

**THE STATUS OF *CARISSA LAXIFLORA* BENTH. AND
CARISSA PAPUANA MARKGRAF (APOCYNACEAE)**

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SUMMARY

Carissa papuana Markgraf described from New Guinea is placed in the synonymy of *C. laxiflora* Benth. described from Australia. *Carissa laxiflora* occurs on Cape York Peninsula, southern New Guinea and adjacent islands.

During curation of the holdings of Apocynaceae at the Queensland Herbarium (BRI) it became evident that *Carissa laxiflora* Benth. which has hitherto been considered to occur only in Queensland, Australia, has also been collected in southern Papua New Guinea. Markgraf (1971) provided an account of *Carissa* in Malesia where he recorded *C. papuana* Markgraf as the sole representative for that region. Examination of the type material of *C. laxiflora* and *C. papuana* reveals them to be conspecific, and the latter name is here formally placed in synonymy.

***Carissa laxiflora* Benth.**

Carissa laxiflora Benth., Fl. Austral. 4 (1869) 305; Bailey, Queensl. Fl. 3 (1900) 978. — T y p e: *J. Macgillivray* (K, holo; BRI, photo), 27 Oct. 1849, Cape York.

Carissa papuana Markgraf, Nova Guinea 14 (1925) 278; Blumea 19 (1971) 149, *synon. nov.* — T y p e: *W. B. Branderhorst* 64 (U, holo), 13 Sept. 1907, Okaba, New Guinea.

D i s t r i b u t i o n. Restricted to Cape York Peninsula, Australia and the southern parts of New Guinea and adjacent islands.

E c o l o g y. Plants grow in the foredune communities along beaches, behind mangroves and often in coastal vine thicket communities.

Selection of collections other than the types:

PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Western: Wassi Kussa R., right bank, 8° 57' S, 141° 59' E, July 1978, *NGF 38722 Henty & Katik* (BRI); coast between Oriomo and Fly Rivers, April 1936, *Brass 6463* (BRI). — Central: Port Moresby, road to Mountain View Estates from road between Laloki and Brown Rivers, May 1976, *van Royen 10772* (BRI).

AUSTRALIA. Queensland, Cook: Saibai, 9° 30' S, 142° 40' E, July 1975, *Stocker 1410* (BRI, QRS); Fishbone Ck, a tributary of Jacky Jacky Ck, near Jacky Jacky airstrip, Oct. 1965, *Smith 12433* (BRI); Olive R., 12° 10' S, 143° 05' E, *Hyland 7452* (BRI, QRS); Temple Bay, c. 4 km NW of Glennie Inlet, 12° 20' S, 143° 04' E, June 1978, *Clarkson 2154* (BRI); beach S of Kennedy Hill,

12° 29' S, 143° 16' E, June 1989, *Forster 5431* (BRI); N bank of Pascoe R. c. 1 km inland from river mouth, 12° 30' S, 143° 15' E, Nov. 1977, *Tracey 14095* (BRI, QRS); 8.5 km NW of Weipa Mission, 12° 39' S, 141° 50' E, July 1974, *Specht & Salt W527* (BRI); NW of mouth of Quintil Ck, Lockhart Aboriginal Reserve, 12° 50' S, 143° 22' E, Nov. 1977, *Tracey 14094* (BRI, QRS); Howick Is., 14° 30' S, 144° 59' E, May 1979, *Elsol 549 & Stanley* (BRI).

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REFERENCE

MARKGRAF, F. 1971. *Florae Malesianae Praecursores* LI. Apocynaceae I. 1. *Carissa*, 2. *Cathartus*, 3. *Melodinus*, 4. *Leuconotis*, 5. *Chilocarpus*. *Blumea* 19: 149–166.