

Lectotypification of *Sclerolaena glabra* (F. Muell.) Domin (Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae)

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Introduction

When describing *Kentropsis glabra* (= *Bassia glabra* (F. Muell.) F. Muell., now *Sclerolaena glabra* (F. Muell.) Domin), Mueller (1859) cited a single locality – ‘*Ad rivum Sturt’s Creek, Australiae subcentralis*’. However, Mueller’s Sturts Creek collection at MEL of *S. glabra* consists of a mixture of two forms, clearly collected from different plants. One form Mueller apparently regarded as ‘typical’ and matches his original description. The other form Mueller referred to on a separate label as ‘ β *longispinus*’ has longer fruit with longer spines. The latter name was never published, but fruits agreeing with this form were illustrated as *Bassia glabra*, along with the ‘typical’ form in Mueller (1891) without further reference.

Subsequently, material representing the two elements was mounted, along with their respective labels, on separate sheets at MEL. Later workers have variously regarded these as syntypes of *Bassia glabra* (J.H. Willis 1948 *in sched.*) or specimens of *Sclerolaena glabra* and *S. sp. nov.* (E.H. Ising 1963 *in sched.*). The latter determination applied to Mueller’s ‘*var. longispinus*’ specimen. Ising never formalised Mueller’s name for want of sufficient material (note *in sched.*), but from comparison with other material at MEL this form falls within the range of specimens now regarded as *S. glabra* (including specimens determined by Ising, Paul G. Wilson and others).

Mueller’s ‘typical’ specimen represents what now appears to be the shorter-awned end of the spectrum of variation within *S. glabra*, whereas his ‘*var. longispinus*’ specimen is more representative of the majority of modern *S. glabra* collections.

Wilson (1984) cited as the holotype for *S. glabra* ‘Sturt Creek, W.A., 1856, F. Mueller (MEL)’. More correctly both MEL sheets should have been regarded as syntypes. As the two sheets represent distinctly different forms of *S. glabra* the opportunity is here taken to lectotypify on Mueller’s ‘typical’ (unfortunately less representative) specimen and treat the ‘*var. longispinus*’ sheet as an excluded syntype.

Taxonomy

Sclerolaena glabra (F. Muell.), Domin, *Beitrag zur Flora und Pflanzengeographie Australiens* 624 (1930).

Kentropsis glabra F. Muell., *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 1: 139 (1859); *Anisacantha glabra* (F. Muell.) Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 5: 200 (1870); *Bassia glabra* (F. Muell.) F. Muell., *Systematic Census of Australian Plants*: 30 (1882). T: ‘*Ad rivum Sturt’s Creek, Australiae subcentralis*’, F. Muell. 1856; lecto (here chosen): ‘*Sturt’s Creek, Ferd. von Mueller, 1856*’ MEL 101453; excluded syntype: ‘*Sturt’s Creek, Ferd. Mueller*’ MEL 101452.

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References

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- Mueller, F. (1891). *Iconography of Australian Salsolaceous Plants*, Government Printer, Melbourne.
- Wilson, P. G. (1984). Chenopodiaceae in A.S. George (ed.) *Flora of Australia* 4: 81–317, Australian Government Printing Service, Canberra.