

# Names of the southern African species of *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae) and their etymology

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## ABSTRACT

Brief notes on the origin of the scientific names of all the *Rhus* species recognized in the recent revision of the genus (Moffett 1993) are given, as well as a complete list of common names for each species. Recommendations are also made on those species which should be added to or removed from the *National list of indigenous trees*.

## UITTREKSEL

Kort aantekeninge oor die oorsprong van die wetenskaplike name van al die *Rhus*-spesies wat in die onlangse hersiening van die genus (Moffett 1993) erken is, asook 'n volledige lys van volksname vir elke spesie word voorsien. Daar word ook aanbevelings gemaak oor watter spesies by die *Nasionale lys van inheemse bome* gevoeg of daaruit verwyder moet word.

## INTRODUCTION

*Rhus* is one of the most widespread of all genera in the southern Africa flora and there are few areas without at least one species (Figure 1). Species such as *R. lancea* (karree), *R. leptodictya* (mountain karree), *R. pendulina* (white karree), *R. erosa* (broom karree) and *R. pyroides* (common wild currant) are fairly well known and their importance as providers of shelter, food, fencing posts, fuel and ornamentals was highlighted in 1983 when the Department of Environment Affairs declared the karree 'Tree of the Year' (Esterhuysen 1983).

In my recent revision of the southern African taxa of *Rhus* for the *Flora of southern Africa*, I recognized 72 species, 18 infraspecific taxa and a further eight provisional species whose position I have yet to finalize (Moffett 1993).

Whereas this paper deals mainly with the etymology of the specific epithets and common names of the 90 recognized taxa, I have also included the following in the treatment of each species: the correct name of each species, its author and date of publication and its number in the *Flora of southern Africa* (Moffett *op. cit.*), the most important synonym(s) (if any) of each species in parentheses and brief descriptions of the habit and distribution of each species.

Common names preceded by a number, as follows: 386, karree, karee, are taken from the *National list of indigenous trees* (Von Breitenbach 1990). Species of which the suggested common names are followed by an \* should be added to the national list, whereas those marked with + should be removed from the list as they are not arborescent.

I am against the indiscriminate invention of common names but having recently revised the genus, felt it necessary to not only create order in the scientific nomenclature but also to provide a uniform vernacular nomenclature. In this regard I have followed Von Breitenbach (*op. cit.*) who standardized the common names of the arborescent species by, in most cases, highlighting a single English and single Afrikaans name for each species, e.g. red currant/bostaaibos for *R. chirindensis*, a species given fourteen common names in Palmer & Pitman (1973). In order not to create further confusion I have maintained Von Breitenbach's (*op. cit.*) choice of common names despite some of them being inappropriate. Where I have proposed a new name it was either based on an unpublished name already in use in the field as reflected on herbarium sheets, or on an intimate knowledge of the species concerned. Many of the new names are for lesser-known non-arborescent species and hopefully may lead to these species becoming better known. As far as I could ascertain I have not proposed a new common name for an existing published one.

Information about botanists and collectors honoured in specific epithets was taken from Gunn & Codd (1981).

### *General note on common names*

The most popular common names used for the southern African *Rhus* species are currant, 'korentebos'; karree, 'karee' and 'taaibos'.

The name currant refers to the currant-like small fruits of the genus; among the currants one finds blue currant (*R. zeyheri*), dune currant (*R. laevigata*) and real wild currant (*R. tomentosa*) to name but three. The Korenterivier near Riversdale in the southern Cape was probably named after the latter two species, both of which occur on its banks.

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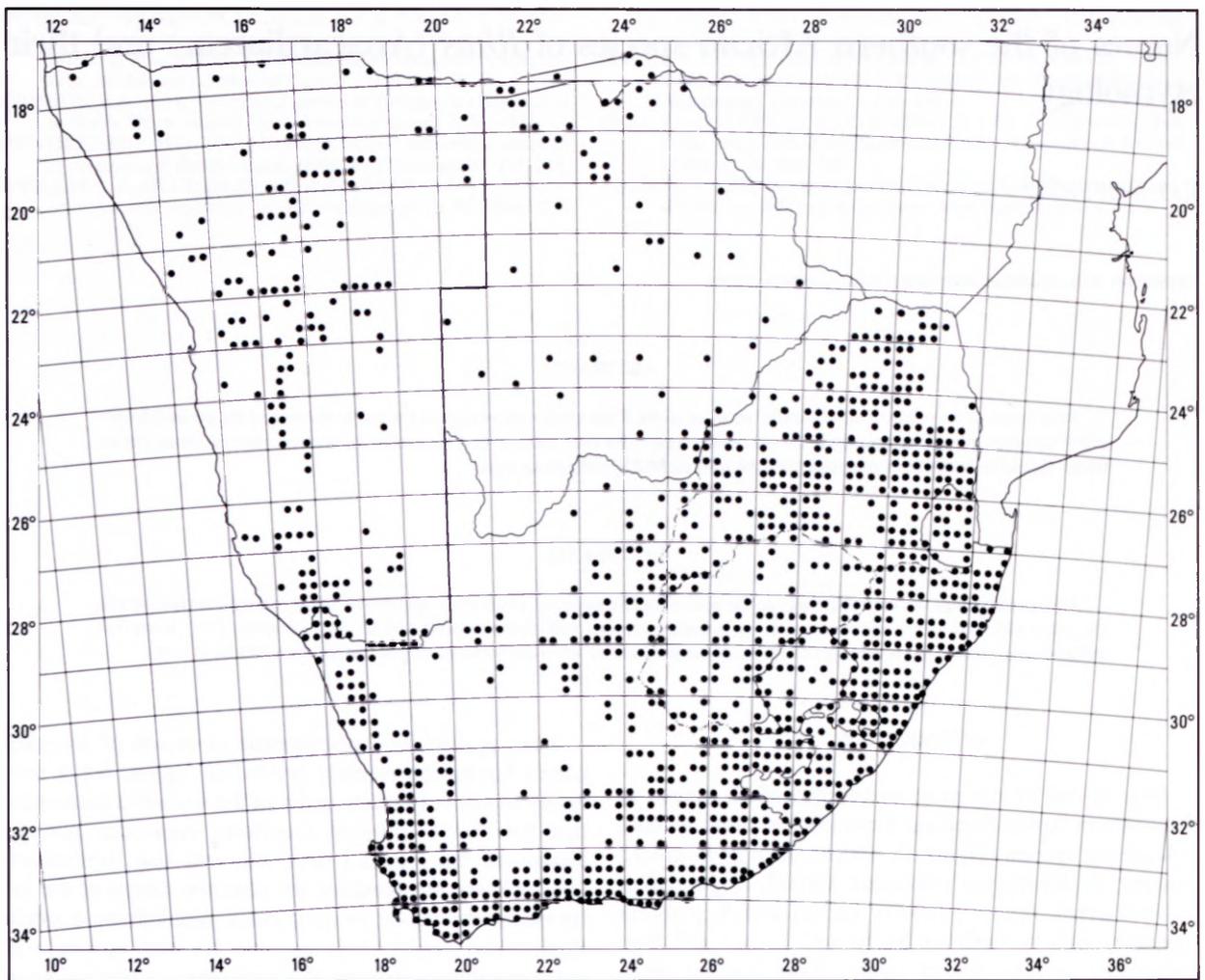


