

CAESIA AND NANOLIRION

The genus *Nanolirion* was established by Bentham in Benth. & Hook.f., *Genera Plantarum* 3, 2: 793 (1883) for a small Liliaceous species discovered by Harry Bolus in the south-western Cape, in the Great Winterhoek mountains near Worcester and described by him as *Herpolirion capense*. Bentham removed it from this genus and placed it in a (monospecific) genus of its own, *Nanolirion*. With more complete and better material now available, including capsules and seeds, it was seen to be so similar to *Caesia*

that it was decided to transfer it to this genus. This was already suggested by K. Krause in *Pflanzenfam.* ed. 2, 15a: 289 (1930), who believed it to represent a depauperate relative.

***Caesia capensis* (H.Bol.) Oberm., comb. nov.**

Herpolirion capense H. Bolus in *J. Linn. Soc.* 18: 395 (1881).

Nanolirion capense (H. Bol.) Benth. & Hook., *Gen. Plant.* 3, 2: 793 (1883); Oliv. in Hook., *Ic. t.1726* (1887); Bak. in *Fl. Cap.* 6: 402 (1897). Type: Cape, Worcester district, Great Winterhoek mountains, *H. Bolus 5170* (BOL, holo.).

Small, caespitose rhizomatous plants up to 7 cm tall, with long spreading fibrous roots. *Leaves* in compact, subdistichous tufts, subulate or subterete, apiculate, sheathing and membranous at the base, glabrous. *Flowers* solitary or few together, pseudo-umbellate, situated amongst the leaves; pedicel terete, stout, erect at anthesis recurved like a shepherd's crook when in fruit. *Perianth-segments* forming a short tube below, 3-nerved, pale blue, spirally twisted when faded, deciduous, apex conical with an introrse minute, deflexed, papillate tail. *Stamens* 6, the 3 outer shorter, filaments attached to the perianth tube, smooth, somewhat dilated, inserted in a basal anther pit, anthers opening by longitudinal slits, dorsifix. *Ovary* 3-celled with 2 collateral ovules, the one projected upwards, the other downwards; style filiform, stigma apical, minute. *Capsule* loculicidal, tripartite, the loculi globose, seeds bean- or kidney-shaped, black, shiny, verrucose and with irregular rows of larger tubercles, strophiole discoid, white, swollen.

The species is confined to the south-western Cape growing on mountain ledges at high altitudes (c. 2 000 m.).

CAPE.—3319 Worcester: Great Winterhoek mountains (-AA), *H. Bolus 5170* (BOL, holo.); *Marloth 1643*; *Esterhuysen 19780*; Little Winterhoek mountain (-AA), *Marloth 2433*; Milner Peak, Hex River mountains (-CB), *Esterhuysen 9387*; Matroosberg, (-BD), *Marloth 2201*. 3321 Ladismith: Sevenweeks Poort (-AD), *Primos 54*.

The genus *Caesia* R.Br. is an Australian genus with about 9 species recorded from that continent. There is one endemic species in Madagascar. In southern Africa the genus is confined to the Cape and was believed to contain several species, but the ample collections at present available show that we are dealing with a variable species, *C. contorta*, some plants being better developed, others reduced in size, the latter usually gathered on mountain peaks. The previous species, *C. capensis*, can be distinguished from *C. contorta* by its small size and short stalked flowers placed amongst the leaves.

Caesia contorta (L.F.) Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 353 (1893); Leighton in Fl. Cape Penins. 186 (1950). Type: Cape, *Thunberg* (LINN 432.21 holo., UPS).

