Translated from Stauffer (1959) pp. 239-242

1. *Omphacomeria acerba* (R. BROWN) ALPH. DE CANDOLLE
(acerbus = herb; after the taste of the fruit)

ALPH. DE CANDOLLE 1857: in Prodr. 14, 681! G. BENTHAM et F. v. MUELLER 1873: FI. Austr. 6, 225! J. D. HOOKER 1876: Icon. PI. 12, 64! W. WOOLLS 1880: PI. Ind. Neighb. Sidney 27! F. v. MUELLER 1882: Syst. Cens. Austr. Pl. 64! C. MOORE 1884: Cens. PI. NSW. 66! F. V. MUELLER 1885: Key Syst., Vict. Pl. 2, 27! W. WOOLLS 1885: PI. NSW. 62! F. V. MUELLER 1887: Key Syst. Vict. Pl. 1, 287! F. V. MUELLER 1889: Sec. Syst. Gens. Austr. Pl. 11O! G. HIERONYMUS 1889: in Nat. Pfl. Farn. 3; 1, 216! W. WOOLLS 1891: PI. Ind. Neighb. Sidney Edit. 11. 28! C. MOORE et E. BETCHE 1893: Handb. Fl. NSW. 224! A.J. EWART 1930: Fl. Vict. 42l! R. PILGER 1935: in Nat. Pfl. Fam. Edit. 11. *16b,* 75! F. H. SMITH et E. C. SMITH 1943: Flor. Anat. Santo 52! G. ERDTMAN 1952: Pollen Morph. Pl. Tax. 393!

Synonyms: Leptomeria acerba R. BROWN. R. BROWN 1810: Prodr. Fl. Nov. HolI. 354! R. BROWN 1827: Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl. Edit. NEES (11.) 210!

Icones: J. D. HOOKER 1876: Icon. Pl. 12, T. 1172! F. H. SMITH et E. C. SMITH 1943: Flor. Anat. Santo 53 T. 12 Fig. 5-9: Anat. Flor.! Tabula XXI.

Diagnosis originalis: Aphylla, ramis ramulisque teretibus striatis, floribus glomeratis solitariisve.

Typus: In vicinitate Coloniae apud Portum Jackson, R. BROWN S. n.: Holo et Descriptio MS: BM. Iso: G-DC!

Description: Upright, articulated, richly-branched bush of the *Spartium* type [*Spartium junceum*, Fabaceae, Spanish broom], leaves to tiny scales reduced and assimilating axes; 60-120 cm high. In the cross section approximately, showing older axes in the herbarium material up to 5.5 mm in diameter, also from each node to three running down ribs, which are flat and gape at the oldest axes, between them secondary, black-brown crust appearing, wood light reddish. Younger axes approximately or somewhat oval in the cross section, somewhat thickish, never sharp-edged, also closely together-closing, running down glabrous flat ribs. Intermediate grooves with simple hair lined and the gap openings containing, assimilation (photosynthetic) tissues along these grooves arranged, axes green, ± rigid. To separate axe members clearly in long and short shoots, 1-41 cm long, stops 1.0-1.2 mm thickly, lowest internodes usually tied in bundles, the following nodes in more irregularly 2/5-condition, particulars often ± opposite, internodes 2.8-35 mm long.

Ramifications loosely to moderately close, sympodial, with acropetal (=acrotoner?) promotion of the side axes, which rise to 1-25(-40) per axis member, whereby only the highest or nearly all nodes, not rarely also the side axes can appear to be condensed storied-like; shoots (Beisprosse) isolated and arising only singly, ramification angles usually ± 45°, occasionally to 60°, side axes usually ± bent (flexible) to the centerline put up. Leaf scales at young sprouts tiny semicircular, ± hyaline, glabrous structure, which are later dissolved ± resinous, occasionally under the side axes still as small denticles.

Inflorescences usually axillary, more rarely terminal, pedunculate, few-flowered racemes with (than last more developed) pseudo-terminal flower, occasionally up to these reduced, plants always unisexual. Male inflorescence (1-) 3-8-flowered, rarely from the lowest scale bract always branches out and then with to 3-flowered a side axle totally to 9-flowered, flowers sitting in 2/5-condition in the axil more indistinctly, drained resinous bracts. Inflorescence 2.0-5.0 mm long, their peduncle 0.4-2.0 mm long, axle in the cross section somewhat oval, with 0.8-1.1 mm in diameter. Inflorescence axle and bract glabrous. Female inflorescence 1-3(-7)-flowered, flowers as with male posed, solitary-flowered with some indistinct dissolved resin denticulate bracts, inflorescence 1.7-3.0 mm long, rarely terminal at axes to 20 cm long, which are normally vegetativy branched unterwärts, peduncle of the normal inflorescence 0.5-1.0 mm long. Axes in flower in the cross section easily oval showing 0.8-1.0 mm largest diameter; in fruit, hardly extended, but thickens, with 1.8-2.0 mm in diameter. Axle ± glabrous, in case of flower and fruit loss their scar-site somewhat papillose. Male flowers with flat receptacle and 3-4(-5) tepals, diameter of the flower 2.0-3.0 mm, height ± 0.9 mm. Flowers on the inflorescence axis articulated, but somewhat resinously stuck together. Tepals 0.8-1.2 mm long and at the base just as broad, thickish, yellow, glabrous, triangular ovate, obtuse, flat, margin and apex minimally thickened, Stamens 0.5-0.6 mm long, anther ± 0.4 mm long and 0.5-0.6 mm wide, filament basi- dorsifixed, the two thecae somewhat separated, flat and broad, attached at the base of the tepals, 0.15 mm long and 0.3 mm wide, thecae oval, light yellow, pollen 21-21.6 μ long and 13.5-14.9 μ thick. Disk with 1.0-1.2 mm in diameter, flat, weakly lobed, in the center carrying the small columnar, short (+ 0.1 mm) upright, 2-lobed at the point pistillode.