FIGURE 1.—Distribution of *Rhus* species in southern Africa.

Many karree species, with karree (*R. lancea*) perhaps the best known, are the source of many place and farm names. Among the collecting localities listed by Leistner & Morris (1976), for example, are kareeberge, kareeboom, kareebos, kareebult, kareefontein, kareekloof, kareekolk, kareekop, kareekuul, kareelaagte, kareepan, kareeput, kareerivier and kareevlakte. Other familiar karrees include bitter karree (*R. marlothii*), broom karree (*R. erosa*), mountain karree (*R. leptodictya*) and sour karree (*R. ciliata*).

There are different views concerning the origin of the name karree and most authors have suggested that the name has the same source as the word karoo which means arid, dry or hard. Nienaber (1963) stated that Karoo was a compromise between the earlier English Karroo and the Afrikaans Karo. He reported that its earliest use was by Schrijver who, in 1689, referred to the Xhaeruh or Droogerivier, (VRV 12: 1215), whereas Thunberg in 1772, wrote 'of the carro'.

According to Nienaber (*op. cit.*) some of the earliest references to the tree included the following:

- 1774: kari-boom, Masson (specimen in BM).
- 1774: Karré-hout, Thunberg (2:191).
- 1778: de care-boom, Van Plettenberg (RZA, II: 67).
- 1791: kare, Van Reenen (RZA, II: 145).

- 1803: carru hout, Janssens (RZA, IV: 159); car-ruboom en bosch, Janssens (RZA IV: 176)
- 1803: caree bosch, Van Reenen (VRV, 18: 242); currubosch, Van Reenen (VRV, 18: 243).
- 1803–1806 Karreeboom; Karee bosch; Karee-bosch, Lichtenstein (VRV, XI: 27).

With the simultaneous use by some of the authors of the names carro and carre or karoo and karree for the arid plain and its distinctive tree, it is understandable that a link should be sought between the two. Pettman (1931) differed, however, and stated that Karree or Kiri was derived from the Hottentot 'karib,' meaning honey beer.

The source of the name karree which I favour is that given in *A bushman dictionary* of Dorothea Bleek (1956): kare n. = haakdoorn tree; karee n. = toes, claws, heels, hoofs, spoor made by feet; karri n. = trunk of tree. Although Bleek does not link karree with the tree, it is easy to see the connection between a karree leaf and the spoor of a fairly large bird. A further point of interest concerning the vernacular is that in Australia, the word karri is used for *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, a tree with dark red wood like our karree (Onions 1956). Could there be a philological link between the bushman and the aborigine?

Although I personally support those authors who spell karree in English with only one r, e.g. Smith (1966) and Coates Palgrave (1977), Von Breitenbach (*op. cit.*) main-

tains the traditional karree and as I have already mentioned, in order not to create further confusion, I have followed the national list.

The name 'taaibos' is applied to several species and Smith (*op. cit.*) stated that this was due to the tough 'taai' but resilient branches. Another explanation given to me in 1981 by a Wolseley farmer was that because of their woody underground stems, the shrubs were difficult to remove and therefore 'taai'. He was referring to *R. angustifolia* and *R. undulata*, two species which prove particularly difficult to get rid of when clearing natural bush for cultivation. Although this farmer called these two species 'taaibosse', they are known by other common names in the standardized national list which emphasizes the general unreliability of common names. Other species known as 'taaibosse' include 'blou taaibos' (*R. zeyheri*), 'bos-taaibos' (*R. chirindensis*) and 'gewone taaibos' (*R. pyroides*).

