

Name Changes in *Kunzea* (Myrtaceae)

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Abstract

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The reinstatement of the names *Kunzea ericifolia* F. Muell. and *K. vestita* Schauer is discussed, and the names *K. muelleri* Benth. and *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth. are placed in synonymy.

Reichenbach, when describing the new genus *Kunzea* Reichenb., *Conspect. Reg. Veg.*: 175 (1828), indicated that *Metrosideros ericifolia* Sm., along with several other species of *Metrosideros*, should be transferred to this genus; however, he did not then make the appropriate combination under *Kunzea*. It appears that the combination *Kunzea ericifolia* based on *Metrosideros ericifolia* was not made prior to Bentham (1867) who attributed it wrongly to Reichenbach, quoting 'Reichb. *Consp.* 175' as the author.

Prior to this, Mueller (1855) had described another plant using the name *K. ericifolia*, making the name *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth. a later homonym. Bentham (1867) then created the substitute name *K. muelleri* for *K. ericifolia* F. Muell., but because Mueller's name has priority, *K. muelleri* Benth. is a superfluous synonym of it, and therefore illegitimate (ICBN 1972, Art. 63).

The plant known as *K. muelleri* Benth. in modern literature is thus correctly named *K. ericifolia* F. Muell., and therefore the plant known at present as '*K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Reichenb.' needs another name.

The earliest synonym of specific rank listed by Bentham under *Kunzea ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth. (nom. illeg.), non F. Muell., is *Metrosideros propinqua* Endl. This name is itself illegitimate, being a later homonym of *M. propinqua* Salisb. (1796). It was transferred to *Kunzea* and described in full by Schauer but, because it is based on an illegitimate name, Schauer's combination *Kunzea propinqua* has to be regarded as a new name for it (ICBN 1972, Art. 72). *K. vestita* Schauer is of the same date and is also listed by Bentham. I have been unable to find any publication where one of these two names, *K. vestita* and *K. propinqua*, was placed as a synonym of the other. Either could thus be chosen as the correct name for the species in question. In preferring the name *K. vestita* I have been influenced by the following facts: (1) Schauer (1848) placed *Metrosideros ericifolia* Sm. in the synonymy of *K. vestita* Schauer (1844), and (2) Bentham (1867) placed *K. vestita* in the synonymy of *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth. and *K. propinqua* in that of *K. ericifolia* var. *glabrior* Benth.

In the following, I have listed the correct names for the two species discussed here together with their synonyms and type citations. In the case of *K. vestita*, I have assumed that Bentham's taxonomic synonymy is correct, and that Bentham and Schauer were correct in synonymizing *K. vestita* Schauer and *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth.

1. ***Kunzea ericifolia*** F. Muell., Trans. Vict. Inst.: 123 (1855), non (Sm.) Benth. (1867). [Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (as a synonym of *K. Muelleri* Benth.); Willis, Handb. Pl. Vict. 2: 449 (1973) (as a synonym of *K. muelleri* Benth.).] *Type*: 'In the highest rocky parts of the Australian Alps from Mount Wellington to the Mungyang Mountains'.

K. muelleri Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (based on *K. ericifolia* F. Muell.); Moore and Betche, Handb. Fl. N.S. Wales: 194 (1893); Ewart, Fl. Vict.: 864 (1931); Burbidge and Gray, Fl. Austral. Cap. Terr.: 268 (1970); Willis, Handb. Pl. Vict. 2: 449 (1973). *Type*: as for *K. ericifolia* F. Muell.

2. ***Kunzea vestita*** Schauer in Lehmann, Pl. Preiss. 1: 126 (1844); Schauer in Lehmann, Pl. Preiss. 2: 224 (1848); Walp., Repert. 5: 742 (1846). [Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (as a synonym of *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth., non F. Muell.).] *Type*: 'In turfosis hieme inundatis inter frutices densos prope praedium b. Spencer ad Sinum Regis Georgii, Septembri 1840. Herb. Preiss. No. 272'.

Metrosideros ericifolia Sm. in Rees, Cyclopaedia 23: No. 16 (1813); DC., Prod. 3: 225 (1828); G. Don, Gen. Hist. Dichlamydeous Pl. 2: 824 (1832); Steudel, Nomencl. Bot., ed. 2, 2: 137 (1841). [Schauer in Lehmann, Pl. Preiss. 2: 224 (1848) (as a synonym of *K. vestita* Schauer); Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (as a synonym of *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth., non F. Muell.).] *Type*: '... gathered by Mr A. Menzies, near King George's Sound, on the west coast of New Holland'.

Metrosideros propinqua Endl., Enum. Pl. Huegel: 50 (1837) (nom. illeg.), non Salisb. (1796); Walp., Repert. 2: 165 (1843). [Schauer in Lehmann, Pl. Preiss. 1: 126 (1844) (as a synonym of *K. propinqua* Schauer); Walp. Repert 5: 742 (1844) (as a synonym of *K. propinqua* Schauer); Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (as a synonym of *K. ericifolia* (Sm.) Benth., non F. Muell.).] *Type*: 'King Georges Sound. (Hügel)'.

Kunzea propinqua Schauer in Lehmann, Pl. Preiss. 1: 126 (1844) (based on *Metrosideros propinqua* Endl. (nom. illeg.), non Salisb.); Walp., Repert. 5: 742 (1844). [Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (as a synonym of *K. ericifolia* var. *glabrior* Benth.).] *Type*: as for *Metrosideros propinqua* Endl.

Kunzea ericifolia [Rchb., Steudel, Nomencl. Bot., ed. 2, 1: 851 (1840), 2: 137 (1841) pro syn.]; (Sm.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867) (nom. illeg.), non F. Muell. (based on *Metrosideros ericifolia* Sm.); Blackall and Grieve, How to Know West. Austral. Wildfl., ed. 2, 2: 293 (1954); Beard, West Austral. Plants, ed. 2: 98 (1970). *Type*: as for *Metrosideros ericifolia* Sm.

Kunzea ericifolia var. *glabrior* Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 113 (1867). *Type*: 'Swan River, Preiss. n. 271; Gordon river, Maxwell.—*Metrosideros propinqua* Endl. in Hueg. Enum. 50; *Kunzea propinqua*, Schau. in Pl. Preiss. i. 126'. [As the taxonomic status of this name is unknown, no new combination for it has been made.]