

## ASTERACEAE

### A NEW COMBINATION IN THE GENUS *MACLEDIUM* (MUTISEAE)

Klatt (1866) described a new variety of *Dicoma zeyheri*, var. *thyrsiflora*, for a taxon collected in Barberton (Figure 2). Thellung (1921) subsequently raised this variety to the species level, *Dicoma thyrsiflora*. In the same year Moore (1921) described the same taxon as *Dicoma kirkii* var. *microcephala*. Pope (1991) considered this taxon to be an example of variation in *Dicoma zeyheri* subsp. *zeyheri*. While revising the genus *Dicoma*, the first author studied the variation in *Dicoma zeyheri*, and var. *thyrsiflora* was found to be distinct and morphologically different from the typical subspecies. Ortiz (2001) reinstated the genus *Macledium* Cass. and *Dicoma zeyheri* was transferred to this genus. He, like Pope (1991), also recognized only two subspecies: *M. zeyheri* subsp. *argyrophyllum* and *M. zeyheri* subsp. *zeyheri* and included the above discussed taxon under the typical subspecies. It is here proposed that the name of this taxon be reinstated with the correct nomenclatural combination as follows:

***Macledium zeyheri* (Sond.) S.Ortiz subsp. *thyrsiflorum* (Klatt) N.C.Netnou, comb. nov.**

*Dicoma zeyheri* Sond. var. *thyrsiflora* Klatt in Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier 4: 844 (1866). *Dicoma thyrsiflora* (Klatt) Thell. in Thell. & Schinz: 25 (1921). Type: South Africa, Transvaal [Mpumalanga], Kaapriver Valley, Barberton, *Galpin 911* (PRE!, holo.; K, BOL!, iso.).

*Dicoma kirkii* Harv. var. *microcephala* S.Moore: 231 (1921). Type: South Africa, Transvaal [Mpumalanga], Barberton, *Thorncroft 1074* (BM, holo.; PRE!, iso.).

According to K. Balkwill (pers. comm.), *Macledium zeyheri* subsp. *thyrsiflorum* is a serpentine endemic.

The subspecies of *Macledium zeyheri* are keyed out as follows:

- 1a Involucral bracts extending 60–280 mm down the capitulum stalk; leaves located basally or absent . . . . .  
..... *M. zeyheri* subsp. *argyrophyllum*
- 1b Involucral bracts confined to the head or extending less than 60 mm down the capitulum stalk; plants leafy:
  - 2a Heads very large, more than 30 mm wide, solitary or up to three on a peduncle; involucral bracts silvery tinged purple, with narrow whitish margins; leaves up to 35 mm wide . . . . . *M. zeyheri* subsp. *zeyheri*
  - 2b Heads relatively small, less than 20 mm wide, often numerous in a panicle; involucral bracts light green with broad, whitish margins; leaves relatively narrow, up to 20 mm wide . . . . . *M. zeyheri* subsp. *thyrsiflorum*

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FIGURE 2.—Isotype of *Macledium zeyheri* subsp. *thyrsiflorum*, Galpin 911 (BOL).

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POPE, G.V. 1991. Notes on *Dicoma* Cass. (Compositae). *Kew Bulletin* 46: 699–709.  
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