

ANTHERICACEAE

THE CORRECT NAME IN *Chlorophytum* FOR *Anthericum longistylum*

Until recently, the generic limits defined by Obermeyer (1962) for the southern African species of *Anthericum* L. and *Chlorophytum* Ker Gawl. have remained unchallenged. A study of these genera by Nordal *et al.* (1990) showed that the genus *Anthericum* is mainly European, and in Africa should be applied in a restricted sense only, with about three species south of the Sahara (Nordal & Thulin 1993), necessitating the transfer of the remaining African species south of the Sahara to *Chlorophytum*. Kativu (1993) thus made 23 new combinations for taxa in the *Flora zambesiaca* area, including those with ranges extending into southern Africa.

One of the species recognized by Obermeyer (1962) is *Anthericum longistylum* Baker (1876), a distinctive taxon occurring in the northern and eastern parts of the *Flora of southern Africa* region (Figure 8) plus Zimbabwe. Obermeyer lists as a synonym *Anthericum*

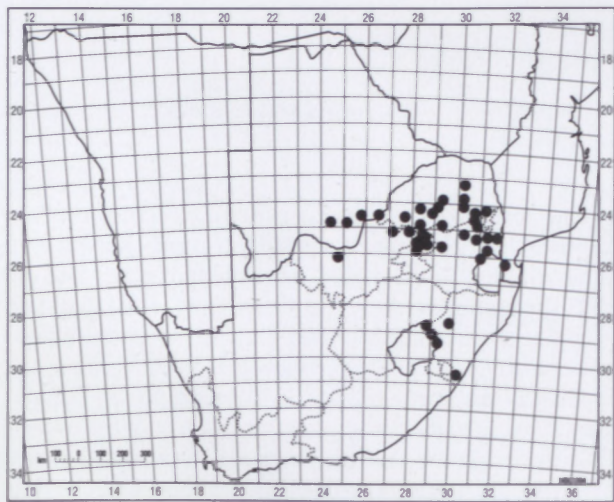


FIGURE 8.—Distribution of *Chlorophytum recurvifolium* (Baker) C.Archer & Kativu in southern Africa.

polyphyllum Baker (1896). Due to the pre-existing *Chlorophytum longistylum* Poelln. (1946), Kativu could not transfer *Anthericum longistylum* to *Chlorophytum*, but he was apparently unaware of the pre-existing *C. polyphyllum* (Baker) Poelln. (1946), based on *Dasytachys polyphylla* Baker (1898), now considered by Nordal *et al.* (1997) to be a synonym of *Chlorophytum suffruticosum* Baker, an East African species. Kativu illegitimately transferred *Anthericum polyphyllum* Baker (1896) as *Chlorophytum polyphyllum* (Baker) Kativu. A new combination in *Chlorophytum* is therefore required for our species. Fortunately there is another epithet available for this taxon: Obermeyer (1962) places *Anthericum recurvifolium* Baker as a synonym of *Anthericum longistylum*. The new combination is affected here.

***Chlorophytum recurvifolium* (Baker) C.Archer & Kativu**, comb. nov. Type: Zimbabwe, Mashonaland, 6-Mile Spruit near Salisbury [now Harare], *Cecil 143* (K, holo.).

Anthericum recurvifolium Baker in Kew Bulletin 1906: 28 (1906).

Anthericum longistylum Baker: 305 (1876); Baker: 381 (1896); Obermeyer: 686 (1962). Type: South Africa, 'Transvaal', without precise locality, *Baines s.n.* (K, holo.).

Anthericum polyphyllum Baker: 383 (1896). *Chlorophytum polyphyllum* (Baker) Kativu: 63 (1993), non *C. polyphyllum* (Baker) Poelln. (1946). Type: South Africa, Mpumalanga, near Barberton, *Galpin 1149* (K, holo.; GRA, PRE).

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