



SHORT COMMUNICATION

The correct publication, author citation and type of *Hibbertia cistiflora*Jürgen Kellermann^{a, b}^a State Herbarium of South Australia, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Hackney Road, Adelaide, South Australia 5000

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Hibbertia cistiflora is a well-known shrub in south-eastern Australia and is currently divided into three subspecies (Toelken 1995; Toelken & Miller 2012), although the status of these is being reviewed (T. Hammer, pers. comm., Nov. 2025). During the preparation of a paper on eastern Australian species of *Hibbertia* (Toelken, in press), it became apparent that the place and date of publication, as well as the authorship of the species name needs clarification, as does its type.

In 1825¹, H.G. Ludwig Reichenbach (1793–1879; TL-2 4: 666) first published the name *Pleurandra cistiflora* on plate 79 of his *Iconographia botanica exotica* (Reichenbach 1824–1827) accompanying an illustration with analysis (Fig. 1), but the printed description on page 57 of the work did not become available until much later, in 1827. The species was described from material collected near Sydney from sandstone, as stated in the description: “In Nova Hollandia, ultra sinum prope Sydney, crescit in rupibus arenariis” (p. 57) and “Die kleinen Sträucher [...] finden sich ursprünglich besonders an Sandfelsen” (p. xvii). In addition, Reichenbach mentions that from plate 71 onwards the species listed in *Iconographia botanica exotica* were based on Sieber’s New Holland collections: “Mit dieser Prachtpflanze [i.e. plate 71; *Boronia floribunda*] beginnen wir die Mittheilung der von Hrn. Sieber in Neuholland gemachten Entdeckungen” (p. xv).

The history of the three volumes of Reichenbach’s work on exotic and foreign plants is complex. The publication was first issued in ‘decades’ consisting of

10 plates each, with the plan that ten decades would comprise a volume. It is not known if all decades were published separately, or at least some of them together, as most parts of the work were later bound into volumes. The printed catalogue of the British Museum (Natural History) Library states that the first volume was published under the title *Hortus botanicus, hortorum vivorum siccorumque novitates illustrans* (Woodward 1913: 1668), but this is not fully correct, as the name of the work was changed to *Iconographia botanica exotica, sive hortus botanicus, imagines plantarum inprimis extra Europam inventarum colligens* before the first volume was complete.

TL-2 gives the publication dates for Vol. 1 as follows:

- Decades I–VI (pp. 1–32, pl. 1–60): Jan.–June 1824
- Decades VII–VIII (pp. 33–56, pl. 61–80): 1825
- Decades IX–X (pp. 57–72, i–xx, pl. 81–100): Jan.–June 1827.

The same years were also listed in an announcement to the reader (“Lectori / An den Leser”), bound into a copy of the book available online². However, when examining contemporary publication reviews and book announcements, it seems that Decades I–II were published by 11 July 1824³ and Decade III by the end of 1824⁴. Decades IV–VIII appear in a catalogue of books published during Jan.–June 1825⁵. All these were published by Carl Cnobloch in Leipzig under the title *Hortus botanicus*. From Decade IX onward, the publisher changed to Friedrich Hofmeister, Leipzig, and with this change of publisher, the title of the work was also altered, to *Iconographia botanica exotica*. The publication dates for the last two parts are given

1 Publication dates follow Stafleu & Cowan (1976–1988), referred to as TL-2 throughout the text.

2 Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, <https://viewer.onb.ac.at/10A62F66/14> [accessed: 9 Feb. 2026].

3 Advertisement by the publisher Cnobloch, dated 11 July 1824: *Leipziger Literatur-Zeitung* 199: 1591–1592 (14 Aug. 1824); *Intelligenzblatt der Jenaischen Allgemeinen Literatur-Zeitung* 39: 305–306 (July 1824).

4 Lists of books published up to the end of 1824: *Magazin für Pharmazie und die einschlagenden Wissenschaften* 10: 255 (1825); *Jahresbericht der Königlichen Schwedischen Akademie der Wissenschaften über die Fortschritte der Botanik 1820–1824*: 215 (1838).

5 *Verzeichnis der Bücher, Landkarten, etc. welche vom Januar bis July 1825 neu erschienen und neu aufgelegt sind [...] zu finden in der J.C. Hinrichschen Buchhandlung* 54:106 (1825).



