

GERANIACEAE

TYPIFICATION OF *PELARGONIUM* SECTION *POLYACTIUM*

The name *Polyactium* DC. originated in sectional rank (De Candolle 1824: 655) and was raised to generic rank by Ecklon & Zeyher (1835: 65). Harvey (1860: 272) again reduced it to sectional rank, a status which it retains to the present.

Farr *et al.* (1979: 1386) stated that a type had not been designated for the name *Polyactium*. This is incorrect, as Knuth (1912: 317) indicated *Pelargonium lobatum* (Burm. f.) L'Hérit. as the type in his key to the section of the genus. We consider this to be an arbitrary designation, contrary to Art. 8.1(b) of the I.C.B.N. (Greuter *et al.* 1988), as *P. lobatum* did not form part of the protologue of *Polyactium*. The protologue consists of a single element, *Pelargonium multiradiatum* Wendl., which therefore has the status of type species.

In accordance with Art. 10.2 of the I.C.B.N. (Greuter *et al.* 1988), we therefore propose that *Pelargonium multiradiatum* be accepted as the type species of *Pelargonium* section *Polyactium* DC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our research on the taxonomy of the genus *Pelargonium* is financed by the University of Stellenbosch, and the South African Foundation for Research Development.

REFERENCES

- DE CANDOLLE, A.P. 1824. *Prodromus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis* ... 1. Treuttel & Würtz, Paris.
- ECKLON, C.F. & ZEYHER, K.L. 1835. *Enumeratio plantarum africanae australis extratropicae* ... 1. Perth & Besser, Hamburg.
- FARR, E.R., LEUSSINK J.A. & STAFLEU, F. 1979. Index nominum genericorum (plantarum) 3. *Regnum vegetabile* 102.
- GREUTER, W., BURDET, H.M., CHALONER, W.G., DEMOULIN, V., GROLLE, R., HAWKSWORTH, D.L., NICOLSON, D.H., SILVA, P.C., STAFLEU, F.A., VOSS, E.G. & McNEILL, J. 1988. International code of botanical nomenclature adopted by the Fourteenth International Botanical Congress, Berlin, July–August 1987. *Regnum vegetabile* 118.
- HARVEY, W.H. 1860. *Pelargonium*. In W.H. Harvey & O. Sonder, *Flora capensis* 1: 259–308. Hodges Smith, Dublin.
- KNUTH, R. 1912. *Pelargonium*. In A. Engler, *Das Pflanzenreich* 4, 129, 53: 316–545.

P. VORSTER* and G.L. MAGGS*+

* Botany Department, University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag X5018, Stellenbosch 7599.

+ Present address: Government Herbarium, Private Bag 13184, Windhoek, Namibia.

MS received: 1992-04-24.