Female flower with a flat receptacle and 3-*4*-5 tepals, diameters of the flower 1.8-2.4 mm, height of 0.8-0.9 mm, flowers on the inflorescence axis articulated, which axis however closely pressed and with it ± resinously sticks together. Tepals 0.8-1.0 mm long and at the base constructed just as broad as with the male flower, in anthesis flat, during the fructification again in-curved, persisting, to mature fruit with the disk and the staminodia as small coronet easily falling. Staminodia with reduced, sterile, brownish thecae, 0.4-0.6 mm high, unerect, anther 0.3 mm high and just as broad, filament flat and broad, 0.2-0.3 mm long and ± 0.2 mm wide. Disk as with the male flowers, lobed with 0.9-1.0 mm in diameter, flat and shallowly, ovary in flower half-inferior, which is hardly recessed into the receptacle, free part of the ovary conical, which widens, flattens, clearly carrying 2(-3)-lobed stigma, 0.2-0.5 mm highly, stigma lobes papillose. Flowers of both sexes completely glabrous, on female inflorescences also unfertilized flowers up to ripe fertilized ones, persistent.

Fruits usually solitary, more rarely developing to 2(-5) per inflorescence; drupe, oval to somewhat obovate-ovate, fresh fleshy, smooth and glabrous, greenish, crowned by the tepals, 7.5-10.0 mm long, drying black-brownish, strongly shrunken, 6-8 mm long and 4.3-7.0 mm thick, in cross section not completely round, but the form according to endocarps somewhat laterally squeezed together. Exocarp membranous, mesocarp fleshy, sweet, but richly at tannins; endocarp hard-bony, 0.6 mm thickly, outside pitted, inside smooth, from two (rarely three) somewhat squeezed together hollow, obovate heart-shaped parts, which meet in a clear border, compound [complex, conglomerate], 4.0-4.3 mm high and with 3.8 X 4.3-4.5 mm of transverse measure. Seed smooth, the lumen of the endocarp completely filled out, of the same form as the endocarp, 3.0 mm high, transverse measure 2.9 X 3.2 mm, with fleshy-oily endosperm and central, inverse, pointed-constant, extremely small embryo.

Variability: The species shows moderate variability, limited to the density of the

ramifications, length and thickness of the axis members, stature form, to the number of the flowers per rank, size of the flowers and fruits, without meanwhile special extreme forms in any of the mentioned characteristics would be noticeable.

Relationship: Monotypic genus, in close relationship with *Exocarpos* section *Exocarpos*, in particular with *E. strictus*.

Horizontal spreading: New South Wales: Along the coast and in the Tafelland, from the Hunterriver to to the border of Victoria, e.g. Port Jackson, BROWN s. n. [s. d.], Typus, Holo: BM. Iso: G-DC! idem, CAMPFIELD S. n. [1897], Z! G! Campbelltown, ALKIN s. n. [1878], Z! Lithgow, BOORMAN s. n. [1944], G! Hill End, LAUTERER s. n. [1885], MEL! "Interior", CUNNINGHAM 391 [1817], G-DC! *Victoria:* Limited to the east and northeast, not frequently, e.g. Genoa peak and Mitta Mitta, MUELLER ex BENTHAM et MUELLER 1873, Victorian Alps, ex EWART 1930, Cravensville, WILLIAMSON s. n. [1928], Z!

Vertical spreading: Data are missing, the species are of offshore places into the Inittleren height of the mountain courses.

Ecology, biology: All relevant data are missing, the parasitism of the species is not proven yet. After HIERONYMUS 1889 The spreading of the sweet fruits, which are eaten also by humans, might take place mainly by means of birds.

Phenology: Flowers available from VIII XI, fruits from VI, IX, XI, young shoots arising at the time of flower formation.

Species excludenda
Omphacomeria psilotoides ALPH. DE CANDOLLE. ALPH. DE CANDOLLE 1857: in Prodr. 14,681! = *Exocarpos strictus* R. BROWN