

The identity of *Leucopogon violaceospicatus* Guillaumin (*Epacridaceae*) and its transfer to the genus *Styphelia*

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Summary : New material confirms that *Leucopogon violaceospicatus* Guillaumin is a good species belonging to the genus *Styphelia*.

Résumé : Un nouveau matériel confirme que *Leucopogon violaceospicatus* Guillaumin est une bonne espèce appartenant au genre *Styphelia*.

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GUILLAUMIN (1965) published the name *Leucopogon violaceospicatus* based on a specimen bearing buds and fruits collected in New Caledonia by R. F. THORNE in 1959. However, VIROT considered the taxon conspecific with *Styphelia coryphila* (Guillaumin) Sleumer in his treatment of the family for the Flore de la Nouvelle-Calédonie et Dépendances (1975). Flowering material of the former taxon seems to have been collected only recently, and it permits the conclusion that THORNE's material does indeed represent a distinct species. A list of the features that distinguish it from the two New Caledonian species most similar to it is presented below (Table 1), and it is illustrated in Pl. 1 and in VIROT (1975, Pl. 4, 1).

VIROT, following SLEUMER (1963), interpreted *Styphelia* J. E. Sm. as a rather diverse genus, including in its synonymy *Leucopogon* R. Br. and *Cyathopsis* Brongn. & Gris, among others. Since no modern treatment of the genera of *Epacridaceae* has been published (although one is, according to SMITH, 1981, in preparation), and given that closely related species are treated in New Caledonia as members of *Styphelia*, I consider the following transfer appropriate.

***Styphelia violaceospicata* (Guillaumin) McPherson, comb. nov.**

— *Leucopogon violaceo-spicatus* GUILLAUMIN, Univ. Iowa Stud. Nat. Hist. 20 (7) : 42 (1965).

I share with VIROT (*in litt.*) the opinion that *S. violaceospicata* is most closely related to *S. floribunda* (Brongn. & Gris) Sleumer, the strongest similarities being those concerning their corollas and stamens (see Table 1). However, the former is 5-merous while the latter is 4-merous and consequently sometimes placed in *Cyathopsis*. If our view of the relationship between *S. violaceospicata* and *S. floribunda* is accepted, then partedness alone has little value except at the specific level in this case.

TABLE 1

	<i>S. violaceospicata</i>	<i>S. floribunda</i>	<i>S. coryphila</i>
Adult leaves	9-28 mm long, 3-12 mm wide	4-8 mm long, 2-6 mm wide	7-26 mm long, 3-10 mm wide
Inflorescence length	13-40 mm	6-11 mm	5-15 mm
Flowers per inflorescence	3-20	1-7	3-8
Flower type	5-merous	4-merous	5-merous
Corolla	5-6 mm long, the tube shorter than sepals, the lobes ca. 12 × longer than tube	4-6 mm long, the tube equal to or longer than sepals, the lobes 2-4 × longer than tube	2.5-3.5 mm long, the tube equal to or longer than sepals, the lobes equal to or 1/2 length of tube
Filaments	4-5 mm long, 4-5 × length of anthers	3-4 mm long, ca. 3 × length of anthers	less than 1 mm long, shorter than anthers
Fruit	4 mm long, 6 mm diameter, pink-red	3 mm long, 3-4 mm diameter, yellow or red	7-8 mm long, 7 mm diameter, black
Distribution	NW peridotitic mountains (Kaala, Koniambo)	peridotitic areas in general	peridotitic southern quarter of island



Pl. 1. — *Styphelia violaceospicata* (Guillaumin) McPherson : 1, general aspect $\times 1$; 2, 3, leaves $\times 2.7$; 4, inflorescence with young buds $\times 2.7$; 5, flower $\times 4$; 6, petals, stamens and ovary $\times 4$; 7, stamen (face and profile) $\times 8$; 8, fruit $\times 3.3$. (1-3, 5-8, McPherson 5315 ; 4, Thorne 28213).

SPECIMENS STUDIED : NEW CALEDONIA : *MacKee* 24622, Mt. Kaala, pente S, 600-700 m, 6.11.1971 (bud) ; 25105, same plant as 24622, 3.3.1972 (ft.) ; *McPherson* 5315, Mt. Koniambo, ca. 500 m, 6.1.1983 (fl.) ; 5598, *ibid.*, 29.3.1983 (ft.) ; *Thorne* 28213, Mt. Kaala, ca. halfway up, 23.10.1959 (bud, ft.), type (P).

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