

Note on the so-called *Ericopsis formosus* Gardner.

By **C. A. Gardner.**

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In December, 1922, I collected, and described from fresh material, the above plant, placing it in the family *Ericaceae* (Jour. Roy. Soc. Western Australia, Vol. IX., Part I., p. 42).

An examination of my specimens at a later date has led to the discovery that the plant is not new, but a species of *Goodeniaceae*. As a comparison of the descriptions of *Leschenaultia* and *Ericopsis* will show, the differences are an oblique corolla and the presence of the indusium in *Leschenaultia*, and a regular corolla and capitate stigma in *Ericopsis*. The other floral parts as regards their arrangement and order are similar.

Leschenaultia tubiflora, R. Brown, "Prodromus," p. 581, is an *Astroloma*-like plant which may have a perfectly regular corolla-tube equally lobed when fresh, and a closed (not two-lipped) indusium resembling a simple stigma, although there is, as remarked in the description of *Ericopsis*, a raised line in the centre of the summit of the style dividing it into two equal halves, one glabrous, or nearly so, and the other slightly glandular-hairy. When dried, or perhaps at an advanced flowering stage also, the indusium becomes quite evident, and this organ characterises it at once as one of the *Goodeniaceae*. The relationship therefore between the ericoid-leaved species of *Leschenaultia* and the *Ericaceae* is very close, especially in external appearances.

At the same time, my specimen cannot be regarded as typical of *L. tubiflora*, although I have not seen the type, and have only had R. Brown's and Bentham's descriptions to guide me, and this mistake might easily be made if, as in this case, specimens are examined in a fresh condition, for the indusium of *L. tubiflora* in my specimens described, and in later ones received from the same locality, appeared as a two-lipped dilation of the style only when the specimens had dried.

Ericopsis was unfortunately described in the absence of fruits.



Gardner, Charles A. 1924. "Note on the so-called *Ericopsis formosus* Gardner." *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia* 10, 113–114.

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