

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Myosotis exarrhena* F. Muell., the correct name for *M. suaveolens* (R. Br.) Poir. (Boraginaceae)**

During recent examination of material of *Myosotis*, our attention was drawn to the incorrect use in Australia of the name *Myosotis suaveolens*. There are two homonyms involved; the first, *M. suaveolens* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd., a European endemic, was published in 1809 while the combination *M. suaveolens* (R. Br.) Poir., applied to an Australian endemic, was not published until 1816. The latter species was originally published as *Exarrhena suaveolens* by Robert Brown in 1810 but Poiret transferred it to *Myosotis*, considering that the exerted stamens which give the taxon its name were not sufficient grounds for the erection of a separate genus. However, for reasons that are not clear, Poiret created the homonym *M. suaveolens* (R. Br.) Poir. and relegated *M. suaveolens* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd. to the synonymy of a new name, *M. odorata* Poir. The legitimate name *M. suaveolens* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd. was for a long time considered a synonym of *M. sylvatica* Hoffm., which may have hidden the nomenclatural problem, but the treatment of the genus in *Flora Europaea* (Grau & Merxmüller 1972) upholds the species as distinct. In any case, this name has always had priority over the Australian one.

Mueller, in the Fourth Supplement to his Systematic Census (April 1889), published the new name *Myosotis exarrhena* for the Australian taxon with the following entry:

‘*Myosotis suaveolens* (not Waldstein & Kitaibel) = *M. exarrhena*, F.v.M.’

This valid publication has been overlooked and the name seems to have been considered a *nomen nudum* because of the reference in Mueller’s Second Systematic Census (late 1889 or early 1890) to ‘*M. exarrhena*; F.v.M., inedit.’ where the replaced name was not explicitly indicated. No later authors that we can find have taken up the name and only a few (Moore & Betche 1893; Rodway 1903) even list it as synonym. Indeed, Muir (1979) has not included *M. exarrhena* in his list of Mueller’s new taxa, new combinations and new names.

***Myosotis exarrhena* F. Muell., Syst. Census Austral. Pl., Suppl. 4: 7 (1889)**

M. suaveolens (R. Br.) Poir., Encycl. Suppl. 4: 44 (1816) *non* Waldst. & Kit. ex Willd., Enum. Pl. Hort. Berol.: 176 (1809).

Exarrhena suaveolens R. Br., Prodr.: 495 (1810). TYPE CITATION: ‘(D.) v.v.’ i.e. Van Diemens Land (Tasmania), R. Brown 1804 (Holotype: BM, not seen).

References

- Grau, J., & Merxmüller, H. (1972) *Myosotis* (Boraginaceae). In T.G. Tutin *et al.* (eds), ‘*Flora Europaea*’. Vol. 3: 111–117 (Cambridge Univ. Press: Cambridge).
- Moore, C., & Betche, E. (1893) ‘*Handbook of the Flora of New South Wales*’ (Govt Printer: Sydney).
- Muir, T.B. (1979) An index to the new taxa, new names and new combinations published by Ferdinand J.H. Mueller. *Muelleria* 4(2): 123–168.
- Rodway, L. (1903) ‘*The Tasmanian Flora*’ (Govt Printer: Hobart).

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