

SHORT COMMUNICATION

'Robert Brown's' Parisian *Podolepis* (Compositae)

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Under '*Nomina dubia*' in her monograph of *Podolepis* (copper-wire daisies, Compositae), Davis (1957) listed *P. papillosa* Gand. (1918). In a paper dealing with Gandoger's singularly esoteric contributions to Australian botany, McGillivray (1973) argued that *P. papillosa*, based on wild-collected Australian material preserved at LY, some of it from New South Wales with duplicates in NSW, is a synonym of *P. jaceoides* (Sims) Voss. *Podolepis jaceoides* had been introduced to cultivation in England by Loddiges of Hackney before 1806, the year it was described by Sims and illustrated in Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* (24: t. 956).

However, in the Paris herbarium is a single sheet labelled '*Podolepis papillosa*' of a plant cultivated in 'H[ortus]. P[arisiensis].', i.e. in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, in the nineteenth century, long before Gandoger's publication. It is a duplicate from the herbarium of one Maire [his full name is unknown — G. Aymonin, pers. comm.] in Cosson's herbarium, which was presented to P in 1904 and is now incorporated in the general collections. The label bearing the binomial is probably in the hand of an amanuensis and dates from before about 1850 (G. Aymonin, pers. comm.). Also there are three sheets of wild-collected plants, also labelled *P. papillosa* about the same time — Verreaux 184, East Coast 1845, and two sheets without collectors' names, one from Tasmania, the second from Botany Bay, all from Drake del Castillo's herbarium, which was presented to P in 1918. The plants on all four sheets appear to be conspecific.

Grown from unnamed seeds sent from Australia in 1832, the plant had flowered in the Jardin des Plantes by 1833 and was described by Pierre Denis Pépin (?1802–1876), 'jardinier-chef au Muséum de Paris et membre de l'Académie' (Anon. 1975: 106), and later ('Podolépide papilleuse' with the Latin binomial now attributed by Jacques to 'BROWN, 1834') illustrated, in the *Annales de Flore et Pomone (Journal des Jardins et Champs)*. Although Robert Brown visited the Jardin many times, the name is not to be found on his herbarium specimens or in his MSS at BM (D.T. Moore, pers. comm.) so it is not yet clear why the binomial is associated with him. And it certainly has no apparent connection with Gandoger's homonymic plant:

Podolepis papillosa Pépin in Ann. Fl. Pomone [2]: 88 (Dec. 1833); R. Br. ex Jacques in op. cit. [3]: 213 cum tab. (Apr. 1835).

Type: Cultivated in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, France, Anon. s.n. in Herb. Cosson, ex Herb. Maire (neo P!, selected here — see below).

Although the 1835 plate is listed in *Index londinensis*, the binomial has not been cited correctly before and is not found in *Index kewensis* at all: hardly surprisingly, then, it was not dealt with by Davis (1957).

What is remarkable, though, is that all the Paris sheets of *P. papillosa* Pépin are conspecific with *P. papillosa* Gand., i.e. *P. jaceoides* (a second sheet of Verreaux 148 being filed there as *P. acuminata* R. Br., another synonym of *P. jaceoides*)! Is it likely that Gandoger would have independently coined the same name, *P. papillosa*, for the same species? Aside from such a coincidence, it may be suspected that the sometimes patchy coverage of Continental European publications (see Mabberley 1991) in the original compilation of *Index kewensis* concealed his perhaps inadvertent 'lifting' of what he might have thought an unpublished herbarium name and attributing it to himself.