Fig. 1. Plate 79 in Reichenbach's *Iconographia botanica exotica*, illustration (with analysis) of *Pleurandra cistiflora* Rchb., drawn by the author himself. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Signatur: 177303-C ALT MAG.

as Jan.–June 1827 in *TL-2*, but they had definitely appeared by Oct. 1827⁶. As *Pleurandra cistiflora* was validly published on pl. 79 in Decade VIII, the title of the publication should be given as *Hortus botanicus*, with a date of Jan.–June 1825.

Franz Wilhelm Sieber (1789–1844; *TL-2* 5: 582) collected extensively around Sydney and the Blue Mountains during June–Dec. 1823 (George 2009). He sold the 120,000 specimens he collected in New South Wales in sets labelled “*Fl. Novæ Holl.*” (645 numbers), “*Agrostotheca*” (146 numbers; only Poaceae, Cyperaceae, Restionaceae and Juncaceae) and “*Fl. Mixta*” (900 numbers; also containing plants from South Africa, Martinique and Mauritius). Dietrich (1881) stated that Reichenbach and Sieber worked closely together on identifying the plant collections from Australia. Reichenbach also wrote articles about Sieber’s activities, praised the quality of his specimens and advertised the collections for sale (e.g. Reichenbach 1825a, b).

Sieber (1825a, b) published lists of the contents of his Australian herbarium. *Pleurandra cistiflora* is clearly indicated as the name of his collection no. 148. Here he clearly identified himself (as “Sbr.” or “Sieber”) as the author of that name (Sieber 1825b), not Reichenbach, as appears in Reichenbach (1824–1827), on pl. 79 (as “Rchb.”) and following the description on p. 57 (as “R.”). It is very likely that his list (Sieber 1825b) was published before Reichenbach’s plate, but the lack of any descriptions or diagnoses with these names makes them *nomina nuda* and hence not validly published. However, Sieber’s manuscript names have been taken up by many botanists, resulting in a large number of “Sieber ex” names in the taxonomic literature (IPNI lists 886 of these as of 13 Nov. 2025).

Much of Reichenbach’s herbarium was destroyed in a fire in Dresden in May 1849 (Hofmeister *et al.* 1850), but not all of it (Wallnöfer 2003). The surviving collection became the property of his son, Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach (*TL-2* 4: 689), whose herbarium was acquired by the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna (herbarium code W) in 1889. There are now two collections of *Fl. Novæ Holl.* 148 in W, one of which bears a stamp in the top right hand corner, indicating it is from the “*Collectio Reichenbach fil.*” (W18890301488; Fig. 2). This specimen has several buds and two open flowers, and it bears both the original printed label “*Fl. Novæ Holl.* No. 148” and a handwritten label “148. *Pleurandra cistiflora*” (without mentioning an authorship of the name), possibly written by Sieber. It is not known if this specimen is original material from Ludwig Reichenbach’s personal herbarium, or acquired by him after the fire. However, since Reichenbach’s son specialised in orchids, it is unlikely that a Dilleniaceae specimen became part of his herbarium after his father’s death. There is no

indication of provenance on the other specimen in Vienna (W0031476).

In 1837, Sieber’s personal collection was acquired by Carl Ludwig [Freiherr] von Reichenbach (1788–1869; *TL-2* 4: 665; apparently unrelated to Ludwig Reichenbach), who in turn “sold it (complete) to Henri Van Heurck in 1867” (Bower 2024: 33; see also Moraes 2013). This was the basis of the former Dr. Henri Van Heurck Museum herbarium in Antwerp (AWH), which was transferred permanently to the herbarium in Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium (BR) in 2006 (De Smedt & Bogaerts 2022). There are now two specimens of *Fl. Novæ Holl.* 148 at BR: a specimen in the Van Heurck Herbarium from Sieber’s personal collection (AWH11720560) and one in the collection of C.F.P. von Martius (BR0000013462475).

Conran *et al.* (2012) discussed the publication and typification of *Lavatera weinmanniana* Besser ex Rchb., which was also published by Reichenbach in *Iconographia botanica exotica*. The situation for that species is very similar, i.e. the plate (pl. 60) was published in 1824, in advance of the printed text on p. 45 (1825). Conran *et al.* (2012) concluded that the name should be typified by the plate, since the protologue “was merely the illustration [...] and not the associated description” (Conran *et al.* 2012: 21). However, they also conceded that “the description is needed in order to determine some of the finer detail” (Conran *et al.* 2012: 22). The case of *L. weinmanniana* differs in that Reichenbach did not give any reference to herbarium collections in either place, while for *Pleurandra cistiflora*, he definitely stated in the accompanying text (pp. xv, 57) that the species was described from a Sieber specimen, collected near Sydney.

