

## LILIACEAE

### A NEW SUBTRIBE IN LILIACEAE

Subtribus **Caudibracteatae** *Oberm.*, subtribus nova, *Scilleae* affinis, sed bracteis caudatis differt.

Type genus: *Drimia* Jacq.

In the Jl S. Afr. Bot. 43: 265–319 (1977) Jessop revised a group of closely related genera of the tribe Scilleae, all bearing spurred bracts and including some other features as well. These genera, namely *Drimia*, *Urginea*, *Sypharissa*, *Thuranthos*, *Rhadamanthus*, *Litanthus*, *Schizobasis*, *Bowiea* (and *Rhodocodon* from Madagascar) form a natural subtribe and comprise the new subtribe *Caudibracteatae*. It appears to be an ancient group in which the species have become stable and in this it differs from the rest of the *Scilleae* tribe, for instance the genera *Ornithogalum* and *Ledebouria*, where the majority

of the species exhibit variability. In the subtribe *Caudibracteatae* some floral parts, especially the androecium, have become more complex in certain species that otherwise are close to species with the normal type of stamen. In *Thuranthos macranthum* C. H. Wright in Curtis's bot. Mag. 142: t.8680 (1916) for instance, the stamens have evolved into a cage-like body, while in its other characters the species resembles *T. basuticum* (Phill.) Oberm. (p. 139). In *Drimia hyacinthoides* Bak (1874) the lobes of the perianth have remained short and erect, while in other respects it closely resembles other members of *Drimia* with long and recurved lobes.

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