



Typification of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie (Polygonaceae)

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Short communication

Typification of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie (Polygonaceae)

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Abstract The typification of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* (Polygonaceae) is briefly discussed, and a lectotype is chosen from the original material.

Keywords Polygonaceae; *Muehlenbeckia astonii*; lectotype; New Zealand flora

TYPIIFICATION OF *Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie

The agricultural chemist and botanical explorer B. C. Aston (Adams 1980; Godley 1996) discovered a new species of *Muehlenbeckia* (Polygonaceae) growing at the mouth of the Wainuiomata River, Wellington, during February 1908 (Aston 1909). As was usual for Aston (Adams 1980), he forwarded the specimens to D. Petrie, who later described the taxon in Aston's honour as *Muehlenbeckia astonii* (Petrie 1911). In Petrie's protologue *M. astonii* is recorded from "Palliser Bay, near Orongorongo, and Wainuiomata" (Petrie 1911: 257). Petrie did not specify a type. The Orongorongo and Wainuiomata Rivers reach the south coast of the North Island to the west of Palliser Bay.

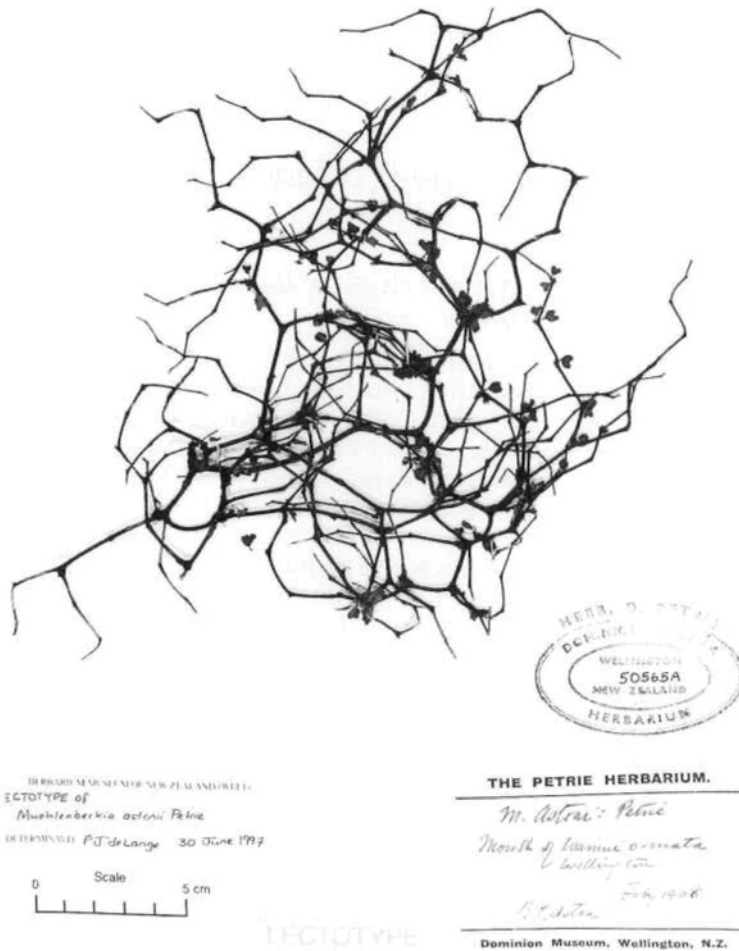
Allan (1961: 221) cited the type locality as "Palliser Bay", and indicated the type and its whereabouts in the following manner "Type: W[ELT], B. C. Aston". In this particular case, Allan's action constitutes incomplete lectotypification because no particular specimen is stipulated. As there are three specimens of *M. astonii* in the Petrie Herbarium at WELT, all gathered by Aston from the Wainuiomata River mouth in February 1908, and all labelled in Petrie's hand and matching his protologue, a more precise specification of the lectotype is needed. This action is taken below.

Muehlenbeckia astonii Petrie *T. N. Z. I.* 43: 257, t. 2. (1911)

LECTOTYPE: (Chosen here): "Mouth of Wainuiomata, Wellington, B. C. Aston, Feb 1908", WELT 50565A! (Fig. 1).

ISOLECTOTYPES: WELT 50565B!, WELT 50565C!

Fig. 1 Lectotype of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie (B. C. Aston, Feb 1908, WELT 50565A).



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