

VINKIA, A NEW AUSTRALIAN GENUS OF TRIBE MYRIOPHYLLEAE  
(HALORAGACEAE)

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*Vinkia* van der Meijden, *gen. nov.*

Herba aquatica glabra. *Caules* submersi, monopodialiter et sympodialiter ramosi, breves. *Stipulae* subulatae, parvae. *Folia* alterna, integra, ipso apice saturatius colorata. *Inflorescencia* distincte a parte vegetativa separata, axibus filiformibus, ramosis, internodiis elongatis, quoque ramo apice racemum densum bractearum floralium rosuliformium natantium gerente. Bractea et flos apice axium brevium instructus. *Bracteae* florales ellipticae, integrae, apice saturatius coloratae, petiolo longitudine variabili. *Bracteolae* 2, basi pedunculi brevissimi instructae. *Flores* bisexuales; sepala 4 minuta; petala 4 concava; stamina 4, filamentis filiformibus; ovarium interius 4-loculare, profunde 4-lobum, quoque loculo stigmate elongato subulato laevi praedito. *Fructus* in mericarpiis 4 apice tantum connata dehiscens.

*T y p u s*: *Vinkia natans* van der Meijden.

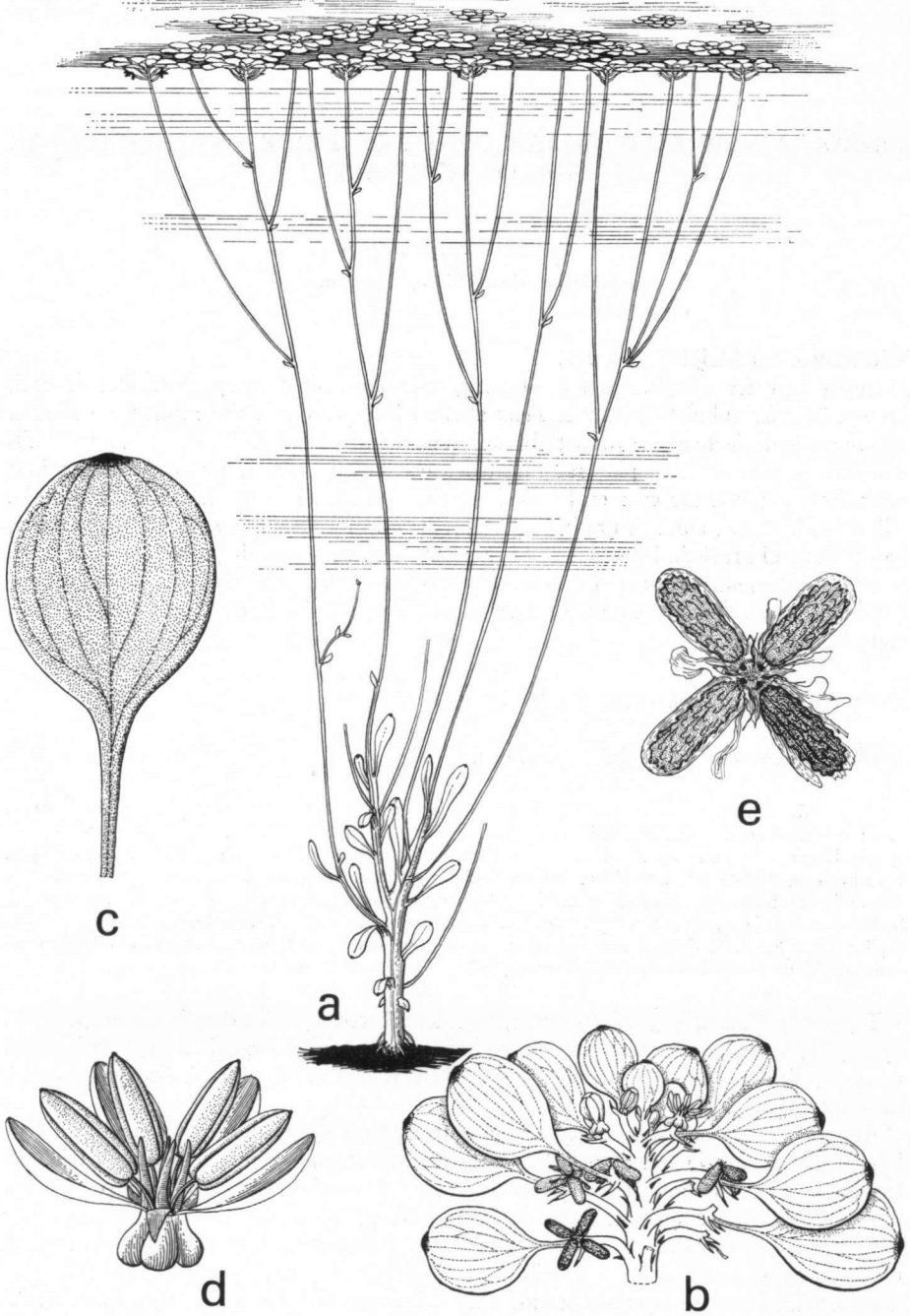
*Vinkia natans* van der Meijden, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1.

