



Gaultheria viridicarpa J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms

Green Waxberry

Taxonomy

Gaultheria viridicarpa J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms. (Green Waxberry) refers to the populations of *Gaultheria viridicarpa* that occur along the Great Escarpment from near Ebor southwards to Point Lookout, approximately 70 km east of Armidale, New South Wales (Telford & Williams 2012).

Prior to the taxonomic revision of the species by Telford and Williams (2012), the correct name for *G. viridicarpa* was *G. appressa* var. *glabra*. Williams and Chapman (1992) used the name *G. viridicarpa* for the species, however, as it was not formally described, this name was not valid. Similarly, Briggs and Leigh's (1995) use of subspecies: *G. v.* subsp. *viridicarpa* (Green Waxberry) for a subpopulation along the Great Escarpment, east of Armidale; and *G. v.* subsp. *merinoensis* (Mount Merino Waxberry) for populations on the McPherson Range, on the NSWQueensland border, approximately 20 km north-west of Murwillumbah, NSW; were not formally described.

The Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (2014) accepted the conclusion of Telford and Williams (2012) that the morphological differences between the two subspecies, *G. v.* subsp. *viridicarpa* and *G. v.* subsp. *merinoensis*, were insufficient to represent new species or subspecies and the two subpopulations should be treated as synonymous.

Reason for conservation assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Gaultheria viridicarpa J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms. is listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act). The species is eligible for listing under the EPBC Act as on 16 July 2000 it was listed as Vulnerable under Schedule 1 of the preceding Act, the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth).

New South Wales has assessed the conservation status of *G. viridicarpa* using the IUCN categories and criteria. *Gaultheria viridicarpa* was assessed as eligible for listing as Endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) (BC Act).

Under the *Intergovernmental memorandum of understanding – Agreement on a common assessment method for listing of threatened species and threatened ecological communities*, New South Wales provided its assessment for *G. viridicarpa* to the Commonwealth, proposing listing of the taxon on the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act in the Endangered category.

To facilitate alignment of the NSW and Commonwealth lists of threatened species, it is proposed that *G. v.* J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms. be deleted from the Vulnerable category of the list of threatened species under the EPBC Act, and that *G. viridicarpa* be simultaneously assessed to determine the eligibility of the taxon for listing under the EPBC Act.

Consideration for delisting

As *G. viridicarpa* is proposed to be added to the list while *G. v.* J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms. is proposed to be simultaneously deleted from the list, the de-listing of *G. v.* J.B.Williams subsp. *viridicarpa* ms. at the subspecies level is not expected to adversely affect the regulatory protection and conservation of the species.

References cited in the advice

Briggs J D & Leigh J H (1995) *Rare or Threatened Australian Plants. Revised edition*. Collingwood, Victoria: CSIRO Publishing.

Telford I R H & Williams J B (2012) *Gaultheria viridicarpa*, a new name in Ericaceae: Vaccinioideae. *Telopea* 14: 77-81.

Williams J B & Chapman A R in Harden G J (ed) (1992) Ericaceae. *Flora of New South Wales* 3: 400.

Other references cited in the advice

Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) (2014). *Australian Plant Census*. Australian National Herbarium, Australian National Botanic Gardens and Australian Biological Resources Study. Available from: <http://www.chah.gov.au/chah/apc/index.html>.