## AGAVACEAE

## AGAVE VIVIPARA: THE CORRECT NAME FOR AGAVE ANGUSTIFOLIA

At least three taxa of Agave L. (Agavaceae) are naturalised in southern Africa. Two of these, A. americana L. var. americana and A. sisalana Perrine have been treated by Smith & Mössmer (1996) in the series FSA contributions. A catalogue of the naturalised flora of any country is by definition dynamic: new species names are added to the list as and when they are reported. It is therefore not surprising that the naturalisation of a third species, A. decipiens Baker, only came to light recently (Smith & Steyn in prep.). Some species of Agave are aggressive growers and it is likely that further taxa will in due course be added to the ever-expanding list of naturalised aliens. A. vivipara L. (Figure 4), a native of Mexico (Gentry 1982), is one such species. This agave is often offered for sale at nurseries and is frequently grown as a garden ornamental, as a hedge plant or as a barrier plant.

However, in South Africa this species is consistently, but incorrectly known under a later homotypic synonym, A. angustifolia Haw. Wijnands (1983) and Forster (1992) have shown conclusively that the correct name for this species is A. vivipara. The following nomenclature should therefore be adopted for the two taxa of this species, namely A. vivipara var. vivipara and A. vivipara cv. Marginata, which are found in South Africa:

Agave vivipara L. var. vivipara, Species plantarum 1: 323 (1753). Type: Commelin, Praeludia botanica 65, t. 15 (1703) [lectotypified by Wijnands (1983)].

Agave angustifolia Haw: 72 (1812).

Agave vivipara cv. Marginata (Hort. ex Gentry) P.Forster in Brittonia 44: 74 (1992). Type: not designated.

Agave angustifolia var. marginata Hort. ex Gentry: 564 (1982).

The leaves of this horticultural cultivar have distinct yellow edges. The cultivar *Variegata* with leaves that are variously striped with yellow or white has yet to be recorded for southern Africa.

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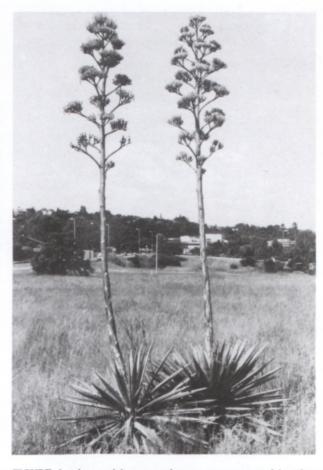


FIGURE 4.—Agave vivipara growing on an empty stand in urban Pretoria, South Africa. Photograph: A. Romanowski.

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## LAMIACEAE

SALVIA THERMARA, A NEW SPECIES FROM THE WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

**Salvia thermara** *Van Jaarsv.*, sp. nov., a *S. granitica* Hochst. foliis oblanceolatis dimidio distali serrulatis, racemis brevibus densis 3–4 verticillis, corolla 40–50 mm longa differt. Figure 5.

Erect branched shrub, up to 1 m tall from a stoloniferous base. *Stolons* horizontal with erect aerial branches. *Branches* square, green, up to 3 mm diam., purplish when dry; the young vegetative parts glandular hairy, becoming

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