SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Teucrium disjunctum*, a new name for *Spartothamnella canescens* (Lamiaceae)

**Teucrium disjunctum** K.R.Thiele & K.A.Sheph., nom. nov.


Notes. Recent molecular phylogenetic analyses of nuclear (ITS) and chloroplast (*ndhF*, *trnL* intron + *trnL-trnF* intergenic spacer) sequences indicate that *Teucrium* L. (Lamiaceae) is paraphyletic with respect to the Australian genera *Spartothamnella* Briq. and *Oncinocalyx* F.Muell. and the New Zealand monotypic *Teucridium* Hook.f. (Salmaki et al. 2016). Only two samples of *Spartothamnella* were included in this study: *S. teucrifolia* (F.Muell.) Moldenke (G.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 1740, PERTH 04474341) and *S. puberula* (F.Muell.) Maiden & Betch (R.W. Purdie & D.E. Boyland 116, CANB 273128.1), the latter represented only by an *ndhF* sequence from a previous study by Steane et al. (2004). Despite the poor level of sampling, *Spartothamnella* was shown to be nested well within the ‘*Teucrium* core clade’ (which includes the type species *T. fruticans* L.) in the *ndhF* and combined *trnL*-F + ITS trees.

Salmaki et al. (2016) highlighted shared synapomorphies among the four genera including: a similar pollen wall structure; radially symmetric, solitary flowers; an ovary that is lobed from a quarter to half its length; nutlets with an indumentum of hairs and glands. They also suggested that features previously thought to be diagnostic, such as fruit morphology, are highly plastic in Lamiaceae. While only a relatively small subset of the 250 species currently included in *Teucrium* were sampled for this study, the evidence suggests that it is unlikely that *Teucrium* s. str. (i.e. excluding *Spartothamnella*, *Oncinocalyx* and *Teucridium*) will be found to be monophyletic in the future.

Salmaki et al. (2016) provided five new combinations to include species of *Spartothamnella*, *Oncinocalyx* and *Teucridium* in *Teucrium*; however, the recently described *S. canescens* K.R.Thiele & K.A.Sheph. (Thiele & Shepherd 2014), which occurs in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, was overlooked. The epithet *canescens* is preoccupied in *Teucrium* by *T. canescens* G.Forst. (and the illegitimate *T. canescens* Holmboe) and hence a new name is required.

*Etymology.* From the Latin *disjunctus* (separate, distinct) in reference to the fact that this species is currently known from three widely disjunct regions; see the circled populations in Figure 1 of Thiele and Shepherd (2014).

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References


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