

RUBIACEAE

CORRECT AUTHOR CITATIONS FOR NAMES OF THREE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SPECIES OF *CANTHIUM*

There is confusion in the literature concerning the correct author citations for the names of the southern African taxa *Canthium ciliatum*, *C. pauciflorum* (now *C. kuntzeanum* Bridson) and *C. spinosum*. All three taxa are based on type material from South Africa. *C. ciliatum* is confined to the *Flora of southern Africa (FSA)* region, *C. kuntzeanum* extends from here to the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and adjacent parts of Mozambique and *C. spinosum* just enters southern Mozambique (although not treated in *Flora zambesiaca*). *C. ciliatum* and *C. spinosum* have received only brief mention in Bridson's (1992) revision of *Canthium* in tropical Africa. Here we clarify the author citations for the relevant correct names as well as their synonyms, based in part on the work of Tilney (1986) and Bridson (1992, 1998).

One cause of author citation variation is provisions of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature [ICBN] itself. For example, the use of 'ex' in author citations is not mandatory (ICBN, Art. 46.4; Greuter *et al.* 2000). An author is free to use or not to use it. It is nevertheless essential in all instances to cite the author(s) after the 'ex'. Citations with 'ex' are cumbersome, and for the sake of brevity the 'ex' and the author names preceding it are often dropped, resulting in a shorter but still correct citation. For the sake of completeness we have retained 'ex' in all the author citations supplied below. This is the option we prefer when author citations are supplied in scholarly publications.

Canthium ciliatum (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze in *Revisio generum plantarum* 3, 3: 545 (1898).

Psilostoma ciliata Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.: 362 (1837). *Plectronia ciliata* (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) D.Dietr.: 856 (1839), non Sonder: 18 (1865).

Apparently unaware of the earlier work of Dietrich (1839), Sonder (1865) also made the combination

'*Plectronia ciliata* (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Sond.', resulting in many subsequent authors incorrectly attributing the combination in *Plectronia* to Sonder.

Canthium kuntzeanum Bridson in *Kew Bulletin* 47: 393 (1992).

Plectronia pauciflora Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.: 363 (1837). *Canthium pauciflorum* (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze: 545 (1898), non Blanco: 165 (1837), nec Baill.: 189 (1878), nec King & Gamble: 58 (1904), nec Pierre ex Pitard: 291 (1924).

Over the years the specific epithet *pauciflorum*, meaning few-flowered, has been applied in combinations with *Canthium* by Blanco (1837), Baillon (1878), King & Gamble (1904) and Pierre ex Pitard (1924). However, in all these instances, a different plant from the southern African taxon was being referred to. Because of the earlier names of Blanco and Baillon, Kuntze's combination is a later homonym, hence a new name, *C. kuntzeanum*, was proposed for the southern African taxon by Bridson (1992).

Canthium spinosum (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze in *Revisio generum plantarum* 3, 3: 545 (1898).

Plectronia spinosa Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.: 362 (1837), non K.Schum.: 459 (1897).

P. klotzschiana K.Schum.: 460 (1897), nom. superfl.

Based on a specimen from Sierra Leone ('Guinea'), Schumacher & Thonning (1827) published the name *Phaliaria spinosa* for the taxon currently known as *Vangueriella spinosa* (Schumacher & Thonn.) Verdc. Benth. (1849) gave the name *Canthium thonningii* Benth. to the same taxon. Schumann (1897: 459) proposed that *C. thonningii* be transferred to *Plectronia*, with the new combination *P. spinosa* (Schumacher & Thonn.) K.Schum. Realizing that this name had already been used

by Ecklon & Zeyher (1837) for a different taxon from southern Africa, Schumann proposed a new (yet superfluous) name for the latter, namely *Plectronia klotzschiana* K.Schum.

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