

A NOTE ON N. E. BROWN'S SUB-DIVISION OF THE GENUS *ANTHOLYZA* LINN.

By E. P. Phillips.

In the Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa [vol. 20, p. 265 (1932)], Dr. N. E. Brown contributed an interesting paper on the genus *Antholyza* Linn. He pointed out the confusion that had resulted from a wrong conception of Linne's genus, and that many very different plants had been placed in this genus that could not legitimately find a home there. In place of the one commonly recognised genus, Brown proposed nine separate genera for all the species hitherto included in the genus *Antholyza*. Two of his nine genera are genera proposed by Salisbury over one hundred years ago; six genera are described by Brown for the first time; the ninth genus being *Antholyza* Linn.

In looking through the specimens in the National Herbarium named by Dr. Brown, the writer considers that Brown has succeeded in clearing up much of the prevailing confusion though he has gone too far in proposing so many genera. In the writer's opinion the genera *Pentamenes* Salisb., *Kentrosiphon* N.E.Br., *Chasmanthe* N.E. Br., and *Anomalesia* N.E. Br., should be grouped together under the oldest name *Pentamenes* Salisb. All these genera are characterised by the elongated upper perianth-lobe which is differently shaped to the other five lobes and are concave or hooded. This appears to be a very natural grouping but the subsidiary characters used by Brown to separate the genera e.g., the saccate perianth-tube of *Kentrosiphon*, the reflexed perianth-lobes of *Anomalesia*, and the slight differences he gives between *Pentamenes* and *Chasmanthe* do not warrant generic status.

The genera as now proposed may be keyed out as follows:—

1. Stem bearing one dense sessile lateral spike near its base and continued beyond it as a naked stem with some barren bracts or with one flower at its apex *Antholyza* Linn.
Stem simple or branched, with the stem or branches ending in a lax or dense spike of flowers 2
2. Stem branched so that whole inflorescence is a panicle of spikes *Curtonus* N.E. Br.
Stem simple or branched, but whole inflorescence not paniculately arranged 3
3. Stem with 2-4 dense sessile lateral spikes and one terminal spike *Anaclanthe* N.E.Br.
Stem usually unbranched, sometimes branched in *Pentamenes* 4
4. Upper lobe of flower much longer than the other five, differently shaped and concave or hooded, with the stamens under the hood and about equalling or exceeding it *Pentamenes* Salisb.
All lobes of the flower either sub-equal and similar in form and flat, or unequal with the five lower lobes gradually smaller but all similar in form and the upper not hooded 5
5. Flower-spike dense, 10-30-flowered; bracts hard, rigid, with the inner longer than the outer *Anapalina* N.E.Br.
Flower-spike lax, 1-7-flowered; bracts herbaceous, with the outer longer than the inner *Homoglossum* Salisb.

PETAMENES Salisb. ex N.E. Br. emend.

(*Kentrosiphon* N.E.Br. ; *Chasmanthe* N.E.Br. ; *Anomalesia* N.E.Br.)

Perianth-tube curved, contracted below into a slender basal part, with or without a short spur or sac ; lobes unequal ; upper lobe much longer than the other five, spatulate, concave or hooded. *Stamens* nearly as long as and seated under the upper lobe, arising from the same or different levels on the perianth-tube. *Capsule* ellipsoid, shorter than the bracts, sometimes angular and winged. *Seeds* many, flat, broadly winged.

Corm small, globose or sub-globose, sometimes producing stolons that end in a corm ; leaves basal or cauline, linear or ensiform ; stem simple or branched ; spikes solitary or sometimes up to four ; flowers 3–25 in a spike ; bracts firm or somewhat herbaceous, equal or unequal.

An African genus of 23 species ; 16 species occur in South Africa extending from South West Africa through the coastal belt to the Kentani district.

(Type :—*P. abbreviatus* N.E.Br. = *Antholyza quadrangularis* Bkr. non Burm.)

The above rearrangement of the genera necessitates certain name changes which are given below :—

- Petamenes cunonia** (L.) Phill. = *Antholyza cunonia* L.
= *Anomalesia cunonia* (L.) N.E.Br.
- P. splendens** (Sweet) Phill. = *Anisanthus splendens* Sweet
= *Anomalesia splendens* (Sweet) N.E.Br.
- P. saccatus** (Klatt) Phill. = *Anisanthus saccatus* Klatt
= *Kentrosiphon saccatus* (Klatt) N.E.Br.
- P. Steingroveri** (Pax) Phill. = *Antholyza Steingroveri* Pax
= *Kentrosiphon Steingroveri* (Pax) N.E.Br.
- P. propinquus** (N.E.Br.) Phill. = *Kentrosiphon propinquus* N.E.Br.
- P. gracilis** (N.E.Br.) Phill. = *Kentrosiphon gracilis* N.E.Br.
- P. Duftii** (Schinz) Phill. = *Antholyza Duftii* Schinz
= *Kentrosiphon Duftii* (Schinz) N.E.Br.
- P. caffra** (Bkr.) Phill. = *Antholyza caffra* Bkr. non Ker
= *Chasmanthe caffra* (Bkr.) N.E. Br.
- P. bicolor** (Gasp.) Phill. = *Antholyza bicolor* Gasp.
= *Chasmanthe bicolor* (Gasp.) N.R.Br.
- P. intermedia** (Bkr.) Phill. = *Antholyza intermedia* Bkr.
= *Chasmanthe intermedia* (Bkr.) N.E.Br.
- P. aethiopica** (L.) Phill. = *Antholyza aethiopica* L.
= *Chasmanthe aethiopica* (L.) N.E.Br.
- P. Peglerae** (N.E.Br.) Phill. = *Chasmanthe Peglerae* N.E.Br.
- P. floribunda** (Salisb.) Phill. = *Antholyza floribunda* Salisb.
= *Chasmanthe floribunda* (Salisb.) N.E.Br.
- P. fucata** (Herb.) Phill. = *Tritonia fucata* Herb.
= *Chasmanthe fucata* (Herb.) N.E.Br.
- P. vittigera** (Salisb.) Phill. = *Antholyza vittigera* Salisb.
= *Chasmanthe vittigera* (Salisb.) N.E.Br.
- P. spectabilis** (Schinz) Phill. = *Antholyza spectabilis* Schinz
= *Chasmanthe spectabilis* (Schinz) N.E.Br.

The plant named *Petamenes Guthriei* by N. E. Brown is a species of *Homoglossum* and the new combination is **Homoglossum Guthriei** (Bolus) Phill.