

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Removal of *Peplidium* sp. fortescue marsh (S. van Leeuwen 4865) (Phrymaceae) from Western Australia's plant census

Peplidium Delile is a problematic genus currently undergoing taxonomic review. Six undescribed entities are currently recognised in Australia, three of which occur in Western Australia (Western Australian Herbarium 1998–), with a number of additional new taxa recognised in the taxonomic literature (Beardsley & Barker 2005; Barker *et al.* 2012) but not yet included on the Australian Plant Census (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria 2007–).

Peplidium sp. fortescue marsh (S. van Leeuwen 4865) is currently listed on Western Australia's vascular plant census (Western Australian Herbarium 1998–), having been added on the 27th August 2004 with no supporting information. It is known from only one collection (PERTH 06538916) from the Fortescue Marsh in the Pilbara bioregion and is listed as Priority One under Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora (Smith 2013). Examination of recent collections made during surveys of the Fortescue Marsh and their comparison with the reference collection and other taxa of *Peplidium* held at the Western Australian Herbarium, has established that *P.* sp. fortescue marsh matches the Western Australian entity known as *P.* sp. E Evol. Fl. Fauna Arid Aust. (A.S. Weston 12768). This is confirmed by W. Barker, who has examined a duplicate of *S. van Leeuwen* 4865 at the State Herbarium of South Australia. *Peplidium* sp. fortescue marsh should therefore be synonymised under *P.* sp. E Evol. Fl. Fauna Arid Aust. and removed from the *Threatened and Priority Flora list for Western Australia*. *Peplidium* sp. E Evol. Fl. Fauna Arid Aust. is known from a number of localities across the Pilbara and Gascoyne bioregions and does not appear to be a species of conservation concern. It is distinguished from all other species in the region by the presence of four stamens (two long and two short) rather than two (W. Barker pers. comm.).

Peplidium sp. E Evol. Fl. Fauna Arid Aust., a name that has been recognised in Western Australian for more than 16 years, has more recently been referred to as *P.* sp. Harding Dam (W.R. Barker 7357) by Beardsley and Barker (2005), Barker *et al.* (2012) and W. Barker *in litt.*, presumably because the name does not conform with the phrase-naming conventions established in Barker (2005). Given that the name is informal and will be dealt with in the forthcoming revisionary treatment of the genus, and replacing one informal name with another is not conducive to nomenclatural stability or effective communication, the Western Australia Herbarium will continue to use the former name.

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References

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