Anthericum contortum L.f., Suppl. 202 (1781). *A. brevifolium* Thunb., Prodr. 62 (1794), Bak. in J. Bot. 1872: 139 (1872), Fl. Cap. 6: 388 (1897). Type: Cape, *Thunberg* (UPS, holo.). *A. dregeanum* (Kunth) Bak. in J. Bot. 1872: 139 (1872). *A. zeyheri* Bak. in J. Bot. 1872: 140 (1872). Type: Cape, *Zeyher 4234*. *A. brevicaulis* Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. 15: 298 (1876), Fl. Cap. 6: 391 (1897). Type: Cape, *Thunberg* (UPS). *A. scilliflorum* Eckl. ex Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. 15: 298 (1876). *A. scilliflorum* Eckl., nom. nud. Type: Cape, *Ecklon*, Herb. Cap. No. 35b.

Caesia thunbergii Roem. & Schult. f., Syst. 7: 1695 (1830); Bak. in Fl. Cap. 6: 401 (1897). Type: as for *C. contorta*. *C. ? eckloniana* Roem. & Schult. f., Syst. Veg. 7: 1691 (1830); Bak. in Fl. Cap. 6: 401 (1897); Leighton in Fl. Cape Penins. 186 (1950). Type: as for *A. scilliflorum*. *C. ? dregeana* Kunth, Enum. 4: 611 (1843); Bak. in Fl. Cap. 6: 401 (1897); Leighton in Fl. Cape Penins. 186 (1950). Type: Cape, *Drege 8767, 8768* (L.). *C. brevicaulis* (Bak.) Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 353 (1893). *C. brevifolia* (Thunb.) Dur. & Schinz, l.c. *C. scilliflora* (Eckl. ex Bak.) Dur. & Schinz, l.c. *C. zeyheri* (Bak.) Dur. & Schinz, l.c.

Bulbine brevifolia (Thunb.) Roem. & Schult.f., Syst. Veg. 7: 451 (1830).

Bulbinella brevifolia (Thunb.) Kunth, Enum. 4: 573 (1843).

Rhizomatous, caespitose, glabrous grass-like plants 10–70 cm tall, with woody roots. *Leaves* distichous, usually numerous, filiform to linear, 5–35 mm long, 1–4 mm broad, closely ribbed. *Inflorescence* a lax, much branched panicle well exerted above the leaves, but often reduced to a long simple raceme; the scape erect, terete, branches wiry, often with 2–4 accessory side branches at the nodes; pedicels thin, 3–10 mm long, lengthening in fruit and then firmer and patent-recurved. *Flowers* 1–4 in each axil, developing successively, bracts small. *Perianth* deciduous, spirally twisted when faded, blue, the segments free, subequal, 3-nerved, apex conical with a short, introrse, minute tail. *Stamens* 6, the filaments somewhat swollen, retrorsely scabridulous, anthers opening by longitudinal slits, basifix with a dorsal pit, curving backwards with age. *Ovary* trilobular, with 2 ovules in each locule, the one projected upwards, the other downwards, style terete, minutely papillate, stigma apical, minute. *Capsule* globose, about 3 mm in diam. black; seeds bean-shaped, black, verrucose and with larger tubercles arranged in irregular rows, strophiole discoid, white.

Widely distributed and common in the Cape Province from Namaqualand to East London, usually montane.

CAPE.—3017 (Hondeklipbay): Namaqualand, 8 km N.N.W. of Kotzesrus (-DD), strandveld, rare, forming big clumps, *Acocks 23400*. 3227 (Stutterheim): Keiskamma Hoek, 3 km N. of Cata Forest Station (-CA), *Story 3834*. 3318 (Cape Town): Stellenbosch, Jonkershoek Forest Reserve (-DD), *Taylor 5215*. 3319 (Worcester): Great Winterhoek mountains (-AA), *Marloth 2312*; Ceres (-AD), *Bolus 8343*. 3321 (Ladismith): Sevenweeks Poort (-AD), *Andreae 1211*. 3326 (Grahamstown): east of Howiesons Poort (-AD), *Galpin 3091*. 3418 (Simonstown): Miller Point (-AB), *Galpin 12278*; west of old manganese mine (-BD), *Boucher 953*. 3424 (Humansdorp): 16 km W. of Humansdorp on Storms River road (-BA), *Story 2845*.

A. A. OBERMEYER