

The Nomenclature of Species of *Allophylus* in South Africa.

By

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No complete revision of the African species of the genus *Allophylus* has been attempted since Radlkofer published his monograph of the Sapindaceae in Engler's *Pflanzenreich* in 1932-1934. The nomenclature adopted in the latter work is not in agreement with the latest edition of the Int. Code of Bot. Nomenclature (1952). This note is an attempt to clear up the confusion existing re the use of the correct names and also the correct citation of authors. Fortunately, name changes were found to be unnecessary except in two species.

1. ***Allophylus decipiens* (Sond.) Radlk.** in Engl. & Prantl. *Pflanzenfam.* 3 (5) 313 (1895).
Rhus spicatum Thunb. Fl. Cap. 11, 217 (1818).
R. decipiens E. Mey. in Drege Cat. Pl. Exsicc. Afr. Austr. Febr. 1839; Arnott* in Hook. London Journ. Bot. 3, 153 (1841). nomen nudum.
Schmidelia decipiens (E. Mey.) Presl. Bot. Bemerk. 41 (1844) nomen nudum.
S. decipiens Sond. in Harv. et Sond. Fl. Cap. 1, 239 (1860).
Allophylus spicatus (Thunb.) Fourcade in Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 21, 100 (1932), non *A. spicata* (Poir.) Radlk. in Engl. & Prantl. *Naturl. Pflanzenfam.* 3 (5), 312 (1895). This species was misidentified by E. Meyer as *Rhus undulata* Jacq.
2. ***Allophylus dregeanus* (Sond.) de Winter**, comb. nov.
Rhus monophylla E. Mey. in Drege, *Zwei Pflanzengeogr. Doc.* 216 (1843), nomen nudum.
Schmidelia monophylla (E. Mey.) Presl. Bot. Bemerk. 470 (1845) nomen nudum, non Hook. f. in Hook. *Icon. t.* 775 (1845).
S. dregeana Sond. in Harv. et Sond. Fl. Cap. 1, 239 (1860).
S. monophylla var. *nataiitia* Szyszyl. *Enum. Polypet. Rehmann* 2, 47 (1888).
Allophylus monophyllus Radlk. in Engl. et Prantl., *Naturl. Pflanzenfam.* 3 (5), 312 (1895). nomen nudum, et in Engl. *Pflanzenr.* 4, 165. 518 (1932).
3. ***Allophylus melanocarpus* (Sond.) Radlk.** in Engl. et Prantl. *Naturl. Pflanzenfam.* 3 (5), 313 (1895).
Rhus melanocarpa E. Mey. et *Rhus leucocarpa* E. Mey. in Drege Cat. 3 (1840); Arnott in Hook. Journ. Bot. 3, 153 (1841); Meyer in Drege, *Zwei Pflanzengeogr. Doc.* 216 (1843), nomina nuda.
Schmidelia melanocarpa Sond. in Harv. et Sond. Fl. Cap. 1, 238 (1860).
S. leucocarpa Sond. *l.c.*
S. rehmanniana Szyszyl. *Polypet. Rehmann.* 2, 46 (1888).

* Arnott has often been cited as the author of this species. A short description is given by him when contrasting the species with *Rhus melanocarpa* and *Rhus erosa* E. Mey. non Thunb. The short insufficient diagnosis is not valid, however, since Arnott still uses *Rhus* as the generic name although he points out that the plants belong to the genus *Schmidelia*. (See Art. 43, Int. Code of Bot. Nomenclature, 1952). The same applies to *Rhus melanocarpa* and *Rhus leucocarpa*. Sonder (in Fl. Cap.) gives good descriptions and the names must be attributed to him.

4. ***Allophylus natalensis*** (Sond.) de Winter comb. nov.

Schmidelia natalensis Sond. in Harv. et Sond. Fl. Cap 1. 239 (1860).

A. erosus Radlk. in Engl. Pflanzenr. 4, 165, 544 (1932).

This species was validly described for the first time by Sonder who gave it the name *S. natalensis*. Earlier, the species had masqueraded under the illegitimate name "*Rhus erosus*, E. Mey." The origin of the latter name is plainly a misidentification which can be traced to E. Meyer who in the various works on Drege's plants named this species as *Rhus erosus* Thunb. When it was realized that the latter was a distinct species subsequent authors used the name *Rhus erosus* E. Mey. non Thunb.

Radlkofer recognized this fact and to rectify the error described *Allophylus erosus* Radlk. as an independent species based on the plant misidentified by E. Meyer as *Rhus erosus* Thunb. This would have been legitimate had there been no other name available.

The following species complete the list of members of the genus *Allophylus* recorded for South Africa.

5. ***Allophylus transvaalensis*** Burt Davy in Kew Bull. 280 (1921).

This is probably only a hairy variety of *A. melanocarpus* (Sond.) Radlk.

6. ***Allophylus gazensis*** Bak. f. in Journ. Bot. 57. 182 (1919).

Galpin 909, Lakwongwa Forest, Barberton, Transvaal; matches the type of *A. gazensis* in Kew.