Another common name of interest is that of the crowberries. Three species have this name, viz. common crowberry (*R. pentheri*), dune crow-berry (*R. crenata*) and broom crow-berry (*R. refracta*). Smith (*op. cit.*) suggested that the name referred to the fact that the fruit was so inferior that it was only fit for crows. Besides karee, two other Khoi (Hottentot) names that have become associated with the southern African *Rhus* species are 'kuni' as in kuni-bush for *R. undulata* and 'nana' as in nana-berry for *R. dentata*. Smith (*op. cit.*) stated that the latter name, which is incorrectly given in his text as 'namabessie' but correctly in the systematic index, was first recorded in about 1869.

The various common names rarely reflect taxonomic relationships between the species. Species such as karree (*R. lancea*), mountain karree (*R. leptodictya*) and white karree (*R. pendulina*) look superficially alike but upon close examination are morphologically very different from one another. The situation regarding the currants is similar and the red currant (*R. chirindensis*), is for example, markedly different from the blue currant (*R. zeyheri*).

Where I have proposed new common names, I have standardized on currant (English) and 'taaibos' (Afrikaans), except where a more suitable name has suggested itself, e.g. Burchell's kuni-bush for *R. burchellii*, a species hitherto included in kuni-bush (*R. undulata*).

#### Classification and etymology

Family: **Anacardiaceae** Lindl. (1830). After the type genus *Anacardium* L., a name referring to the heart-like shape of the swollen, fleshy pedicel of the fruit (cashew nut).

Tribe: **Rhoeae** Marchand (1869). After the type genus *Rhus* L.

Genus: **Rhus** L. (1753). After *Rhus* or *povs*, an ancient Greek name which has no Latin equivalent and whose precise meaning is obscure. Some authors have, however, suggested a derivation from the Greek word meaning 'to flow' or 'flowing' or a derivation from the Celtic *rhudd* or *rub* meaning red. Others have suggested that the name

may have been derived from the Greek for reddish or rose-pink.

Miller (1768), suggested that the 'flow' referred to the use of parts of *R. coriaria* to check haemorrhages, whereas Sonder (1860) suggested that the 'flow' referred to the resinous secretions of the plants.

The derivation from the Celtic for red, in allusion to the colour of the fruit and the autumn leaves as suggested by G. Don (1832) is, I think, dubious. In this regard, McNair (1925) pointed out that the Celts were probably too far north to have influenced the name of this plant which occurred in the Mediterranean region and in Asia Minor.

It is certain that the type species, *R. coriaria* L., was well known before the time of Christ. Theophrastus in 300 B.C. wrote extensively about this species which he called *sumach*, an old Arabian name. Dioscorides was probably the first to record the name *Rhus* when in A.D.  $\pm 50$  he wrote of *Rhus coriaria* 'which is soe called, because tanners doe use it for ye thickning of their hydes' (Barkley & Barkley 1938), quoting from John Goodyer's, '1655 Englished edition'.

With regard to the pronunciation of the name *Rhus*, the Oxford English Dictionary favours *Rhus* as in bus (Onions 1956). Von Breitenbach (1983), however, pointed out that the genitive of *rhus* is *rhoos*, that the stem is *rho* and that *Rhus* should therefore be pronounced as in *bonus*.

Subgenus: **Thezera** (DC.) K. Koch (1853). After *Thezera* which first appeared as a specific epithet in *R. thezera* Pers., a species subsequently included in *R. pentaphylla* (Jacq.) Desf. Persoon cited its habitat as 'Sicily and Barbaria', the latter being North Africa west of Egypt, but gave no origin for the name *Thezera* (Persoon 1805). I suspect it had a geographic connotation.

De Candolle (1825) used *Thezera* as the name for one of his sections of the genus *Rhus* and the name was subsequently given subgeneric status by Koch (Koch 1853).

#### **Rhus acocksii** Moffett (1988), FSA 3.

After J.P.H. Acocks (1911–1979), South African botanist and ecologist, who collected the type specimen in Transkei in 1947.

*Proposed common names*: rock red currant, klipbos-taaibos.

A scandent shrub/climber occurring on quartzite krantzies in southern Natal and Transkei.

#### **R. albomarginata** Sond. (1860), FSA 46.

Latin for white margin, referring to the creamy white thickened margin of the leaflets.

*Proposed common names*: white-edged currant, witrand-taaibos.

Rare dwarf shrub up to 0.5 m high, from the area between Grahamstown and Suurberg, north of Port Elizabeth.

**R. angustifolia** L. (1753), FSA 57.

Latin for narrow leaves, referring to the lance-shaped leaflets.

*Common names:* 377.1, willow currant, wilgerkorentebos. Shrub 1–3 m high, usually found on streambanks in the southwestern Cape.

**R. batophylla** Codd (1956), FSA 63.

Greek for bramble leaves, referring to the bramble-like leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* bramble currant, braamtaaibos. Shrub up to 2 m high, only found in the Steelpoort area of the eastern Transvaal.

**R. baurii** Schönland (1930). See *R. pyroides* var. *pyroides*.**R. bolusii** Sond. ex Engl. (1883), FSA 32.

After H. Bolus (1834–1911), businessman, botanist and botanical philanthropist who collected the type specimen near Graaff-Reinet in 1868.

*Proposed common names:* Bolus's broom karee, basterbesemkaree.

Shrub up to 2 m high, found scattered in the eastern OFS, Lesotho and northeastern Cape.

