



Notes on Early Land Plants Today. 23. A new synonym in *Anthoceros* (Anthocerotaceae, Anthocerotophyta)

D. CHRISTINE CARGILL¹, LARS SÖDERSTRÖM^{2,4}, ANDERS HAGBORG³ & MATT VON KONRAT³

¹Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, Australian National Herbarium, GPO Box 1600, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia; chris.cargill@environment.gov.au

²Department of Biology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway; lars.soderstrom@bio.ntnu.no

³Department of Botany, The Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605–2496, USA; hagborg@pobox.com, mvonkonrat@fieldmuseum.org

⁴Author for correspondence

Stephani (1916) described two species of *Anthoceros* Linnaeus (1753: 1139) from Queensland, Australia, but the application of these names has been unclear. Herbarium collections at B, BM, HBG, L, MEL, PC, and W were searched in an attempt to find original material of these taxa. Two packets were found at G in the Stephani herbarium, one bearing the name *Anthoceros fragilis* (barcode G-61292) and the other labelled *Anthoceros fertilis* (barcode G-61293). Both annotations were in Stephani's handwriting and the specimens match the descriptions in the protologue.

The first author studied the G specimens and found they represent to the same taxon. Since the two names have equal priority, *Anthoceros fragilis* was chosen over *Anthoceros fertilis*, as the epithet more accurately describes the thallus, which is thinner and more delicate than that in the type species for the genus, *Anthoceros punctatus* Linnaeus (1753: 1139).

Both specimens at G were collected by Amalie Dietrich from the Brisbane River area in Queensland. Dietrich's herbarium is now in HBG with duplicates in many other herbaria. However, no duplicates of the *Anthoceros* material were found in HBG or several other herbaria with significant holdings of Dietrich specimens. Stephani based his descriptions of *Anthoceros fragilis* and *Anthoceros fertilis* on the specimens held in G, which appears to be the only extant type material for these names. They are thus regarded here as holotypes, despite an annotation by Proskauer on the specimen of *Anthoceros fertilis* to indicate that it was an isotype.

Formal treatment

The format of this note follows Söderström *et al.* (2012).

Anthoceros fragilis Steph., *Sp. Hepat. (Stephani)* 5: 1006, 1916 (Stephani 1916).

Type:—AUSTRALIA. Queensland: *Amalie Dietrich* (holotype G-61292! [=G-24322!]¹).

= *Anthoceros fertilis* Steph., *Sp. Hepat. (Stephani)* 5: 1006, 1916 (Stephani 1916), *syn. nov.* Type:—AUSTRALIA. Eastern Queensland: Brisbane River. 1865, *Amalie Dietrich 804* (holotype G-61293! [=G-24321!]).

1. Citation of specimens in G should preferably use the barcode (M. Price, pers. comm.) but for comparability the numbers printed on the specimen, which have often been cited by previous authors, are also given here in square brackets.

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References

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Söderström, L. Hagborg, A. & von Konrat, M. (2012) Notes on Early Land Plants Today. *Phytotaxa* 65: 41–42.
Stephani, F. (1916) *Species Hepaticarum 5*. George & Cie, Genève & Bale, pp. 849–1008.