

## GERANIACEAE

THE CORRECT AUTHOR CITATION FOR *PELARGONIUM* SECTION *OTIDIA*

In the most recent taxonomic treatment of the genus *Pelargonium*, Knuth (1912: 369) cited the authority of the section *Otidia* as (Lindl.) Harv. (1860), based on the genus *Otidia* Lindl. ex Sweet. This is not correct.

The name *Otidia* was first published, in generic rank, by Sweet (1820: viii), without any mention of Lindley. Later in the same work, under t. 98 Sweet stated: 'This plant [*Otidia carnosum*] is proposed by Mr Lindley to form a distinct genus, which we have adopted ...'. In my opinion Sweet is the undoubted author of the genus, and 'Lindl. ex' should be omitted from the citation as Lindley was not mentioned in connection with the original publication of the name.

Furthermore, Harvey (1860: 278) was not the first author to place *Otidia* in sectional rank, being preceded by G. Don (1831: 729). Don did not cite the generic name *Otidia* as basionym, but by citing 'Lindl. in Sweet, ger. p. 8 no. 98' he provided an adequate reference to the validly published basionym. Although this reference is not entirely direct, it is not contrary to I.C.B.N. Art. 33.2 which only concerns publications later than 1 Jan.

1953. (A change in rank is considered to be a different combination and there is not a separate clause to cover changes in ranking).

The correct author citation therefore is **Pelargonium** sect. **Otidia** (Sweet) G. Don.

## REFERENCES

- DON, G. 1831. *A general system of gardening and botany*, Vol. 1. Rivington, London.
- HARVEY, W.H. 1860. *Pelargonium*. In W.H. Harvey & O. Sonder, *Flora capensis* 1: 259–308 (278). Hodges & Smith, Dublin.
- KNUTH, R. 1912. *Pelargonium*. In A. Engler, *Das Pflanzenreich* 4, 129, 53: 316–545 (369). Engelmann, Berlin.
- SWEET, R. 1820. *Geraniaceae*, Vol. 1. Ridgway, London.

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MS. received: 1987.08.22.