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A NEW COMBINATION IN *OPERCULINA* (CONVOLVULACEAE)

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Abstract

Ipomoea aequisepala Domin, a northern Australian species previously confused with *Operculina turpethum* (L.) S. Manso, is transferred to *Operculina* and the necessary recombination effected.

The forthcoming publication of the 'Flora of Central Australia' necessitates the publication of a new combination for a species of *Operculina* (Convolvulaceae) recognised by the present author.

***Operculina aequisepala* (Domin) R. W. Johnson, comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Ipomoea aequisepala* Domin, Biblioth. Bot. 89:535 (1928).

Type: Northwest-Queensland: Grasflächen der Rolling Downs zwischen Richmond und Cloncurry (Domin II.1910) (holotype: not found).

The holotype of this species has not been located following searches in a number of likely European herbaria. Most of the holotypes of species of Convolvulaceae designated by Domin in 'Bibliotheca Botanica' are held in the National Museum of Prague.

The original description is very detailed and adequately and fairly precisely describes this widespread endemic taxon from semi-arid northern Australia, previously included under *Operculina turpethum* (L.) S. Manso in most herbaria. The latter species is restricted to coastal areas of far northern and eastern Australia. The only point of dispute in Domin's description is his statement that it is a perennial with a tuberous root. From a study of herbarium specimens and living plants it is almost certainly an annual with a tap root.

Because it possesses smooth pollen and its capsule has an operculum it belongs to the genus *Operculina*. The operculum is quite small, 6-9 mm in diameter, compared with other members of the genus in Australia. It can be distinguished from *O. turpethum* in having a smaller corolla, less than 3 cm long, and \pm glabrous sepals.