**R. burchellii** Sond. ex Engl. (1883), FSA 43.

(= *R. undulata* sensu Schönland)

After W.J. Burchell (1781–1863), collector *par excellence*, who between 1811 and 1815 gathered about 50 000 plant specimens in the Cape, 110 of which were numbered *Rhus* taxa.

*Proposed common names:* Burchell's kuni-bush, Burchell se-koeniebos.\*

Shrub up to 5 m high, common on rocky hills of the central karroid parts of southern Africa.

**R. carnosula** Schönland (1930), FSA 8.

Latin for slightly fleshy, referring to the somewhat fleshy leaflets.

*Common names:* 379, false nana berry, bastermanabessie.+ Suffrutescent shrub up to 1.5 m high, found mainly along the coast and adjacent interior between Oribi Gorge, Natal and East London.

**R. chirindensis** Baker f. (1911), FSA 2.

(= *R. legatii* Schönland & *R. chirindensis* forma *legatii* (Schönland) R. Fern. & A. Fern.)

After Chirinda, Zimbabwe, near where the type specimen was collected in 1906.

*Common names:* 380, red currant, bostaaiibos. Shrub or tree up to 23 m high, widely distributed in moister parts from Swellendam, northeastwards to the Soutpansberg and Zimbabwe.

**R. ciliata** Licht. ex Schult. (1820), FSA 21.

Latin for cilia, referring to the minute hairs along the leaflet margins.

*Proposed common names:* sourkaree, suurkaree. Shrub up to 2 m high, widespread in the central drier parts of South Africa and also in central to northern Namibia.

**R. crenata** Thunb. (1803), FSA 36.

Latin for having rounded teeth, referring to the crenate apical margin of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 380.1, dune crow-berry, duinekraai-bessie.

Shrub up to 4 m high, found on the coastal and adjacent inland dunes from the Cape Peninsula to mZambe in southern Natal.

**R. cuneifolia** L. f. (1781), FSA 50.

Latin for cuneate leaves, referring to the wedge-shaped leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* Kogelberg currant, Kogelberg-taaiibos.

Dwarf xerophytic shrublet up to 0.5 m high, from the southwestern Cape.

**R. dentata** Thunb. (1794), FSA 7.

Latin for sharply toothed, referring to the dentate margins of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 381, nana berry, nanabessie.

Shrub usually up to 2 m high, rarely reaching 5 m, widespread over the eastern parts of southern Africa from Storms River, Cape to Potgietersrus.

**R. discolor** E. Mey. ex Sond. (1860), FSA 52.

Latin for not of the same colour, referring to the leaflets which are grey-green above, whitish cream below.

*Proposed common names:* grassveld currant, grasveld-taaiibos.

Dwarf suffrutescent shrub up to 1 m high, widespread in moister grassland from Hogsback, Cape to Pietersburg.

**R. dissecta** Thunb. (1803), FSA 60.

Latin for deeply divided, referring to the sharply toothed and irregularly divided margin of the leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* long-stalked currant, langsteelkorentebossie.

Dwarf shrub up to 1.5 m high, found in the southwestern Cape between Cape Town and Van Rhynsdorp.

**R. divaricata** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 20.

Latin for spreading, referring to the wide-angled branching.

*Proposed common names:* rusty-leaved currant, roesblaar-taaiibos.\*

Shrub up to 3 m high, found along mountain ranges from Graaff-Reinet to Heidelberg, Transvaal.

\* should be added to the national list.

+ should be removed from the national list.

**R. dracomontana** Moffett (1993), FSA 14.

Latin for dragon mountains, referring to the Drakensberg mountain range.

*Proposed common names:* Drakensberg dwarf currant, Drakensbergdwergetaaibos.

Dwarf suffrutescent shrub up to 1.2 m high, found along the low Drakensberg escarpment between Van Reenen, Natal and just north of Wakkerstroom, Transvaal.

**R. dregeana** Sond. (1860), FSA 29.

After J.F. Drège (1794–1881), professional collector, who between 1826 and 1834 collected about 200 000 specimens in South Africa.

*Proposed common names:* needle-leaved broom karee, naaldblaarbesemkaree.

Shrub up to 2 m high, found in the northeastern Cape, southern OFS and Lesotho.

**R. dura** Schönland (1930). See *R. tumulicola*.**R. engleri** Britten (1900), FSA 23.

After H.G.A. Engler (1844–1930), Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanic Garden at Berlin-Dahlem who was the leading authority on the Anacardiaceae and produced bench-mark works on them.

*Common names:* 382, velvet karee, fluweelkaree.

Shrub up to 3 m high, found in the central Transvaal.

**R. erosa** Thunb. (1818), FSA 31.

Latin for irregularly toothed, referring to the jagged-edged margin of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 383, broom karee, besemkaree.

Shrub up to 3 m high, plentiful on koppies in the northeastern Cape, southern and eastern OFS and Lesotho.

**R. fastigata** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 19.

Latin for high, exalted. The name, however, is probably derived from *fastigiatus* meaning 'branches clustered, parallel and erect, giving a narrow elongated habit'. This species has, in fact, since 1860 been incorrectly known as *R. fastigiata*.

*Common names:* 383.1, broom currant, besemtaaiibos.+

Shrub up to 2 m high, found along the coast and adjacent interior from near Humansdorp to near Port Shepstone.