Baum (1995) discussed names published via provision of illustrations with analysis, and the advantages and disadvantages of designating the plate or the specimens that the illustration was based on as the lectotype. His conclusion was that “[I]f a good quality specimen used by the author is available it should be typified. Failing that, it is preferable to typify the plate rather than select a poor quality specimen or a neotype.” (Baum 1995: 449).

As such, the collection *FW. Sieber Fl. Novæ Holl.* 148 in W, on which both the illustration, drawn by Reichenbach himself, and the description were based, is below designated as the lectotype (W18890301488; Fig. 2). As Reichenbach worked with Sieber on his Australian collections, it is very likely that Reichenbach saw many duplicate specimens of *P. cistiflora*, before they were divided into sets and sold. The specimen at W from the herbarium of his son is the best choice for lectotype, as it consists of a large flowering branch and is most likely from Reichenbach’s herbarium.

6 Advertisement by the publisher Hofmeister, dated Oct. 1827: *Flora* 10(2) *Beil.* 1: 102–104 (1827); announcement with a list of species depicted on pl. 81–100: *Linnaea* 2: 485 (Aug.–Oct. 1827).



Fig. 2. Lectotype of *Pleurandra cistiflora* Rchb., F.W. Sieber *Fl. Novae Holl.* 148 from the Reichenbach Herbarium at the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna (W18890301488).

Kurt P.J. Sprengel (1766–1833; *TL-2* 5: 806) published the 17th edition of Linnaeus' *Systema Vegetabilium* (Sprengel 1825–1828). In 1827 he issued an addendum, *Curae posteriores*, updating the work and adding new species that had been published in the meantime. For *Pleurandra*, he added five new species from “Nov. Holl.” and attributed them all to Sieber (as “Sieb.”), indicating that these came to his attention when he gained access to duplicates of Sieber's Australian collections, which were sold and distributed during this time (Reichenbach 1825a, b). Two of these names had already been published prior to Sprengel's work: *Pleurandra stricta* DC. (Candolle 1817) and *P. cistiflora* Rchb.

Sprengel presumably used the names that were given in Sieber's list of species that accompanied the collection, or the list published by Sieber (1825b), in which “Sbr.” was indicated as the author of the name (see above). *Pleurandra cistiflora* was only represented by collection no. 148 in Sieber's herbarium. As such, Sprengel worked on the same material that Reichenbach used to describe *P. cistiflora*, or duplicates thereof [i.e. isosyntypes of *Fl. Novae Holl.* 148]. Since Sprengel described an existing species and used the same name and type, despite his attribution to Sieber rather than Reichenbach, he published a later isonym with no nomenclatural standing (Turland *et al.* 2025, Art. 6.3 Note 2).

Sprengel's herbarium was first inherited by his son, then passed on to the pharmacist C.F.W. Meißner in Halle (Friedrich & von Domarus 1998; no relation to the Swiss botanist K.F. Meissner) and partly sold. The remainder of Sprengel's collection was purchased in 1853 by Karl Müller, who sold his herbarium, including the Sprengel material, to the herbarium of the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum in Berlin (B) in 1890. Part of this ‘Müller-Sprengel Herbarium’ was material collected by Sieber (Urban 1891), but most of these specimens, including Dilleniaceae, were destroyed during WWII (Hiepko 1987; *TL-2* 5: 806).

When Wakefield (1955) transferred the name *Pleurandra cistiflora* to the genus *Hibbertia*, he inadvertently stated that the basionym was published in Sprengel (1827). He presumably followed Benthams (1863: 27), who gave “Sieber in Spreng.” as the main reference for *P. cistiflora*, followed by the citation of Reichenbach's publication. This is an error to be corrected, since both Reichenbach and Sprengel worked from the same material, i.e. the basionym should be attributed to Reichenbach (Turland *et al.* 2025, Art. 41.8). This means that the author citation is to be corrected from “(Sieber ex Spreng.) N.A.Wakef.” to “(Rchb.) N.A.Wakef.”. As Sieber's name is not mentioned by Reichenbach on the validating pl. 79 or the written description, it cannot be included in the author citation.

