

## 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 *Variiegata* with leaves that are variously striped with yellow or white has yet to be recorded for southern Africa.

## REFERENCES

FORSTER, P.I. 1992. New varietal combinations in *Agave vivipara* (Agavaceae). *Brittonia* 44: 74, 75.



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