

Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

AMARYLLIDACEAE

A NEW COMBINATION IN *CYRTANTHUS*

When Baker revised the genus *Cyrtanthus* for the *Flora Capensis* 6: 218 (1896), he placed the name *Cyphonema loddigesianum* in the synonymy of *Cyrtanthus helictus* Lehm. (1839), where it has remained undisputed.

A distinguishing character of *Cyrtanthus helictus*, not shared by *Cyphonema loddigesianum*, is that it produces 2-4 linear, spirally twisted leaves to each bulb. Baker used this character of spirally twisted leaves to distinguish *Cyrtanthus helictus* from *C. uniflorus* Gawl. (1816). In the synonymy of *C. uniflorus*

Baker placed *Amaryllis clavata* L' Hérít (1788). This required the name change to *Cyrtanthus clavatus* made by me in *Herbertia* 1939: 99 (1940).

In describing *Cyrtanthus affinis* in *Flowering Plants of South Africa* 22: t. 867 (1942), I differentiated it from *C. clavatus* by its longer and broader leaves and by generally more flowers to the umbel. During a subsequent visit to Kew herbarium a painting of *Cyphonema loddigesianum* was examined, which showed a strong likeness to *Cyrtanthus affinis*. The painting by Miss Hooker was a copy of an original by W. Herbert in the archives of the Royal Horticultural Society. *Cyphonema loddigesianum* was described in a note by Herbert under Plate 3710 (1839) of Curtis's Botanical Magazine and further information, confirming its Cape origin, was added under Plate 3747. I was left in little doubt that *Cyphonema loddigesianum* was specifically equal to *Cyrtanthus affinis* and made a note to this effect, but took no action at the time to establish the necessary new combination.

In 1977 Rhona Collett submitted a painting of a bowl of *Cyrtanthus*, a photograph of which is reproduced here (Fig. 1), which is now the property of the Botanical Research Institute. The bulbs were growing in quantity on grassy slopes of the old Country Club on the Marine Drive within 50 m of the sea at Skoenmakerskop outside Port Elizabeth. This is not far distant from Walmer, the type locality of *Cyrtanthus affinis*. A feature of all these plants is the short cylindrical base to the campanulate corolla-tube as opposed to the gradual expansion of the tube from the ovary of most of the related species.

I am obliged to my colleague at Kew, Mr Trevor Arnold for reviewing the evidence and concurring that it is necessary to establish the new combination *Cyrtanthus loddigesianus* as follows:

Cyrtanthus loddigesianus (Herb.) R. A. Dyer, comb. nov.

Cyphonema loddigesianum Herb. in Curtis's bot. Mag. sub t. 3710 (1839).

Cyrtanthus affinis R. A. Dyer in *Flower. Pl. S. Afr.* 22: t. 867 (1942).

R. A. DYER



FIG. 1.—*Cyrtanthus loddigesianus*. Painting of species collected on grassy slopes on Marine Drive near Skoenmakerskop, Port Elizabeth.