

## ***Melaleuca marginata*, a new name for *Melaleuca coronicarpa* (Myrtaceae)**

During the preparation of a manuscript describing new species of *Astrolooma* R.Br. from Western Australia, the first author had cause to examine type material of *Astrolooma marginatum* Sond. obtained on loan from the National Herbarium of Victoria. Sonder (1845) had based the name on a sterile collection made by Preiss in the western wheatbelt, probably in the Toodyay–Bolgart area. When Bentham (1868) tentatively synonymised *A. marginatum* under *A. divaricatum* Sond. (= *A. epacridis* (DC.) Druce), he made the comment ‘if an *Astrolooma* at all, may be this species’. His doubts were well-founded. Although the type specimen examined by the first author (originally from Sonder’s own herbarium) is indeed sterile, apart from what appear to be galled fruit, the detail of the leaf morphology, including the presence and distribution of oil glands, is clearly that of *Melaleuca coronicarpa* D.A.Herb. It seems likely that it was the combination of relatively indistinct oil glands, pungent leaf apices (a characteristic of all *Astrolooma* species but not common in *Melaleuca*) and a similar, parallel leaf venation that misled Sonder as to the true identity of this collection.

In an enumeration of the species of *Melaleuca* in Australia by Craven and Lepschi (1999) the species was treated as *M. coronicarpa*, a name published by Herbert (1922). As *A. marginatum* is an earlier name than *M. coronicarpa*, the new combination *M. marginata* (Sond.) Hislop, Lepschi & Craven is made. While the type material of *Melaleuca marginata* is undeniably poor, and the name not particularly apt for the species, the case for conserving *M. coronicarpa* is weak. There is certainly no history of sustained usage in this case. The name does not seem to have been applied at all before the late 1980’s when B.A. Barlow (CANB, then working on *Melaleuca*) began to use it on specimen determinations.

*Melaleuca marginata* is a widespread and common species in the wheatbelt regions of Western Australia. It occurs from the Arrowsmith River district south to the Ongerup area and inland to the Koorda and Grass Patch districts and is found in open woodland, mallee-*Melaleuca* scrub, shrubland, low open heath, on clay, sand, red-brown loam, sandy loam over laterite, and sand over granite. The lateral, capitate, white-flowered inflorescences are followed by clusters of persistent, woody fruit and these features, together with the prickly nature of the leaves, are characteristic of the species.

### ***Melaleuca marginata* (Sond.) Hislop, Lepschi & Craven, comb. nov.**

*Astrolooma marginatum* Sond. in Lehm., *Pl. Preiss.* 1: 299 (1845). *Type*: In solo glareoso sterili silvae prope fontem Pitscharding, Victoria [according to Marchant (1990) Pitscharding Spring is an unknown locality in the county of Victoria, a nineteenth century name for an area which approximately corresponds to the modern shires of Toodyay and Victoria Plains in Western Australia], 20 March 1840, *L. Preiss* 471 (*holo*: MEL 2181123!).

*Melaleuca coronicarpa* D.A.Herb., *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Western Australia* 8: 35 (1922), as *Melalenca*. *Type*: Western Australia: Bruce Rock, on the road to Merredin, November 1920, *Wilson & Herbert* 152 (*holo*: PERTH 01638777!; *iso*: MEL!).

*Notes*. B.A. Barlow (unpublished data) has indicated that the name *M. cardiophylla* var. *parviflora* Benth. (Bentham 1867) is a synonym of *M. coronicarpa*. However, lectotypification of this name is clearly desirable as some of the syntypes are from localities well outside the geographic range of *M. marginata* and will almost certainly be referable to other taxa. The syntypes in question, all unseen

by us, are: Western Australia: Swan River, *Drummond* 1st coll. s.n. (syn: K); Murchison river, *Oldfield* s.n. (syn: K); Shark Bay, *Denham* s.n. (syn: K); Dirk Hartog Island, *Milne* s.n. (syn: K); Bay of Rest, NW coast, *Cunningham* s.n. (syn: K).

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