**R. gerrardii** (Harv. ex Engl.) Diels (1898), FSA 17.

(= *R. montana* sensu Schönland)

After W.T. Gerrard (d. ± 1866), a noted collector who with M.J. McKen was responsible for finding many new species in Natal. This species is listed as Drakensberg karee under the name *R. montana* var. *gerrardii* in the *National list of indigenous trees*.

\* should be added to the national list.

+ should be removed from the national list.

That common name should, however, be maintained for *R. montana* and I propose that *R. gerrardii* be named river currant, riviertaaiibos.\*

Shrub up to 2.5 m high, found along banks of perennial streams from the northern Transkei to the eastern Transvaal highveld.

**R. glauca** Thunb. (1803), FSA 41.

Latin for glaucous, referring to the colour of the leaflets which are often bluish green due to a waxy surface.

*Common names:* 383.2, blue kuni-bush, bloukoeniebos.

Shrub up to 4 m high, found along the coast and the adjacent interior from Velddrif in the southwestern Cape to near Kentani in Transkei.

**R. gracillima** Engl. (1883), FSA 69.

Latin for thin, slender, referring to the slender stems and pendulous leaves with long narrow leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* needle-leaved dwarf currant, naaldvormigedwergetaaibos.

Two varieties are recognized:

var. **gracillima** and var. **glaberrima** Schönland after the smooth, hairless leaflets.

Dwarf rhizomatous shrublet up to 0.7 m high, found in the central and eastern Transvaal.

**R. grandidens** Harv. ex Engl. (1883), FSA 5.

Latin for large teeth, referring to the pronounced toothed margins of many of the leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* sharp-toothed currant, skerp-tandtaaiibos.

Shrub up to 2 m high, found in a number of disjunct localities from the eastern Transkei to the northeastern Transvaal.

**R. gueinzii** Sond. (1860), FSA 38.

(= *R. crispa* (Harv. ex Engl.) Schönland, *R. simii* Schönland & *R. spinescens* Diels)

After W. Gueinzus (1814–1874), apothecary and collector who lived in Durban.

*Common names:* 384, thorny karee, doringkaree.

Shrub up to 3 m high, or sometimes a small tree reaching 8 m, ranging from the eastern Cape to the northern Transvaal.

**R. harveyi** Moffett (1993), FSA 53.

After W.H. Harvey (1811–1866), one-time Colonial Treasurer at the Cape and later Professor of Botany at Trinity College, Dublin.

*Proposed common names:* Harvey's currant, Harvey-setaaibos.

Dwarf suffrutescent shrub up to 1 m high, confined to grassland near Louwsburg, northern Natal and Mbabane, Swaziland.

**R. horrida** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 71.

Latin for sticking out, prickly, rough, bristly, referring to the spinous nature of the branches.

*Proposed common names:* red thorn currant, rooidoring-taaibos.

Shrub up to 1.7 m high, occurring in the Kamiesberg of Namaqualand.

**R. incisa** L. f. (1781), FSA 59.

Latin for cut deeply and sharply, referring to the margins of the leaflets of var. *incisa*.

*Common names:* 385, rub-rub berry, baardbessie.

Two varieties are distinguished:

var. **incisa** and var. **effusa** (Presl) R. Fern. (= *R. obovata* Sond.), after the effusive or loosely spreading inflorescence.

Shrub up to 3 m high, ranging from the Richtersveld, northwestern Cape southwards to Worcester and eastwards to East London.

**R. keetii** Schönland (1930), FSA 68.

After J.D.M. Keet (1882–1976), one-time Director of Forestry in the Union Government.

*Proposed common names:* Keet's slender currant, Keet-se-taaibos.

Shrub up to 1.7 m high, occurring in the Waterberg, northwestern Transvaal and in the Lydenburg Dist., eastern Transvaal.

**R. kirkii** Oliv. (1868), FSA 54.

After Sir John Kirk, pioneer naturalist and member of Dr Livingstone's 1858 Zambesi Expedition.

*Proposed common names:* Kirk's currant, Kirk-se-taaibos. Dwarf suffrutescent shrub up to 1 m high, occurring in central Africa and just reaching as far south as the Caprivi Strip, Namibia.

**R. krebsiana** Presl ex Engl. (1883), FSA 13.

After L. Krebs (1792–1844), plant collector and farmer in the Bedford Dist. of the eastern Cape Province.

*Common names:* 385.1, false sour currant, bastersuur-taaibos.

Shrub or small tree up to 3 m high, ranging from near Graaff-Reinet to Loteni in the Natal Drakensberg.

**R. kwazuluana** Moffett (1993), FSA 33.

After KwaZulu, the place of the Zulu.

*Suggested common names:* Kwazulu dwarf currant, Kwazuludwergtaaiibos.

Dwarf suffrutescent shrub up to 1 m high, confined to north eastern Zululand between Mkuzi, Sodwana Bay and St Lucia.

**R. laevigata** L. (1763), FSA 11.

(= *R. mucronata* Thunb.)

Latin for smooth and polished, referring to the shiny smooth leaflets of var. *laevigata*.

Two varieties are recognized:

var. **laevigata** and var. **villosa** (L. f.) R. Fern. (= *R. incana* Mill. & *R. villosa* L. f.) after the hairy leaves.

*Common names:* 385.2, dune currant, duinetaaiibos.

var. *laevigata* has been divided into forma **laevigata** and forma **cangoana** Moffett, after the Congo Caves, near which it occurs.

*Proposed common name for forma cangoana:* Congo currant, Kangootaaibos.

