

SALICACEAE

SALIX: THE CORRECT APPLICATION OF THE NAME *SALIX MUCRONATA*, AND A NEW COMBINATION

Because of its heterophylly, *Salix* in southern Africa has been subject to considerable name changes and dissimilar species concepts. Thunberg (1794, 1807) collected and described four species of *Salix* from the Cape, *S. aegyptiaca*, *S. mucronata*, *S. capensis* and *S. hirsuta*. Burt Davy (1922) sank *S. aegyptiaca* into *S. mucronata* but recognized 10 species and varieties in South Africa. Thunberg provided no locality data for the type of *S. mucronata* but the type of *S. aegyptiaca* was collected from Roodesand in the Tulbagh Division. Burt Davy concluded that the type of *S. mucronata* also came from the vicinity of Tulbagh.

Immelman (1987) recognized only one species, *S. mucronata* with five subspecies. Jordaan (2002a, b) further reduced this number to four subspecies, sinking subsp. *wilmsii* into subsp. *woodii*. From Jordaan (2002a, b), we concluded that there is no meaningful difference between *S. mucronata* subsp. *mucronata* and subsp. *capensis*. Since *S. mucronata* is the oldest name for the taxon occurring in the southern most parts of southern Africa, this name has priority.

Salix subserrata is the present accepted name for the widespread tropical taxon occurring from Arabia to possibly the Cape (Wilmot-Dea 1991). Burt Davy recognized this as a tropical African species under the later name of *S. safsaf* Willd. Both Immelman and Jordaan reduced *S. subserrata* to synonymy under subsp. *mucronata*. Furthermore, Jordaan treated *S. mucronata* subsp. *mucronata* as a widespread tropical taxon, which, in the *Flora of southern Africa* region only occurs in the northern parts of Namibia and Botswana, but neither of these two authors discuss their reasons for sinking *S. subserrata*. However, Wilmot-Dea (1991) stated that the two species, *S. subserrata* and *S. mucronata* are very similar and may yet prove to be conspecific. Burt Davy (1922) and Wilmot-Dea (1991) stated that *S. woodii* intergrades with typical *S. subserrata* in Zimbabwe.

Thus numerous authors in various ways imply that *S. mucronata* is related to or cannot be kept specifically distinct from *S. subserrata*. It would therefore be prudent to maintain *S. subserrata* as a subspecies under *S. mucronata* until a detailed study of the variation of the species in the whole of southern and tropical Africa can be under-

taken. For a full description of the taxon *S. mucronata*, see Jordaan (2005).

The following new combination and synonymy is effected here.

***Salix mucronata* Thunb. subsp. *mucronata*.**
Immelman: 173 (1987) p.p. (excluding tropical elements). Type: *Thunberg s.n.*, sheet annotated '*Salix mucronata* ♀' (UPS23065, lecto.; IDC microfiche 1063/968!).

Salix mucronata subsp. *capensis* (Thunb.) Immelman: 173 (1987); Jordaan: 255 (2002a); 122 (2002b), syn. nov. Type: Cape Province, near rivers in mountains near Hantam, *Thunberg s.n.* (UPS22958, lecto. designated by Jordaan (2005); IDC microfiche 1063/963!).

***Salix mucronata* Thunb. subsp. *subserrata* (Willd.) R.H.Archer & Jordaan, stat. et comb. nov.**

Salix subserrata Willd. in *Species plantarum* 4: 671 (1806). Wilmot-Dea: 1 (1985); 121 (1991). Type: Egypt, near Cairo, Bulak. *Herb. Willd. 18137* (B-WILLD, holo.; IDC microfiche 7440-30/1313!).

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