

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Ammannia fitzgeraldii*, a *nom. nov.* for *Nesaea repens* (Lythraceae)**

It has recently been demonstrated by Graham *et al.* (2011), using a combination of morphology and both nuclear and chloroplast DNA sequence analyses, that traditional generic boundaries between *Ammannia* L. and *Nesaea* Comm. ex Kunth cannot be maintained. Graham and Gandhi (2013a, b) have provided new combinations for most *Nesaea* species under an expanded concept of *Ammannia*. However, Graham and Gandhi (2013a: 85) did not make a new combination for *N. repens* W.Fitzg. as they incorrectly concluded that the name was a *nomen nudum*, citing only the page in the introduction to the paper where the name is listed as newly published therein (Fitzgerald 1918), but omitting the page reference to the full description later in that same paper (as noted in APNI 2014). There is an earlier publication of the name that is a *nomen nudum* (Fitzgerald 1906). It is noted that additional information on collection and location dates for specimens collected by Fitzgerald can be gleaned from his travel diary, a typescript of which is held at the Batty Library, Western Australia (Fitzgerald 1905). These dates are included below in addition to the information available on the herbarium labels.

Nesaea repens is a distinctive and validly published species endemic to the Kimberley region of Western Australia and central Northern Territory. A new combination for *N. repens* is required to complete the transfer of *Nesaea* to *Ammannia*; however, the epithet *repens* is already occupied by *A. repens* Rottler ex Mart. ex DC. This name, with a complex history of proposal in apparently unpublished manuscripts, was validly published by de Candolle (1828: 80). A new name for *N. repens* is therefore proposed here.

Ammannia fitzgeraldii* R.L.Barrett, *nom. nov.

Basionym: *Nesaea repens* W.Fitzg., *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. West. Aust.* 3: 181 (1918).

Lectotype (here designated): near junction of Lennard and Barker Rivers, Western Australia, 5 May 1905, *W.V. Fitzgerald* 545 (*lecto*: PERTH 01604570; *isolecto*: NSW 210107 *n.v.*). *Remaining syntypes*: near junction of Lennard and Barker Rivers, Western Australia, 30 September 1905, *W.V. Fitzgerald* 1525 (NSW 210106 *n.v.*, PERTH 01127462); Fitzroy River, Western Australia, August 1906, *W.V. Fitzgerald* *s.n.* (BM 000797642, image seen, NSW 210105 *n.v.*).

Nesaea repens W.Fitzg., *Western Mail (Perth)* 21(1068): 9, Plate p. 25 (16 June 1906), *nom. nud.*

Etymology. The new epithet recognises the work of William Vincent Fitzgerald (1867–1929) in the early exploration and documentation of the flora of the Kimberley region of Western Australia, including the discovery and description of this species.

Typification. The available syntypes are all morphologically similar and from close geographical proximity. The lectotype is the sheet with the most and best fertile material; it also has a specific collection location.

Ammannia striatiflora (Hewson) S.A.Graham & Gandhi, *Harvard Pap. Bot.* 18(1): 84 (2013).

Graham and Gandhi (2013a) cite the holotype for this species as '(UWA [1604589])'. This is an error for PERTH sheet 1604589. This specimen was never held at UWA.

Acknowledgements

Bruce Maslin and Nicholas Lander are thanked for comments that improved the manuscript.

References

- APNI (2014). *Australian Plant Name Index*, IBIS database. Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, Canberra. <http://www.cpbr.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni> [accessed 2 March 2014].
- de Candolle, A.P. (1828). *Prodromus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis* 3. (Sumptibus Sociorum Treuttel et Wurtz: Paris.)
- Fitzgerald, W.V. (1905). *W.V. Fitzgerald's diary of the Kimberley trigonometrical expedition, April 5 to October 25, 1905*. (Unpublished, Batty Library, Perth, Western Australia.)
- Fitzgerald, W.V. (1906). Some species of West Kimberley plants. Further botanical references. *The Western Mail* 21(1068), 16 June 1906. pp. 9, 24–25, 28. (Perth.)
- Fitzgerald, W.V. (1918). The botany of the Kimberleys, north-west Australia. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Western Australia* 3: 102–224.
- Graham, S.A., Diazgranados, M. & Barber, J.C. (2011). Relationships among the confounding genera *Ammannia*, *Hionanthera*, *Nesaea* and *Rotala* (Lythraceae). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 166: 1–19.
- Graham, S.A. & Gandhi, K. (2013a). Nomenclatural changes resulting from the transfer of *Nesaea* and *Hionanthera* to *Ammannia* (Lythraceae). *Harvard Papers in Botany* 18: 71–90.
- Graham, S.A. & Gandhi, K. (2013b). Nomenclatural changes resulting from the transfer of *Nesaea* and *Hionanthera* to *Ammannia* (Lythraceae): *Addenda et corrigenda*. *Harvard Papers in Botany* 18: 155–156.

Russell L. Barrett

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Kings Park and Botanic Garden,
West Perth, Western Australia 6005
School of Plant Biology, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences,
University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia 6009
Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Parks and Wildlife,
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983
Email: russell.barrett@bgpa.wa.gov.au