Shrub up to 2.5 m high, distributed along the coast and coastal foreland from Lambert's Bay in the west to East London and with a disjunct population near the Congo Caves, Oudtshoorn, Cape Province.

**R. lancea** L. f. (1781), FSA 30.

Latin for a light spear or lance, referring to the shape of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 386, karree, karee.

Large shrub or spreading trees, usually up to 6 m high, but sometimes reaching 12 m. Widespread in the more arid parts of the interior of southern Africa.

**R. leptodictya** Diels (1907), FSA 26.

(= *R. amerina* Meikle & *R. gueinzii* sensu Schönland)

Greek for fine or thin net, referring to the network of veins in the leaflets.

*Common names:* 387, mountain karree, bergkaree.

Shrub or tree up to 10 m high, widespread over almost the whole of the Transvaal, also occurring in the Orange Free State, Botswana and Namibia.

**R. longispina** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 42.

Latin for long spines, referring to the spinous branch ends.

*Common names:* 388, thorny currant, doringtaaiibos.

Shrub up to 4 m high, widely distributed in the Karoo between Worcester, Stutterheim and Queenstown. Also found in Namaqualand.

**R. lucens** Hutch. (1946), FSA 27.

Latin for shining, polished, glistening, referring to the leaflets.

*Proposed common name:* shiny-leaved rhus, as used in Zimbabwe.\*

Shrub or small tree up to 4.5 m high, found in the north-eastern corner of Botswana and further in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

**R. lucida** L. (1753), FSA 40.

Latin for shining, clear, transparent, referring to the shiny smooth leaflets which are, however, not clear or transparent.

*Common names:* 388.1, glossy currant, blinktaaiibos.

\* should be added to the national list.

Shrub up to 3 m high, ranging from near Clanwilliam, Cape in an eastward arc to the Soutpansberg in the northern Transvaal and also Zimbabwe.

Three forms are distinguished:

forma **lucida**; forma **scoparia** (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Moffett (= *R. schlechteri* Diels) after the genus *Scoparia* L. (Scrophulariaceae); and forma **elliptica** (Sond.) Moffett after the elliptic shape of the leaflets.

**R. macowanii** Schönland (1930). See *R. rehmanniana* var. *glabrata*.

**R. magalismontana** Sond. (1860), FSA 22.  
(= *R. cinerea* R. Fern. & A. Fern.)

Latin for Magalies Mountains, referring to the Magaliesberg range in southern Transvaal.

Dwarf shrublet or shrub up to 2.1 m high, occurring in the Transvaal, northern Cape, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Three subspecies are distinguished:

subsp. **magalismontana**

*Proposed common names*: Magaliesberg dwarf currant, Magaliesbergdwergetaaibos.

subsp. **coddii** (R. Fern. & A. Fern.) Moffett (= *R. coddii* R. Fern. & A. Fern. & *R. schliebenii* R. & A. Fern.) after L.E. Codd, former Director of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria.

*Proposed common names*: Soutpansberg currant, Soutpansbergtaaibos.

subsp. **trifoliolata** (Baker f.) Moffett (= *R. trifoliolata* Baker f.), after the three-digitate leaves.

**R. maricoana** Moffett (1993), FSA 66.

After Marico, the area where it occurs.

*Proposed common names*: Marico dwarf currant, Marico-dwergetaaibos.

Dwarf shrublet up to 1 m high, confined to a small area near Zeerust, western Transvaal.

**R. marlothii** Engl. (1888), FSA 24.

After H.W.R. Marloth (1855–1931), Cape Town based pharmacist, analytical chemist and botanist who for three years was also Professor of Chemistry at the Victoria College, Stellenbosch.

*Common names*: 389.2, bitter karree, bitterkaree.

Shrub up to 2.2 m high, widespread in central Namibia.

**R. microcarpa** Schönland (1930). See *R. pyroides* var. *integrifolia*.

**R. montana** Diels (1907), FSA 6.

Latin for mountains, referring to its mountainous habitat.

*Common names*: 384.1, Drakensberg karree, Drakensberg karee.

Shrub up to 2.2 m high, occurring in the foothills of the

Drakensberg between Engcobo, Transkei and Wakkerstroom, Transvaal.

**R. natalensis** Bernh. ex Krauss (1844), FSA 37.

After the province of Natal.

*Common names*: 390, Natal karree, Nataalkaree.

Semi-scandent shrub or slender tree up to 5 m high, occurring in coastal scrub between East London and the Zululand-Mozambique border.

**R. nebulosa** Schönland (1930), FSA 12.

Latin for cloudy, possibly referring to the nebulous or cloud-like inflorescence.

*Proposed common names*: sand currant, sandtaaibos.\*

Scandent shrub up to 4 m high, occurring in coastal scrub from near Alexandria, Cape Province to Kosi Bay, Tongaland.

Two forms are distinguished:

forma **nebulosa** and forma **pubescens** Moffett after the hairy leaflets.

**R. pallens** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 44.

Latin for pale, referring to the pallid leaflets.

*Suggested common names*: pale kuni-bush, bleekkoe-niebos.\*

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m high, ranging from the southwestern Cape eastwards to Natal and also occurring in the eastern OFS and southwestern Transvaal.

**R. pendulina** Jacq. (1805), FSA 48.

(= *R. viminalis* sensu Schönland)

Latin for hanging down, referring to the pendulous or drooping branches and leaves.

*Common names*: 396, white karree, witkaree.

