

**SPONGOTRICHUM NEES, A MUCH EARLIER NAME
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN *EOGLANDULA* NESOM (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAE)**

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ABSTRACT

Spongotrichum Nees (1832) has priority over *Eoglandula* Nesom (2020) as the name for an Australian genus of two species. In the interpretation here, however, Nees did not formally transfer the only species (at the time), *Aster glandulosus* Labill., into the new genus. *Aster glandulosus* and its putative sister species are recognized here as ***Spongotrichum glandulosum*** (Labill.) Nesom, **comb. nov.**, and ***Spongotrichum suffruticosum*** (D.A. Cooke) Nesom, **comb. nov.**, based on *Olearia suffruticosa* D.A. Cooke.

The name *Eoglandula* Nesom (2020) for an Australian genus of two species is preceded by a much earlier name (*Spongotrichum*) by the German botanist Christian Gottfried Daniel Nees von Esenbeck (1832). Nees provided a detailed description and commentary, based on a specimen of *Aster glandulosus* that he studied in the Willdenow herbarium. His name was picked up by Christina Flann in her massive effort to initially populate the Global Compositae Database (CWG 2021), and the precedence of *Spongotrichum* over *Eoglandula* already has been recognized and recorded by a Chinese database for plants (Duocet Group, 2016 onwards).

In his account of the genus *Galatella* (pp. 158-176) Nees reached the last species, the 15th, which he placed under the heading "Species dubia." He provided the new combination, *Galatella glandulosa*, with a diagnosis, citation of the basionym and type specimen, and a detailed description. His commentary noted that while the plant is similar in inflorescence to some Australian species, the leaf structure is without close affinity to any genus of the family. In closing, he noted that some might prefer that the species be placed in a separate genus ("Igitur, si Generis proprii hanc potius, quam alii subiectam speciem hanc esse censebis, hos forte characteres, licet subtiles eos nec cuique facile probandos, ei tribues.") and provided the new name (*Spongotrichum*) with diagnosis and description, but without referring to the species name.

The rationale for recognizing *Spongotrichum* Nees as validly published, rather than as an invalidly published "provisional name" (following Art. 36.1, Shenzhen Code, Turland et al. 2018), is predicated on its listing in the Index of *Genera et Species Asterearum* as an accepted name. Article 36.1 says that a name is invalidly published if "not accepted by its author in the original publication," but *Spongotrichum* is listed in the Index (Fig. 1) as an accepted name.

The combination *Spongotrichum glandulosum* apparently has never been used, but even without a direct association of the species name with the new genus, it would seem odd if Nees did not intend for *Aster glandulosus* to have a name there. He was considering only the single species, and the diagnosis and description of *Spongotrichum* describe the same morphology as for *Galatella glandulosa*. On the other hand, for consistency with the interpretation of the genus name, the species name is not listed in the Index of *Genera et Species Asterearum* thus is considered here not to have been made (combined) or accepted by Nees. *Aster glandulosus* and its putative sister species (Nesom 2020) are here formally transferred to *Spongotrichum*.

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Figure 1. *Spongotrichum* listing in the Index of *Genera et Species Asterearum* (top of page 305). The Index heading (p. 295) says synonyms are cited in italics.

SPONGOTRICHUM Nees, Gen. Sp. Aster. 176. 1832 (not Kuetzing 1847, as a genus of red algae).
Eurybia sect. *Spongotrichum* (Nees) DC., Prodr. 5: 269. 1836. **TYPE:** *Aster glandulosus* Labill.

Eoglandula Nesom, Phytoneuron 2020-65: 73. 2020. **TYPE:** *Eoglandula glandulosa* (Labill.) Nesom
= *Aster glandulosus* Labill.

1. ***Spongotrichum glandulosum*** (Labill.) Nesom, **comb. nov.** *Aster glandulosus* Labill., Fl. Nov. Holl. 2: 50, t. 197. 1806. *Galatella glandulosa* (Labill.) Nees, Gen. Sp. Ast., 174. 1832. *Eurybia glandulosa* (Labill.) DC., Prodr. 5: 269. 1836. *Shawia glandulosa* (Labill.) Sch. Bip., Jahresb. Pollichia 18/19: 173. 1861. *Olearia glandulosa* (Labill.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 3: 454. 1867. *Eoglandula glandulosa* (Labill.) Nesom, Phytoneuron 2020-65: 73. 2020.
2. ***Spongotrichum suffruticosum*** (D.A. Cooke) Nesom, **comb. nov.** *Olearia suffruticosa* D.A. Cooke, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 7: 279. 1985. *Eoglandula suffruticosa* (D.A. Cooke) Nesom, Phytoneuron 2020-65: 73. 2020.

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