

LEGUMINOSAE

TYPIFICATION OF *SCHOTIA CAPITATA*

Bolle, in Peters Reise Mossamb. Bot. 1: 18 (1861), based his description of *Schotia capitata* on a flowering specimen collected by Peters at Inhambane in Mozambique. Unfortunately the holotype in the Berlin Herbarium was destroyed during the war, and all efforts to trace an isotype have proved unsuccessful. In the British Museum (Natural History) there is, however, a sketch prepared in 1926 of a portion of the holotype in the Berlin Herbarium. The sketch consists of one leaflet ($2,6 \times 1,6$ cm), one flower bud, and carries the comment "material very poor". Unfortunately this sketch does not enable *S. capitata* to be positively identified.

As mentioned by Codd in Bothalia 6 (3): 522 (1956), in establishing the identity of *S. capitata*, circumstantial evidence had, to some extent, to be

relied upon. Only two *Schotia* species are known from Mozambique, namely, *S. brachypetala* Sond. and the species interpreted as *S. capitata*. Collections from the type locality have failed to reveal a third species. Bolle provided a detailed floral description of *S. capitata* and fortunately the reference to five petals eliminates *S. brachypetala* from contention. Although the application of the name *S. capitata* is no longer in doubt, in the absence of any type material it seems desirable to select a neotype. I now select the flowering specimen *Balsinhas* 204 in the Kew Herbarium from Mozambique, Lourenço Marques Prov., Goba, proximidades do rio Maivavo, as the neotype of *S. capitata*.