

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Swainsona pyrophila (Fabaceae), a new name and synonymisation

Examination of specimens at the Natural History Museum London (BM) has shown that the two Sturt specimens that form the Type of *Swainsona laxa* R. Br. are specimens of the dissimilar but related species that has been known as *S. rigida* (Benth.) J. Black. As this fact makes these names synonymous, the species that has been known as '*S. laxa*' requires naming. This is published here to make the name available for use in the 'Flora of New South Wales' vol. 2. More detail on this species will be given in my revision of *Swainsona* (in preparation).

***S. pyrophila* J. Thompson, sp. nov.**
(*S. laxa* auct. non R. Br.)

Aff. *S. rigida* sed stipulis grandibus fructibus valde membranaceis et foliolis non suppressis differt.

TYPE: SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Hambridge Reserve, Eyre Peninsula, *D. Symon* 4288, 10 Oct 1966 (holo NSW; iso AD, CANB, K).

An erect, soft-wooded, several-stemmed perennial to c. 1 m tall. *Stems* often 5 mm or more in diameter, almost glabrous, at most with a few minute, blunt, loose, basifixed flat hairs; conspicuously flexuose. *Leaflets* c. 17, obovate-oblong, glabrous, the lower mostly 10–25 mm long and 4–12 mm wide, the apex broad and slightly to conspicuously emarginate, sometimes with a blunt point. *Stipules* 4–7 mm long, conspicuous, green, broadly and obliquely ovate and usually very obtuse, joined in a sometimes very shallow abaxial ridge; often with minute marginal hairs. *Racemes* 15–25 cm long, with 15–20 yellow flowers c. 10 mm long, on sparsely and shortly pubescent pedicels 3–4 mm long. *Peduncle* 1–2 mm wide, without a pulvinus, glabrous. *Calyx* with the tube 1.5–2 mm long, the lobes deltoid and shorter than the tube. *Standard* c. 7–10 mm long and as wide or a little wider, without thickenings in the lower part. *Wings* c. 8 mm long, deltoid-ovate or occasionally obovate, the apex narrowly to very broadly obtuse. *Keel* 7–10 mm long and c. 5 mm deep, the apex acute to broadly obtuse, the tip rather lipped or somewhat retracted. Ovary 3.5–4 mm long, glabrous. *Style* thin-textured, slightly or scarcely tapered to the tip which is narrowed shortly from the top, with antrorse hairs on the narrow region. *Fruits* usually 2–30 mm long and 10–15 mm wide, lunate to broadly elliptic, much inflated, contracting to a narrow tapering base above a slender stipe, the tissue negligible.

A plant of sandy or loamy soil in mallee scrub in southern South Australia, north-western Victoria and south-western New South Wales; usually found after fire.

This species is named for its association with recently burnt areas; from the Greek *pyr*, *pyros*, fire, and *philus*, loving.

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