*Caulis* satis translucens 3—5 cm longus, siccate c. 2 mm diam. *Cotyledones* reflexi, anguste triangulares, c. 2 mm longi. *Folia* ± spathulata, infima patentia, subsessilia, superiora erecta, distinctius petiolata, 10—13 mm longa, 1,5—3 mm lata, carnosa, apice obtusa usque rotundata. *Bracteae* florales c. 3 mm longae, 2,5 mm latae, petiolo sub anthesi brevissimo, denique gradatim longiore, sub fructu c. 2,5 mm longo. *Bracteolae* semi-patentes, subulatae, saturatius coloratae, c. 0,5 mm longae. *Flores* singuli, c. 1,5 mm longi. *Sepala* triangularia, c. 0,2 mm longa. *Petala* c. 1 mm longa. *Antherae* lanceolatae, 0,5—0,6 mm longae. *Styli* c. 1 mm longi. *Mericarpiis* c. 1 mm longa, 0,4—0,5 mm diam., lateribus rectis, basi rotundata, tuberculis humilibus ± seriebus longitudinalibus digestis.

*T y p u s*: *C. Dunlop 3387*, Australia, Northern Territory, Nourlangie Creek (12°52'S, 132°47'E), in rockhole on sandstone conglomerate, rooted in organic sludge (L; isotypes not seen, distributed to AK, BRI, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, NSW, NT; distributed under the name *Myriophyllum*).

Aquatic herb. *Stem* submerged, monopodially and sympodially branched, 3—5 cm long, about 2 mm Ø when dry, slightly translucent. *Cotyledons* reflexed, narrowly triangular, about 2 mm long. *Cauline leaves* alternate, ± spathulate, the lowermost patent, subsessile, the upper upright, more distinctly stalked, 10—13 by 1.5—3 mm, fleshy, the apex obtuse to rounded and with a dark spot. *Inflorescence* axes repeatedly branched, filiform, each crowned by a floating rosette of floral bracts, up to c. 15 cm long, less than 0.5 mm Ø, the bracts of the side axes elliptic, sessile, about 1—2 mm long. Floral bracts, flowers, and bracteoles situated at the apex of numerous crowded, half-patent,

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*c.* 1—1.5 mm long, concaulescent axes which together with the bracteoles remain intact after bracts have fallen off. *Floral bracts* floating, elliptic, about 3 by 2.5 mm, with obtuse dark-spotted apex, petioles very short at flowering, gradually becoming larger to about 2.5 mm in fruiting, the thin nerves forming an inframarginal nerve. *Bracteoles* half-patent, subulate, *c.* 0.5 mm long, dark-tipped. *Flowers* single, bisexual, nearly sessile, *c.* 1.5 mm long. *Ovary* deeply four-lobed. *Sepals* triangular, *c.* 0.2 mm long. *Petals* concave, *c.* 1 mm long. *Stamens* 4; filaments filiform; anthers lanceolate, 0.5—0.6 mm long. *Styles* erect, subulate, not hairy, up to 1 mm long. *Mericarps* developing out- and downwards, only in apical part connate over *c.* 0.3 mm, each *c.* 1 mm long, 0.4—0.5 mm Ø, with straight sides and rounded base, set with low tubercles ± arranged in longitudinal rows.

With its 4-celled ovary and its fruit splitting up into 4 mericarps, it is clear that *Vinkia* belongs to tribe *Myriophylleae* Schindler, to which furthermore belongs only *Myriophyllum* L.

#### KEY TO TRIBE MYRIOPHYLLEAE

1. Inflorescences floating by a rosette of bracts at end of filiform branched axes. Flower seemingly placed halfway the petiole of its bract; with long, erect, subulate stigmas. Mericarps 4, only apically connate . . . . . *Vinkia*
1. Inflorescences emerged, mostly spike-like or not sharply separated from vegetative parts, never floating. Flowers axillary. Stigmas incrassate, never more than half the length of the ovary. Mericarps 4, rarely 2, connate over at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of their length  
*Myriophyllum*

The genus is named after Dr. W. Vink (Rijksherbarium, Leiden). I wish to thank Dr. H. Sleumer for rendering the diagnoses in Latin, and Mr. Ed Vijsma for his fine drawings.

#### POSTSCRIPT

When this issue of *Blumea* was already printed, my attention was drawn to a paper by A. E. Orchard: A new species of *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) from Northern Territory (Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia 98, 1974: 173—177) in which the CANB duplicate of the same collection is described as *Myriophyllum callitrichoides* Orchard.

I now withdraw the epitheton *natans*, making it invalid (art. 34 (1), I.C.B.N. 1972), and propose the new combination *Vinkia callitrichoides* (Orchard) van der Meijden, *comb. nov.* (basonym: *Myriophyllum callitrichoides* Orchard, Trans. Roy. Soc. S.A. 98, 1974, 173; syn.: *Vinkia natans* van der Meijden, *nom. inval.*). Thus the type of *Vinkia* becomes *V. callitrichoides*, and the holotype of the latter the CANB duplicate of *C. Dunlop* 3387.

Fig. 1. *Vinkia natans*. a. habit, natural size (reconstructed); b. detail of inflorescence (NB. most stipules are placed on the common axes of bract and flower), x 6; c. bract, x 12; d. flower, x 30; e. fruit, x 15. (*Dunlop* 3387).