



Goodenia elongata Labill. (Goodeniaceae) is not present in South Australia

Andre Messina¹, Daniel J. Duval², Peter J. Lang³

- ¹ Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia; andre.messina@rbg.vic.gov.au
- ² South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Hackney Road, Adelaide, South Australia 5000, Australia; daniel.duval@sa.gov.au
- ³ State Herbarium of South Australia, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Hackney Road, Adelaide, South Australia 5000, Australia; peter.lang@sa.gov.au

Goodenia elongata Labill. is a low, sprawling herb that is found in sclerophyll forest adjacent to damp situations throughout south-eastern Australia. It was described by Labillardière from Tasmania in 1805. It has long been recorded in Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria (e.g., Rodway 1903; Dixon 1906; Maiden & Betche 1916; Ewart 1930). More recently, it has also been recorded in South Australia (SA), where it has been listed under the *SA National Parks and Wildlife Act* as Endangered since 2002. The first written report of this species in South Australia appears to be Carolin & Cooke (1986) on the basis of an 1894 record from 'near Cape Jervis' held at the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL; MEL 25565), and 'a collection from Mt Gambier'. No specimen supporting the latter was located in a search of *Goodenia* collections from the Mount Gambier area held at AD and MEL. However, a likely scenario is that it was subsequently re-determined as *G. geniculata* R.Br., a species common to that area. When growing in damp environments, *G. geniculata* becomes extensively stoloniferous with numerous (seemingly) cauline leaves, and superficially resembles *G. elongata*. These two species have also sometimes been confused in the south-west of Victoria.

Goodenia elongata was later listed for the South-eastern (SE) Region of South Australia in the published 5th edition *Census of South Australian Vascular Plants* (Barker *et al.* 2005) based on a specimen determined in 1992 by D.E. Symon who curated the family Goodeniaceae at the State Herbarium of SA. This listing

Abstract

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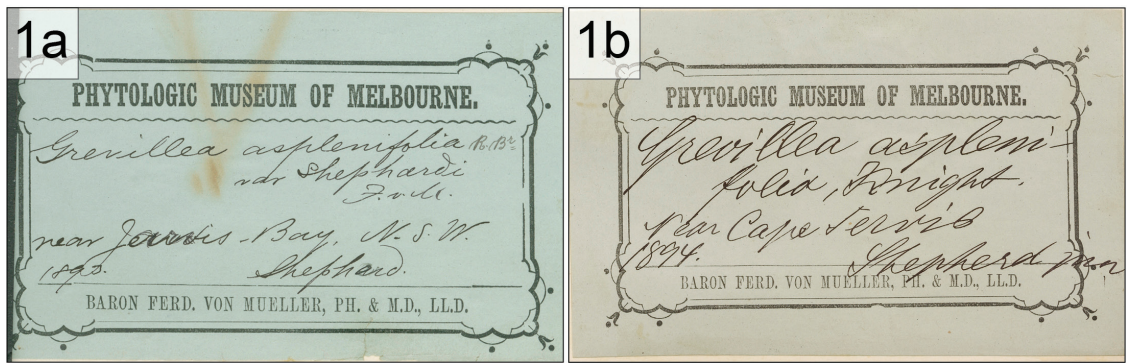


Figure 1. Herbarium labels written by Mueller for specimens of *Grevillea aspleniifolia* sent by P.L.C. Shepherd from the Jervis Bay area; 1a. written as 'Jervis Bay' MEL 14280; 1b. written as 'Cape Jervis' MEL 14279. Images reproduced with permission from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

was maintained in the online version of the Census and supported by a second specimen that Symon determined in 2009. The SE listing was removed from the online Census on 4 May 2012 when P.J. Lang redetermined the specimens as *G. pinnatifida* Schltdl. and *G. gracilis* R.Br. respectively.

Inspection of the specimen from 'near Cape Jervis' has confirmed the identity of that record as *Goodenia elongata*, and it includes a determination by R.C. Carolin who revised the genus (Carolin 1990; Carolin 1992). A literal interpretation of the locality implies the historical existence of a very disjunct outlier of *G. elongata* on the Fleurieu Peninsula in SA. However, the collector, Lawrence Stephenson, a botanist from New South Wales, appears to have collected only from the east coast of Australia (see Australian Virtual Herbarium 2024). Stephenson sent specimens to Ferdinand Von Mueller at MEL. Those retained at MEL (including the one cited by Carolin & Cooke 1986) have labels written out by Mueller. It is likely that, in this instance, the label has been erroneously transcribed as Cape Jervis [South Australia] rather than Jervis Bay [New South Wales]. Flora accounts by botanists based at MEL (Ewart 1930; Willis 1972) cited the distribution of *G. elongata* as New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria. Both would have had access to the specimen MEL 25565 while forming their accounts, so it seems likely that they, too, regarded this as a transcription error by Mueller. Moreover, there is at least one other instance where Mueller has transcribed Cape Jervis for Jervis Bay on specimens held at MEL. Two specimens of the eastern-NW endemic *Grevillea aspleniifolia* Knight were sent

to Mueller by P.L.C. Shepherd in 1893 and 1894. One of these specimens, MEL 14279, has 'Near Cape Jervis' in Mueller's hand on the label, while the second specimen, MEL 14280, is labelled by Mueller as being collected 'Near Jervis Bay' (Figure 1). Given the highly restricted distribution of *G. aspleniifolia*, these specimens support the interpretation of Mueller's 'Cape Jervis' as being synonymous with 'Jervis Bay', at least on these labels.

The dubious locality associated with the one verifiable identification of this species for South Australia, together with the lack of any other records since, suggests that it is not, nor has it ever been, present in that state. Accordingly, it is recommended that *Goodenia elongata* be removed from the Census of South Australian Plants, Algae and Fungi and from Schedule 7 (Endangered category) of the SA National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

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