

### Segregate genera

Traditional usage of *Polygonum sens. strict.* has been for the group of species commonly known as Wireweeds (e.g. *P. aviculare* L. and *P. arenastrum* Bor.). However, Börner (1913) chose *Polygonum lapathifolium* L. (belonging to *Persicaria*) as lectotype for *Polygonum*. McNeill (1981) proposed that *Polygonum* be conserved with *P. aviculare* as lectotype. Having been recommended for acceptance by the Committee on Spermatophyta (*Taxon* 33: 299 (1984)), this proposal was formally accepted at the XIV International Botanical Congress (1987).

The correct names for the segregate genera and their Australian species are listed in Table 1. The correct name for the lectotype species of *Persicaria* (*Polygonum persicaria* L.) appears to be *Persicaria maculosa* S.F. Gray rather than *Persicaria maculata* (Raf.) A. & D. Löve or various other early names that have been suggested (J. McNeill, pers. comm.), but there is still some doubt about this. An earlier name that may displace it is *Persicaria ruderalis* (Salisb.) Reed, based on *Polygonum ruderale* Salisb.

Only two new combinations in the segregate genera are necessary for the species occurring in Australia. These are:

***Persicaria decipiens* (R. Br.) K.L. Wilson, comb. nov.**

BASIONYM: *Polygonum decipiens* R. Br., Prodrumus: 420 (1810).

LECTOTYPE: (here designated): Port Jackson, R. Brown (*Bennett/Britten no.* 2995), 1804 (BM).

SYNONYM: *Polygonum minus* Hudson ssp. *decipiens* (R. Br.) Danser, *Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg ser.* 3, 8: 178 (1927).

This species has been confused in Australia with the annual European species *Persicaria minor* (Hudson) Opiz but is distinct from that species, differing in being perennial with often larger leaves (5–12 x 0.5–1.3 cm; in *P. minor*, 2–7 x 0.4–0.9 cm) and with the flower clusters in the spike-like inflorescence uniformly spaced (in *P. minor*, the clusters are much more distant towards the base of the inflorescence). However, it is very close to *Persicaria salicifolia* (Brouss. ex Willd.) Assenov (incl. *Polygonum serrulatum* Lag.) of Europe, Africa and South-West Asia, and study of more material may show that they are synonymous. Although this is uncertain, what is certain is the status of the species as a native in Australia, since Banks and Solander collected it at Botany Bay in 1770.

**Table 1.** Names accepted here for genera at some time previously included in *Polygonum sens. lat.*, as well as for all species recorded for Australia (whether native, naturalised (\*) or cultivated (†)).

Accepted name	Name in <i>Polygonum sens. lat.</i>
<i>Polygonum</i> L. <i>sens. strict.</i> , <i>nom. cons.</i> [c. 50 spp., cosmopolitan; prob. introduced in many regions]	—
?* <i>P. arenastrum</i> Boreau	—
* <i>P. argyrocoleon</i> Steudel ex Kunze	—
?* <i>P. aviculare</i> L.	—
* <i>P. patulum</i> M. Bieb.	—
<i>P. plebeium</i> R. Br.	—