and both had *Thryptomene elobata* written on the label in Mueller’s handwriting. The MEL 71324 sheet, selected here as the lectotype, had leafy stems with a good number of flowers, and its locality given as “Sandy places inland” as well as referring to Israelite Bay. The other MEL sheet had a specimen with much more widely spreading, largely bare branches, with a few leaves and flowers crowded at the end of each branchlet, and a label with the less precise locality “Israelite Bay”.

The K material, from Herbarium Hookerianum, was very different again in appearance, for example having larger leaves than both MEL specimens, and it is very unlikely that it had been seen by Mueller. It was labelled with a different locality, Young River, and had two possible collectors names, Oldfield and Maxwell. It is clearly not part of the type collection of *Micromyrtus elobata*.

Micromyrtus racemosa Benth., Fl. Austral. 3, 64 (1867). *Type*: south-western Australia, J. Drummond coll. 2, n. 235 (*lecto*: K Herbarium Hookerianum sheet, here designated; *isolecto*: K (two sheets), MEL 71359). *Excluded syntype*: Murchison River, [Western Australia], A.F. Oldfield (K; MEL 71357, 71358).

Lectotypification. The unpublished name *Thryptomene racemosa* F. Muell. ms. was cited by Bentham (1867: 64), who adopted Mueller’s epithet but placed it in a different genus when he named *Micromyrtus racemosa*. The first of the two syntypes cited by Bentham, “Drummond, 2nd Coll. n. 235”, seems to be the more appropriate one to use to select the lectotype for the species as it is of good quality and more duplicates of it are known than for the collection by Oldfield. Of the three sheets of this collection examined from K, the one from Herbarium Hookerianum has the most copious material and would have been examined by Bentham, who worked extensively on Hooker’s herbarium specimens. Hence this specimen is selected here as the lectotype. The *isolectotypes* examined include a specimen from MEL.

The excluded syntype is represented at MEL by two sheets (71357, 71358) and at K by a single sheet from Herbarium Hookerianum. Both MEL sheets are identified as *Thryptomene racemosa* and have a B written on a folded corner of the main label, indicating the Bentham had examined them, and MEL 71357 has, in addition to this, a large label with detailed descriptive notes in Mueller's handwriting.

Locality of lectotype. Judging from the information on Drummond's collections given in Erickson (1969), it seems likely that the lectotype was collected in the Wongan Hills area. Of the PERTH collections from that area, the one showing the closest resemblance to the lectotype is *R.D. Royce* 6636.

References

- Bentham, G. (1867). "Flora Australiensis." Vol. 3. (Reeve & Co.: London.)
Erickson, R. (1969). "The Drummonds of Hawthornden." (Lamb Paterson Pty Ltd: Western Australia.)
Mueller, F. (1864). Myrtaceae. *In*: "Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae." Vol. 4, pp. 51–77. (Government Printer: Melbourne.)

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