

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Austrobaileya C.T.White honours F.M.Bailey

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The name *Austrobaileya* was published by White (April 1933), although he does not mention with his description or elsewhere in this paper the derivation of this name. Johnson (1977) in the Foreword to the first issue of the Queensland Herbarium's scientific journal 'Austrobaileya' stated that the genus *Austrobaileya* "was named in honour of two Baileys, F.M. Bailey the noted Queensland botanist, and I.W. Bailey, USA (S.L. Everist, *pers. comm.*)". However, there is no evidence to support the assumption that the two Baileys were being honoured. C.T. White's first correspondence with I.W. Bailey was in October 1947 (BRI archives letter 4201) when Bailey wrote to him regarding White's collection (*White 10734*, September 1936) of *Austrobaileya* from Mt Spurgeon. Bailey considered White's specimens to be a new species of *Austrobaileya* and White responded to this letter in January 1948 (BRI archives letter 4200) and subsequently published the name *Austrobaileya maculata* for it (White 1948). Ross (1989, 2007) considered *A. maculata* to be conspecific with *A. scandens* and this taxonomy has been accepted.

The evidence that White was only honouring his grandfather F.M. Bailey in naming *Austrobaileya* is also based on an article titled 'Flora of north Queensland' (Anonymous September 1933). The article summarises White (April 1933) and notes that "several new genera were described. One of the most striking is *Austrobaileya*,

commemorating the name of the late F.M. Bailey and his work on the Australian flora". White was an active member of The Queensland Naturalist Club and contributor to the Club's journal at the time and it is highly likely he authored this article.

References

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