

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Commersonia corniculata* (Malvaceae), a new name for *C. cygnorum

The application of the name *Lasiopetalum corniculatum* Sm. (Malvaceae) has hitherto been uncertain (CHAH 2012). Upon describing this species, Smith (1812) provided the common name ‘Horned Woolly-blossom’ in reference to the petals having ‘linear points as long as the calyx’; however, species of *Lasiopetalum* Sm. have only small, scale-like petals, or lack petals altogether. He based his description on material collected by Archibald Menzies from ‘King George’s Sound’, a specimen of which is held in the Smith Herbarium at the Linnean Society of London. Examination of an image of this specimen (LINN-HS 403.5: <http://linnean-online.org/31802/>) has revealed that it is referable to the later-named *Commersonia cygnorum* Endl. (Steudel 1845).

Our interpretation of the type is largely based on our observation that its flowers have narrowly-ovate calyx lobes with an acute apex, and petals with linear ligules that equal or exceed the apex of the calyx (see description in Wilkins & Whitlock 2011). *Commersonia borealis* (E.Pritz.) C.F.Wilkins & Whitlock, the closest relative of *C. cygnorum*, also has long ligules but differs in part by having glabrous staminodes or with occasional hairs (*cf.* densely stellate hairy on the outer surface). While this feature is difficult to confirm from the image, our interpretation is supported by distributional data: *C. cygnorum* occurs in the Perth region and along the south-west coast of Western Australia, from east of Augusta to Cape Le Grand (including King George Sound), whereas *C. borealis* is found to the north of Perth, from Seabird to Shark Bay. Since *L. corniculatum* is the earliest legitimate name for this species, the following new combination is necessary.

Commersonia corniculata* (Sm.) K.A.Sheph. & C.F.Wilkins, *comb. nov.

Lasiopetalum corniculatum Sm. in A. Rees, *Cycl.* 20 (1812). *Type citation*: ‘Gathered by Mr Menzies, at King George’s Sound.’ *Type specimen* ‘King George’s Sound, west coast of New Holland [Western Australia]; lat. 35. Mr. Menzies. 1803 [1791]’ (*lecto*, here designated (or possible *holo*): LINN-HS 403.5 image!).

Commersonia cygnorum Steud. in J.G.C. Lehmann, *Pl. Preiss.* 1(2): 237 (1845); *Restiaria cygnorum* (Steud.) Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 1: 81 (1891); *Rulingia cygnorum* (Steud.) C.A.Gardner, *Enum. Pl. Austral. Occ.*: 80 (1931). *Type citation*: ‘Ad caput fluvii Cygnorum. Herb. Preiss. No. 1642.’ (*lecto*, *fide* C.F. Wilkins & B.A. Whitlock, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 24: 250 (2011), or possible *holo*: LD 1241713 image!).

Rulingia malvifolia Steetz in J.G.C. Lehmann, *Pl. Preiss.* 2: 356 (1848), *nom. illeg.*, *nom. superfl.* *Type citation*: ‘Hab. in Novae Hollandiae ora australi-occidentali, in Swan-River Colonia, Drummond! Collect. 1. No. 374!; Collect. 2. No. 72!; Ad ostium fluminis Swan-River, mense Januar. 1840. Preiss! (Herb. Preiss. No. 1642!) v.s.’ *Type specimens*: *J. Drummond* 2: 72 (*lecto*, *fide* C.F. Wilkins & B.A. Whitlock, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 24: 250–251 (2011): W!; *isolecto*: BM 000522457!, G 00358538 image!, G 00358539 image!, K 000671940!, K 000671941!, NSW 632636 *n.v.*, MEL 2212706!, P 04022194 image!, P 04022195 image!, W!); *J. Drummond* 1: 374 (*paralecto* [*syn*]: W!); *L. Preiss* 1642 (*paralecto* [*syn*]: LD 1241713 image!).

Notes. The designated lectotype, which is the only specimen from Menzies' gathering that we are currently aware of, is annotated by Smith as 'Bütnerioides No. 2. Lasiopetalum corniculatum Rulingea?'. Menzies visited King George Sound in 1791 during Vancouver's *Discovery* expedition (George 2009): the date given on the specimen is likely to refer to the date the specimen was received by Smith.

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