Tree up to 10 m high, occurring naturally on the banks of the Orange River between near Luckhoff in the OFS and Oranjemund, Namibia. Also found on the banks of the Olifants and Berg Rivers in the western Cape Province.

**R. pentheri** Zahlbr. (1900), FSA 34.

After A. Penther (1865–1931), Austrian zoologist and collector.

*Common names*: 391, common crow-berry, gewone kraai-bessie.

Shrub or tree up to 5 m high, ranging from Transkei to the Soutpansberg, northern Transvaal.

**R. pondoensis** Schönland (1930), FSA 65.

After Pondoland, where the type specimen was collected.

*Proposed common names*: many-veined currant, veelnerftaaibos.

Slender dwarf shrub up to 1 m high, occurring disjunctly between Transkei and the northeastern Transvaal.

\* should be added to the national list.

**R. populifolia** E. Mey. ex Sond. (1860), FSA 61.

Latin for poplar leaves, referring to the shape of the leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* Gariiep currant, Gariieptaai-bos.\*

Shrub up to 2.5 m high, occurring in the northwestern Cape and southern Namibia, on either side of the Orange River, in the area where it is known as the Gariiep.

**R. problematodes** Merxm. & Roessler (1973), FSA 72.

Greek for resembling a problem, referring to the problems encountered by botanists in determining the taxonomic relationships of this species.

*Proposed common names:* dwarf spiny currant, dwerg-doringtaai-bos.

Dwarf shrublet up to 0.6 m high, confined to the area between Aus and Witputz, southern Namibia.

**R. pterota** Presl (1844), FSA 70.

(= *R. longispina* sensu Schönland)

Greek for winged, referring to the somewhat flattened petioles.

*Suggested common names:* spike-thorn currant, pendoringtaai-bos.\*

Shrub usually up to 2 m high, rarely up to 4 m high, ranging along the coast and adjacent interior from near Bredasdorp to East London with an isolated population at Langebaan, western Cape.

**R. pyroides** Burch. (1822), FSA 15.

Latin for resembling the pear tree (*Pyrus*), referring to the pear-like leaflets.

Shrub or small tree up to 6 m high, occurring over virtually the whole of South Africa excepting the western Cape Province. Also scattered in Botswana and Namibia.

Four varieties are recognized:

var. **pyroides** (= *R. baurii* Schönland)

*Common names:* 392, common wild currant, gewone taai-bos.

var. **dinteri** (Engl.) Moffett (= *R. dinteri* Engl.) after M.K. Dinter (1868–1945), pioneer South West African botanist.

*Proposed common names:* Dinter's currant, Dinter-se-taai-bos.\*

var. **gracilis** (Engl.) Burt Davy, after the slender branches.

*Proposed common names:* mountain currant, bergtaai-bos.\*

var. **integrifolia** (Engl.) Moffett, after the entire-margined leaflets, (= *R. fraseri* Schönland, *R. intermedia* Schönland & *R. microcarpa* Schönland). Despite the name many specimens have indented margins.

*Proposed common names:* Natal currant, Nataltaai-bos.\*

**R. quartiniana** A. Rich. (1847), FSA 16.

After R. Quartin-Dillon, French medical doctor and naturalist who collected in Ethiopia between 1839 and 1843.

*Common name:* 393, glossy velvet karree, blinkfluweel-karee.

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m high, occurring along river banks from the northern parts of Botswana and Namibia through Central Africa to Ethiopia.

**R. refracta** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 35.

Latin for bent or curved back abruptly, referring to the almost horizontal pattern of branching.

*Proposed common names:* rough-leaved currant, growwe-blaartaai-bos.\*

Shrub or small tree up to 4 m high, occurring in the eastern Cape and Transkei.

**R. rehmanniana** Engl. (1883), FSA 18.

After A. Rehmann (1840–1917), Polish botanist and collector.

Shrub or more commonly a tree up to 5 m high, ranging from the southwestern Cape eastwards to the northern Transvaal.

Two varieties are recognized:

var. **rehmanniana**

*Common names:* 393.1, blunt-leaved currant, stompblaar-taai-bos.

var. **glabrata** (Sond.) Moffett (= *R. macowanii* Schönland) after the glabrous or hairless leaves.

*Common names:* 389, sour currant, suurtaai-bos.

**R. rigida** Mill. (1768), FSA 10.

(= *R. eckloniana* Sond.)

Latin for rigid, referring to the fairly stiff leaflets.

Shrub up to 1 m high, ranging from the eastern Cape to the northern Transvaal.

Three varieties are recognized:

var. **rigida**

*Proposed common names:* rock currant, kliptaai-bos.

var. **margaretae** Burt Davy ex Moffett, after Margaret Moss, one-time curator of the C.E. Moss Herbarium, Witwatersrand University.

*Proposed common names:* Margaret's rock currant, Margaret-se-kliptaai-bos.

var. **dentata** (Engl.) Moffett (= *R. dyeri* R. Fern. & A. Fern. & *R. rupicola* J.M. Wood & M.S. Evans) after the toothed leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* Waterberg currant, Waterbergtaai-bos.

**R. rimosa** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 49.

(= *R. rigida* sensu Schönland)

Latin for full of cracks, chinks or fissures, referring to the concentric cracks which develop in the bark of dried branches.

*Proposed common names:* Cederberg currant, Sederberg-taai-bos.\*

Shrub up to 3 m high, confined to the Cederberg Mountains, western Cape Province.

\* should be added to the national list.

