

ORCHIDACEAE

ADDITIONS TO THE SYNONYMY OF *EULOPHIA SCHWEINFURTHII*

For some time doubt has existed as to the precise nature of *Eulophia chrysops* Summerh., particularly with regard to its alliance with a species recognized as occurring in southern Africa, *E. schweinfurthii* Kraenzl. (Kraenzlin 1893; Summerhayes 1958; Hall 1965).

Both these concepts have wide distributions in tropical Africa, extending marginally into the Transvaal (*E. schweinfurthii*) and in recent records, into Botswana (*E. chrysops*). Summerhayes (1958) proposed *E. chrysops* as a new name for *Lissochilus aurantiacus* Reichb. f. (1865), *E. aurantiaca* having been used previously for another species, related to *E. welwitschii* (Reichb. f.) Rolfe. Summerhayes also reduced two tropical species, *L. johnstonii* Rolfe and *L. holubii* Rolfe to the synonymy of *E. chrysops*.

In discussing *E. chrysops*, Summerhayes (1958) noted at the time that more data and material were needed to elucidate its relationships. The specimens that he had seen suggested that the flowers of *E. chrysops* were appreciably larger (petals 13–16 mm long) than those of *E. schweinfurthii* and that they have less acute sepals with more narrow bases. Subsequent examination of material has shown that these distinctions do not hold, either for the sepal shapes or for the flower sizes. Petal length varies from 8–14(–16) mm in *E. schweinfurthii*, covering the range given by Summerhayes for *E. chrysops*. Some of the variation in flower size may be related to the habitats which vary from arid mopane woodland to

wet bog verges (Williamson 1977) and to dry bushveld and grassland (Hall 1965). The overall evidence of continuity shows convincingly that the two concepts should be merged.

The name of the joint concept should be *E. schweinfurthii* Kraenzl. (1893) which, being earlier, replaces Summerhayes' *E. chrysops* (1958) as the *nomen novum* for *L. aurantiacus* Reichb. f. (1865). Further accretions to this concept are likely to become evident in studies of material of other tropical allies but none appear to have been described earlier than *E. schweinfurthii*.

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