

CUCURBITACEAE

A NEW COMBINATION IN ZEHNERIA

Jeffrey in Kew Bull. 15: 343 (1962) realigned some of the generic limits within the tribe Melothrieae Endl. The most important consequences of this realignment were the re-establishment of the genus *Zehneria* Endl., which is characterized by its three 2-theous stamens, *Solena* Lour. by its peculiar obliquely triplicate anther-thecae, and *Mukia* Arn. by its tumid seeds and clustered flowers, as distinct from *Melothria* L. into which they had been sunk by Cogniaux (Cogniaux in De Candolle, Monographiae Phanerogamarum 3, 1881). *Melothria* L. is then left as an entirely New World genus of plants with long-stalked fruits and male racemes, compressed seeds, and three stamens, two of which are 2-theous and the other 1-theous.

Of the five southern African species of *Melothria* dealt with by Meeuse in Bothalia 8: 13-21 (1962), four have already been transferred either to *Mukia* or to *Zehneria* by various authors. However, *Melothria parvifolia* Cogn. appears to have been overlooked. Examination of specimens indicated that the species should be placed in the genus *Zehneria* and this opportunity is taken of effecting the necessary combination.

***Zehneria parvifolia* (Cogn.) J. H. Ross, comb. nov.**

Melothria parvifolia Cogn. in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 3: 420 (1895); Burt Davy in Fl. Transv. 1: 225 (1926); Meeuse in Bothalia 8: 18 (1962). Syntypes: Natal, Durban, Rehmann 8839, 8842 (Z).

Zehneria parvifolia has been recorded from Mozambique, the Transvaal and Natal. As Meeuse (*l.c.*) cited an adequate selection of specimens it is not considered necessary to cite the specimens again here.