

## Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

### HYACINTHACEAE

#### *DRIMIA ECHINOSTACHYA*, CORRECTING A NOMENCLATURAL OVERSIGHT

Crouch *et al.* (2010) reassessed the distribution and correct identification of a bulb species recently noted in the ethnomedicinal plant trade in KwaZulu-Natal. They used the name *Drimia cooperi* (Baker) Baker, following Jessop (1977) and subsequent checklist citations (Reid 1993; Manning & Goldblatt 2003, 2006).

Subsequently, it was discovered that this name is an illegitimate later homonym (McNeill *et al.* 2006: Art. 53.1) of *Drimia cooperi* Baker (1868), which is regarded as a synonym of *Ledebouria concolor* (Baker) Jessop by Jessop (1970). The name *Drimia cooperi* (Baker) Bentham ex Baker was actually the combination for *Ornithogalum cooperi* Baker (1873) made by Baker (1897). Transfer of the epithet *cooperi* to the genus *Drimia* is illegitimate because the resulting combination is preoccupied by *Drimia cooperi* Baker (1868). According to the rules of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al.* 2006), the next earliest available epithet must be used. Crouch *et al.* (2010) determined that the holotype of *Urginea echinostachya* Baker (1897) is conspecific with *Ornithogalum cooperi* Baker (1873), and *Urginea echinostachya* Baker is therefore the next earliest available name for the species. The necessary transfer to the genus *Drimia* is published below. In the past, *D. echinostachya* was regarded as a synonym of *D. macrocentra* (Baker) Jessop (Jessop 1977), despite the conspicuous morphological differences (Crouch *et al.* 2010).

An argument could be raised concerning the correct place of transfer of *Ornithogalum cooperi* Baker (1873) to *Drimia*: Baker (1897) attributed the new combination for this taxon to Bentham (in Bentham & Hooker 1883). However, consideration of Bentham & Hooker (1883) reveals that Bentham did not actually use the name *Drimia cooperi*, but simply remarked that *Ornithogalum cooperi* Baker appeared to belong to *Drimia*. This cannot be interpreted as a valid combination under the present nomenclatural rules (McNeill *et al.* 2006: Art. 33.1, Ex. 2). Herbarium acronyms follow Holmgren *et al.* (1990).

***Drimia echinostachya* (Baker) Eggli & N.R.Crouch, comb. nov.** *Urginea echinostachya* Baker, Flora capensis 6: 468 (1897). Type: Natal [KwaZulu-Natal], Inanda, J.M. Wood 276 (K, holo!; NH, iso!).

*Ornithogalum cooperi* Baker: 284 (1873), syn. nov.; Bentham: 808 (1883). *Drimia cooperi* (Baker) Bentham ex Baker: 443 (1897), nom. inval. (Art. 33.1) et illegit. (Art. 53.1), non *D. cooperi* Baker: t. 18 (1868) [= *Ledebouria concolor* (Baker) Jessop]. Type: Cape [Eastern Cape], ‘ad oram orientalis’, Barber s.n. (TCD, lecto., designated by Jessop: 287 (1977);—K, photo!).

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