

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Ptilotus christineae* is synonymous with the previously Presumed Extinct taxon *P. pyramidatus

While curating the *Ptilotus* R.Br. collection at the Western Australian Herbarium, I came across a small line drawing of the Presumed Extinct species *P. pyramidatus* (Moq.) F.Muell. This name is based on a Drummond collection of unknown provenance. It was immediately clear from the habit depicted that it could represent an earlier name for the recently published *P. christineae* R.W.Davis & Tauss. Subsequent examination of type material confirmed that *P. pyramidatus* is conspecific with *P. christineae* and the latter name must therefore be reduced to synonymy. The specimens collected in Perth in late 2010, which formed the basis for the description of *P. christineae*, represent the first collections of *P. pyramidatus* for more than 160 years.

Ptilotus pyramidatus (Moq.) F.Muell., *Fragm.* 6: 230 (1868). *Trichinium pyramidatum* Moq., in A.P. de Candolle, *Prodr.* 13(2): 288 (1849). *Type*: 'In Nova Hollandia (Drummond? n. 221! *ex fristulo mecum comm.*)' [Swan River, Western Australia, *s. dat.*, *J. Drummond* 221] (*holo*: ?P *n.v.*; *iso*: FI! image seen, K! image seen, MEL!).

Ptilotus christineae R.W.Davis & Tauss, *Nuytsia* 21(3): 98 (2011). *Type*: Kenwick, Western Australia [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], 23 October 2010, *C. Tauss, K.R. Thiele & R. Davis* CT 4136 (*holo*: PERTH 08247269; *iso*: CANB).

Ptilotus sp. Brixton (C. Tauss 4136), Western Australian Herbarium, in *FloraBase*, <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> [accessed 4 May 2011].

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Juliet Wege for taxonomic advice during the preparation of this short communication.

Robert W. Davis

Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Environment and Conservation,
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983