

LILIACEAE/ASPHODELACEAE

LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *APICRA JACOBSENIANA* (ALOOIDEAE)

An uncommon, but very distinctive, alooid plant (Asphodelaceae: Alooideae) from the southwestern Cape Province, South Africa, has been placed in several different genera, namely *Apicra* Haw. non Willd., *Poellnitzia* Uitewaal, *Haworthia* Duv. and *Aloe* L. Contemporary consensus is that it is properly placed in the genus *Poellnitzia* (Smith 1991), typified by *P. rubriflora* (L. Bol.) Uitewaal (1940). One year before *Poellnitzia* was established for the aberrant *Apicra rubriflora* L. Bol. (1920), Von Poellnitz (1939) described a second species of *Apicra*, namely *A. jacobseniana*, which he regarded as closely

related to *A. rubriflora*. The species, which was named in honour of Dr Hermann J. H. Jacobsen, German horticulturist and curator of the Kiel Botanical Garden, should, however, not be confused with *Haworthia jacobseniana* V. Poelln. (1937), which is currently included in the synonymy of *H. glauca* var. *herrei* (V. Poelln.) Bayer.

Current indications are that the name *Apicra jacobseniana* (which was never transferred to *Poellnitzia*) should be included in the synonymy of *Poellnitzia rubriflora*



FIGURE 14.—Specimen of *Poellnitzia rubriflora*, collected 5 km W of Bonnievale, southwestern Cape Province, which agrees in all respects with the description of *Apicra jacobsoniana*.

(Smith 1991; Figure 14). It has also been omitted from the synoptic work of Gibbs Russell *et al.* (1985). In this paper the affinity of *Apicra jacobsoniana* is established and the name is lectotypified.

Material on which Von Poellnitz (1939) based the name *Apicra jacobsoniana* was introduced to Europe in the 1930's by Wilhelm Triebner. He gave the locality as 'Worcester District'. The genus *Poellnitzia*, under which *A. jacobsoniana* is currently classified, is endemic to the Robertson-McGregor-Bonnievale region of the southwestern Cape (Smith & Van Wyk 1991; Wood 1991). Triebner was notorious for providing insufficient and unreliable details of his collecting localities and those of his correspondents (Bayer 1982), and he probably took 'Worcester District' to include the geographical distribution range of *Poellnitzia*. Mrs F. N. Morris of Oudtshoorn, an avid succulent plant collector and regular correspondent of Triebner (Codd & Gunn 1985), is accredited as having been the first to collect *Apicra jacobsoniana* in the vicinity of Worcester.

The type collection of *A. jacobsoniana* (Triebner 34) was probably sent directly to Kiel where it was cultivated in the Botanical Garden. However, no herbarium specimen of the material could be traced. If duplicates of the type collection were kept at Von Poellnitz' home, they were destroyed when the place was bombed early in 1945. The remnants of Von Poellnitz' material were transferred from Oberlödla to Berlin-Dahlem by the late Prof. Dr E. Werdermann (Werdermann 1949; Obermeyer 1964), but no material of *Apicra jacobsoniana* could be found in B (Dr Th. Raus pers. comm.).

Von Poellnitz did not cite any additional specimens when he established *A. jacobsoniana*, but he accompanied the description with an illustration of a sterile specimen. This illustration is here chosen as the lectotype:

TYPE. —J.K.L.A. von Poellnitz, *Apicra jacobsoniana* v. P., *Kakteenkunde* (1939): 95, unnumbered plate, lecto. here designated (icono.).

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