Hoogland (1983) reviewed the nomenclature of *Hibbertia cistiflora* and decided that Wakefield had published a new name and not a new combination,

because “Sprengel's *Pleurandra cistiflora* is illegitimate as it is a later homonym, as Reichenbach's name represents the same species but has a different type” (Hoogland 1983: 4). Hoogland did not give any more details on how he came to this conclusion, or which specimens were the types of these names. Several authors have followed his assertion, using the author citation “N.A.Wakef.” only (e.g. Harden & Everett 1990; Toelken 1995, 1996; Toelken & Miller 2012); however, this is incorrect. As stated above, since they are based on the same type material the names published by Reichenbach and Sprengel are isonyms, and *Hibbertia cistiflora* is a new combination.

Hibbertia cistiflora was later reviewed by Toelken (1995: 60), who wrote that the type was: “Sieber's ‘Flora Novae Hollandiae No. 148’ (holo.: B n.v. but presumably destroyed; iso. G, MEL)”. This use of “holo” might not constitute an inadvertent lectotypification (Turland *et al.* 2025, Art. 9.10; see also Kellermann & Thiele 2021), as Toelken adds, “presumably destroyed”, i.e. he did not claim that the type specimen was definitely at B, merely that it may have been there (see also Art. 9.22). To date, no such specimen has been located at that herbarium. However, it is not a requirement under the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Turland *et al.* 2025) for authors to have seen a specimen or verified its existence in order to designate it as a type, i.e. this could also be interpreted as an effective lectotypification. In that case, a new lectotypification would be permissible, as the “previously designated lectotype has been lost or destroyed” (Art. 9.11).

Toelken & Miller (2012) published another type statement: “*F.W.Sieber 148* (holo.: MEL1003802; iso.: G, K)”. As this was published after 2001, when the phrase “here designated” or an equivalent became mandatory for designation of a lectotype (Turland *et al.* 2025, Art. 7.11), the use of “holo” does not constitute an inadvertent lectotypification. In both cases, Toelken (1995) and Toelken & Miller (2012) did not give an explanation why these particular specimens were cited as the holotype.

To clarify the situation, the correct author citation, typification and synonymy are outlined below. All specimens were examined online (see App. 2 in Paul & Kellermann 2022) or as images provided by BR.

***Hibbertia cistiflora* (Rchb.) N.A.Wakef.**

Vict. Naturalist 72: 119 (1955), as “(Sieb. ex Spreng.)”. — *Pleurandra cistiflora* Sieber, *Isis* [16](4) *Beyl.* 1: 1 (Apr. 1825), *nom. inval.* (name only). — *Pleurandra cistiflora* Rchb., *Hort. Bot.* [*Iconogr. Bot. Exot.*] 1(8): t. 79 (Jan.–June 1825) & 1: xvii, 57 (Jan.–June 1827). — *Pleurandra cistiflora* Sieber ex Spreng., *Syst. Veg. ed.* 17, 4(2) [*Cur. Post.*]: 191 (Jan.–June 1827) (later isonym of *P. cistiflora* Reichb., 1825). — **Type details:** “In Nova Hollandia, ultra sinum prope Sydney, crescit in rupibus arenariis”, “Sieber”, *fide*

Rchb., *Hort. Bot.* [*Iconogr. Bot. Exot.*] 1: 57, xv (Jan.–June 1827). **Lectotype (here designated):** [Australia, Sydney region,] F.W. Sieber *Fl. Novae Holl.* 148 (W18890301488, ex Herb. Rchb.fil.). **Isolectotypes:** AWH11720560 (at BR), BR0000013462475 (ex Herb. Martii), G, GH00348794 (ex K), H1379665 (ex Herb. Steven), HAL0117519, K000687440 (ex Herb. Hook.), L.2386019, MEL1003802, MEL1003805, NY00428753 (ex Herb. Meissn.), S08-20027, TCD0009669, W0031476.

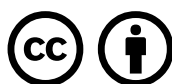
Acknowledgments

I thank Robyn Barker (AD), Anna Monro (CANB) and Kevin Thiele (GAUBA) for their detailed comments on this manuscript. Ann Bogaerts (BR) supplied a scan of the type specimen from the Van Heurck Herbarium. The illustrations are reproduced using the following licenses — Fig. 1: Not in copyright-NC, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, <https://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-NC/1.0/>; Fig. 2: CC-BY, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

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