

THYMELAEACEAE

A NEW COMBINATION IN GNIDIA

C. H. Wright in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 583 (1925) based his description of *Arthrosolen compactus* on a specimen collected by Wylie at Nigunya, 1,980 m altitude, in Natal (Wylie sub Wood 10531). Examination of an isotype in the Natal Herbarium, Durban, revealed that the species would be better placed in the genus *Gnidia* as the inflorescences are not in dense heads and lack the surrounding coloured membranous bracts typical of *Arthrosolen*. Phillips in his "Notes on some Genera of the Thymelaeaceae" in J. S. Afr. Bot. 10: 61-67 (1944) transferred eight of the eleven species of *Arthrosolen* enumerated in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 6-9 to the genus *Gnidia* but he apparently overlooked *Arthrosolen compactus* which was described in the addenda on p. 583.

The combination of this specific epithet with the genus *Gnidia* has apparently never been validly published. It is proposed therefore to remedy this now by effecting the necessary combination.

Gnidia compacta (C. H. Wr.) J. H. Ross, comb. nov.

Arthrosolen compactus C. H. Wr. in Fl. Cap. 5, 2: 583 (1925). Type: Natal, Nigunya, Wylie sub Wood 10531 (NH, iso!).

Apart from the type specimen from Nigunya (the exact locality of which is unknown) a few other specimens from Natal have been examined. These include: *Killick* 1187 (NH) from the Cathedral Peak Forest Research Station (Bergville district); *Trauseld* 464; 639 (NU) from the Giants Castle Game Reserve (Estcourt district); *Hilliard & Burtt* 5676 (NU) from the Highmoor Forest Reserve (Estcourt district) and *W. F. Wright* 234 (NU) from Storm Heights (Impendhle district).

J. H. Ross.