

LAXMANNIA MORRISII KEIGHERY (ANTHERICACEAE) A SYNONYM OF *L. SQUARROSA* LINDL., NOT A NATIVE OF TASMANIA

by D. I. Morris

(with two plates)

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Laxmannia morrisii Keighery is a synonym of *Laxmannia squarrosa* Lindl. The type specimen of *L. morrisii* was mistakenly believed to have been collected in Tasmania but was later found to be part of a collection from Western Australia.

Key Words: Liliaceae, Anthericaceae, *Laxmannia*.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of preparation of the account of the Liliaceae for Part 4B of *The Student's Flora of Tasmania* (Curtis & Morris 1994), an unmounted specimen of a *Laxmannia* was found in the collection at the Tasmanian Herbarium (HO) (pl. 1). Accompanying the specimen was a note in the handwriting of Dr Winifred Curtis giving the collection details “W.D.J. Snug Plains or Middlesex Plains ? Jan 1960”. “W.D.J.” referred to Professor William D. Jackson. A later addition to the note indicated that Professor Jackson thought that it may have been collected at Snug Plains, probably near Grey Mountain.

The *Laxmannia* was not *L. orientalis* Keighery, the only known Tasmanian species, and did not agree with the description of any species of the genus from southeastern

Australia. Searches in the Grey Mountain area failed to find more of the plant and the matter was set aside awaiting clarification.

In 1999 when Mr G. J. Keighery, the author of the account of *Laxmannia* in the *Flora of Australia*, vol. 45 (Keighery 1987), was in Hobart he was shown the unidentified specimen. He requested a loan and subsequently published the new species *L. morrisii* Keighery based on this single specimen (Keighery 2002).

In 2003 some unmounted specimens collected by E. Kalmberg from Western Australia in 1938 were incorporated into HO. Two specimens with a label bearing the information “Camp 2 1/2 miles North of Mt Ross, 18.10.38. Tallanalla District” closely resembled *L. morrisii* (pl. 2). I examined the specimens and using Keighery’s key and description in the *Flora of Australia* determined them as *L. squarrosa*

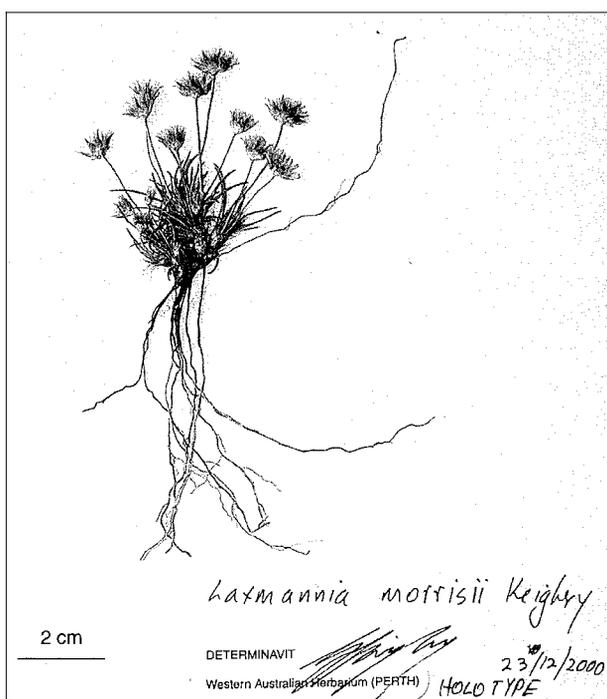


PLATE 1 — *Laxmannia morrisii* H● 446141.

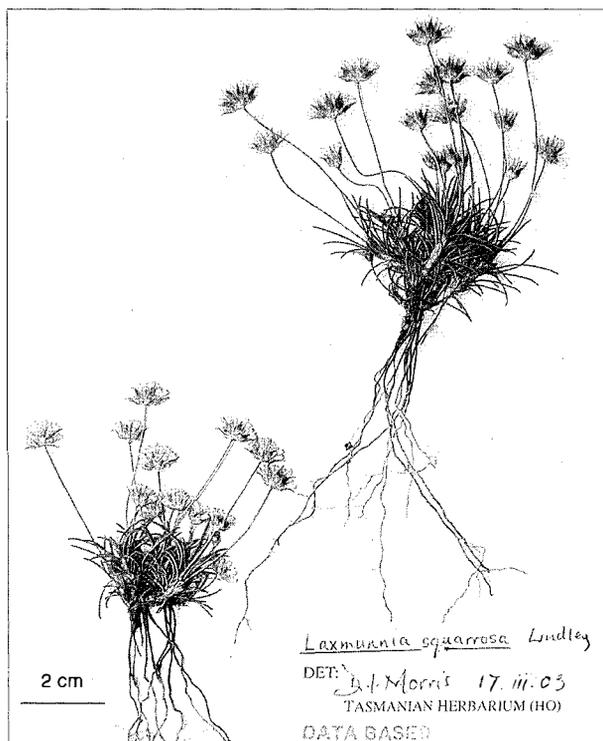


PLATE 2 — *Laxmannia squarrosa* H● 326387.

Lindl. The specimens were identical in all characters with the *L. morrisii*. In his original description of *L. morrisii* in *Nuytsia* Keighery had noted that "The plant is superficially very similar in appearance to some forest populations of *Laxmannia squarrosa*" (Keighery 2002: 378).

DISCUSSION

There appears to be little doubt that the Western Australian specimens and the *L. morrisii* specimen are part of the same collection by E. Kalmborg. It would seem that at some stage, perhaps in 1960, the *L. morrisii* specimen became separated from the two others in the folder and was mistakenly taken to be a collection by Professor Jackson who, when asked many years later, had no clear recollection of having made the collection. Consequently, *L. morrisii* is to be regarded as a synonym of *L. squarrosa* and should be deleted from the *Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania*, and the type details in *Australian Plant Name Index* must be corrected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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