**R. rogersii** Schönland (1930), FSA 9.

After Rev. F.A. Rogers (1876–1944), railway missionary and Archdeacon of Pietersburg.

*Proposed common names:* Rogers's currant, Rogers-se-taaibos.

Shrub up to 2 m high, occurring in the eastern and north-eastern Transvaal.

**R. rosmarinifolia** Vahl (1794), FSA 55.

Latin for rosemary leaves, referring to the rosemary-like leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* rosemary currant, roosmaryn-taaibos.

Dwarf shrublet up to 1 m high, ranging from the Cederberg, southwestern Cape Province to the Suurberg, north of Port Elizabeth.

**R. rudatisii** Engl. (1921), FSA 64.

After A.G.H. Rudatis (1875–1934), horticulturist and farmer.

*Proposed common names:* Rudatis's dwarf currant, Rudatis-se dwergtaaibos.

Dwarf suffrutescent shrublet up to 0.35 m high, confined to grassveld in southern Natal.

**R. scytophylla** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 51.

(= *R. africana* sensu Schönland)

Greek for leathery leaves, referring to the texture of the leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* red-flowered currant, rooiblomtaaibos.

Shrub up to 2 m high occurring in the southwestern Cape Province between Niewoudtville in the north and Caledon in the south.

Two varieties are recognized:

var. **scytophylla** and var. **dentata** Moffett, after the toothed leaflets.

**R. sekhukhuniensis** Moffett (1993), FSA 39.

After Sekhukhuniland, where it is endemic.

*Proposed common names:* Sekhukhune currant, Sekoekoenietaaibos.\*

Shrub up to 3 m high, occurring between Lydenburg and Pietersburg, northeastern Transvaal.

**R. stenophylla** Eckl. & Zeyh. (1836), FSA 56.

Greek for narrow leaves, referring to the leaflets.

*Proposed common names:* narrow-leaved currant, smalblaartaaibos.

Suffrutescent shrub up to 1.2 m high, only found in the southwestern Cape.

**R. tenuinervis** Engl. (1883), FSA 25.

(= *R. commiphoroides* Engl. & Gilg)

Latin for thin-nerved, referring to the venation of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 393.2, Kalahari currant, Kalaharitaabos. Shrub up to 3 m high, widely distributed in Botswana and Namibia, also reaching the northern Cape and the western Transvaal.

**R. tomentosa** L. (1753), FSA 58.

Latin for a thick and even covering of short matted hairs, referring to the pale downy underside of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 394, real wild currant, korentebos. Shrub or small tree up to 5 m high, ranging from the Cederberg, southwestern Cape eastwards along moister parts to the northern Transvaal and Zimbabwe.

**R. transvaalensis** Engl. (1883), FSA 4.

(= *R. eburnea* Schönland)

After the province of Transvaal.

*Common names:* 394.1, Transvaal currant, Transvaaltaaibos.

Shrub up to 2 m high, rarely a small tree reaching 4 m occurring between northern Natal and the Soutpansberg, northern Transvaal.

**R. tridactyla** Burch. (1822), FSA 28.

Greek and Latin for three fingers, referring to the leaves.

*Proposed common names:* Burchell's sour karee, Burchell se-suurkaree.\*

Shrub up to 4 m high, occurring in the northern Cape.

**R. tumulicola** S. Moore (1921), FSA 1.

(= *R. dura* Schönland, *R. culminum* R. Fern. & A. Fern. & *R. synstylica* R. Fern. & A. Fern.)

Latin for inhabitant of the mounds or hills, referring to the farm 'The Downs' where the type specimen was collected.

Shrub or small tree up to 3.5 m high, ranging from northern Natal to the Soutpansberg, northern Transvaal and also Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Two varieties are recognized:

var. **tumulicola**

*Common names:* 381.2, hard-leaved currant, hardetaaibos. var. **meeuseana** (R. Fern. & A. Fern.) Moffett, after A.D.J. Meeuse (1914–), Dutch botanist and collector.

*Proposed common names:* velvet currant, fluweeltaaibos. Two forms of this variety are recognized:

forma **meeuseana** (= *R. ernestii* Schönland) and forma **pumila** Moffett, after the dwarf habit and small leaves.

**R. undulata** Jacq. (1798), FSA 45.

(= *R. celastroides* Sond. & *R. excisa* Thunb.)

Latin for wavy, referring to the undulate margins of the leaflets.

*Common names:* 395, kuni-bush, koeniebos.

\* should be added to the national list.

Shrub up to 3 m high, occurring from the southern and southwestern Cape northwards to southern Namibia.

**R. volkii** Suess. (1953), FSA 62.

After O.H. Volk (1903–), German botanist and collector.

*Proposed common names:* Volk's currant, Volk-se-taibos. Shrub up to 1.5 m high, confined to a small mountainous area near Maltahöhe, Namibia.

**R. wilmsii** Diels (1898), FSA 67.

After F. Wilms (1848–1919), German apothecary, botanist and collector.

*Proposed common names:* Wilms's dwarf currant, Wilms-se dwergtaibos. Dwarf shrublet up to 0.5 m high, confined to a small area near Lydenburg, Transvaal.

**R. zeyheri** Sond. (1860), FSA 47.

(= *R. glaucovirens* Engl.)

After C.L.P. Zeyher (1799–1858), prolific botanical collector.

*Common names:* 396.1, blue currant, bloutaibos. Shrub up to 2 m high, rarely a tree up to 4 m high, distributed widely in the Transvaal interior.

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