

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Halgania brachyrhyncha* (Boraginaceae), a new species from eastern Australia**

During preparation of a treatment of the Boraginaceae for the Flora of New South Wales, it became apparent that the species that had long been known as *H. preissiana* in N.S.W. was quite distinct from that taxon. This species, described below as *Halgania brachyrhyncha*, is known from relatively few specimens collected in scattered areas ranging from the Taroom district in southern Queensland to near Nowra on the South Coast of N.S.W. It appears to be most closely related to *H. preissiana*.

***Halgania brachyrhyncha* Peter G. Wilson, sp. nov.**

H. preissiana similis sed habitu procumbenti, indumento longiore et magis patenti, dentibus folii plerumque plus numerosis, appendice antherae brevissima differt.

HOLOTYPE: NEW SOUTH WALES: Central Western Slopes: Murrumbo Gap, 49 km W of Denman, *H. Streimann* 820, 15.12.1973 (NSW). ISOTYPES (not seen): A, BRI, CBG, K, L.

Semi-prostrate to spreading perennial shrub 0.3–0.8 m high; *hairs* 2-armed, somewhat spreading. *Leaves* variable, elliptical to oblanceolate, 0.6–4.5(–6) cm long, 0.3–2 cm wide, scabrous, coarsely dentate, tapering rather abruptly towards the base. *Inflorescences* terminal, made up of 1 or more monochasial cymes, each of which is composed predominantly of 2-flowered units. *Flowers* 5-merous, rarely 6- or 7-merous; *corolla* deep blue, 7.5–8 mm in diameter; *pedicel* 4–10 mm long, becoming recurved at fruiting; *calyx* 3.5–4.5 mm long (4–5.5 mm long at fruiting), connate at the base, *lobes* 1.5–3.5 mm long, \pm equal; *petals* 3.5–6 mm long, 2–3 mm wide, fused for c. 1 mm at the base, glabrous except for a line of hairs down the abaxial surface, *apex* acute to rounded; *stamens* with free filaments 0.5–0.6 mm long, *anthers* 1.8–2.3 mm long, projecting from the flower as an erect column around the style, hairy; *anther appendage* inconspicuous, 0.2–0.3 mm long; *ovary* conical; style terminal, 2–2.4 mm long. *Fruit* a drupe, \pm ellipsoidal, 3.5–5 mm long, 1.5–2.2 mm wide; 1–2-seeded.

SELECTED SPECIMENS EXAMINED: NEW SOUTH WALES: Central Coast: The Sheepwalk, Burragorang Valley, *L. Johnson & A. Rodd* 438, 26.2.1967 (NSW). South Coast: 12 miles [c. 19 km] SW of Nowra, *F.A. Rodway*, 23.1.1949 (NSW). Central Western Slopes: Mt Arthur Reserve, Wellington, *G. Harden*, 27.11.1978 (NSW); Apex Lookout, Denman, *G. D'Aubert* 433, *P. Hind & C. Jones*, 6.12.1988 (NSW); Wollar–Sandy Hollow, *E.F. Constable*, 16.9.1948 (NSW 7691). QUEENSLAND: Leichhardt District: between Cracow and Wandoan, *D.M. Gordon* 725, — (BRI). Darling Downs: Pongi, 6 miles [c. 10 km] NW of Glenmorgan, *R.W. Johnson* 630, 9.9.1958 (BRI).

HABITAT: An uncommon species found on rocky sites, particularly ridges or hillsides, on sandstone or conglomerate. Collectors' notes record various vegetation types ranging from tall shrubland to woodland and open forest.

FLOWERING PERIOD: September to February.

AFFINITIES: This species appears to be most closely related to *Halgania preissiana*, a Western Australian endemic species. It differs from *H. preissiana* in its semi-prostrate habit, the longer, coarser, more spreading indumentum, the generally more numerous leaf-teeth, and the very small anther appendage (0.2–0.3 mm long as compared with 1.5–3 mm).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Althofer and Harden (1980): front cover (photo), and fig. 21, No. 145A & B.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet is derived from the Greek *brachys*, short and *rhynchos*,

beak, snout, referring to the short anther appendages characteristic of this species.

My thanks to Gordon Guymer (BRI) for drawing my attention to the existence of Queensland populations of this taxon and to the Director of BRI for the loan of the relevant specimens.

Reference

Althofer, G.W., & Harden, G.J. (1980) *The Flora of Mt Arthur Reserve* (Trustees of Mount Arthur Reserve: Wellington).

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