Harvey, in Fl. Cap. 2: 267 (1862), based his description of *Calpurnia sericea* on a specimen collected by Von Schlicht in Lesotho. Few, if any, specimens have been referred to *C. sericea* subsequently and the identity of the species has remained in doubt. Phillips, in Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 9: 479 (1917), cited *C. sericea* as a synonym of *C. robindoides* (DC.) E. Mey. but this was clearly because he did not have the opportunity of studying the type material, while Yakovlev in his treatment of the genus in Nov. Syst. Vyssh. Rast. 8: 181-184 (1971) made no mention of *C. sericea* at all.

Through the courtesy of Prof. B. Nordenstam, Curator of the Botany Section of the Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, the holotype of *C. sericea* was received on loan from the Sonder Herbarium. The holotype consists of a small flowering twig. The leaves have 6-8 pairs of leaflets which are densely appressed-villose on both surfaces but especially along the midrib on the lower surface. The inflorescences are shorter than the leaves and the ovaries are pubescent on the margins only. Although Harvey stated that the holotype was collected by Von Schlicht in Lesotho (Basutoland), a note on the specimen written by Sonder says that Harvey was in error in assuming that Von Schlicht collected the specimen. According to Sonder the specimen was collected in Lesotho by a missionary whose name was unfortunately unknown to him. As far as is known Von Schlicht only collected in Namaqualand.

On examining the holotype it was at once apparent that *E. occulta* bears no close relationship to any other species in the genus and its position in a section of the genus is uncertain. For convenience, it will probably be best to place the species in the section *Eurystegia* with *E. lanuginosa* despite the fact that it has such small flowers. The general appearance of the flower is also similar to species such as *E. bodkinii* and *E. grisbrookii*, which occur in the hills of the Caledon and Bredasdorp districts.

The leaves of *E. occulta* are extremely crowded together at the ends of the branches; so much so that the internodes are almost non-existent. It is thus difficult to determine the number of leaves per whorl. It would appear that they are 3-nate. The crowded tufted leaves and the almost hidden cream flowers give the species the appearance of some species in the genus *Aspalathus*; in fact its true identity is hidden until one makes a close examination of the material.

The possession of bracts is an unusual feature in the genus *Erica* shared only by a few species. Normally in the genus the flowers alternate with the leaves and are not subtended by any vegetative organ and no bracts are present. In *E. occulta*, however, there are whorls of bracts, distinct and unlike the leaves, alternating with the leaves. These bracts occur at the ends of the branches at the time of flowering and one of them subtends the single flower. Among the remaining bracts there are two buds which later develop into new branches.

In the fresh material examined the pollen remained aggregated in clumps. This was the case in all of the flowers examined but may have been an unusual occurrence. I have not seen this in other species in the genus.

E. G. H. Oliver

### FABACEAE

**THE IDENTITY OF CALPURNIA SERICEA HAV.**

In the fresh material examined the pollen remained aggregated in clumps. This was the case in all of the flowers examined but may have been an unusual occurrence. I have not seen this in other species in the genus.
throughout. A similar range of variation in the indumentum of the leaflets is present among specimens with ovaries pubescent on the margins only.

The degree of pubescence of the ovary has been used for delimiting subspecies within *C. aurea* (Ait.) Benth. but in this species the degree of pubescence of the ovary is correlated with the degree of pubescence of the leaflets and with geographical distribution. In the case of *C. sericea*, however, the degree of pubescence of the ovary is not correlated with any other morphological character or with geographical distribution. Consequently, it is not intended to uphold the varieties within *C. sericea*.

The relevant changes in nomenclature are summarized as follows:

**Calpurnia sericea** Harv. in Fl. Cap. 2: 267 (1862).
Type: Lesotho, collector unknown 82, (S, holo.).


Type: Natal, Utrecht district, Kafir Drift-Tweekloof, Thode A270 (K, holo.; PRE, iso.).


*C. intrusa* auct., non (R. Br. ex Ait.f.). E. Mey. sensu stricto.

**THE TYPIFICATION OF HAEMATOXYLUM DINTERI**

Harms, in Bot. Jahrb. 40: 31 (21 May 1907), based his description of *Caesalpinia dinteri*, the basionym of *Haematoxylum dinteri* (Harms) Harms in Feddes Repert. 12: 555 (1913), on *Dinter* 1169 from Inachab in South West Africa. Unfortunately the holotype in the Berlin Herbarium was destroyed during the war, and efforts to trace an isotype have proved unsuccessful. Although the application of the name *H. dinteri* is not in doubt, in the absence of any type material it seems desirable to select a neotype for this species. Consequently I now select the specimen *Pearson* 9717 in the National Herbarium, Pretoria, from the western foothills of the Little Karas Mountains, east of Holoog Station, Keetmanshoop District, South West Africa as the neotype of *H. dinteri*.

**LILIACEAE**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPECIES OF ASPARAGUS**

1. The correct name for *A. thunbergianus* J. A. Schult. & J. H. Schult.

In the course of an examination of material in the Bergius Herbarium in Stockholm, I was shown a specimen labelled in Bergius' hand "Asparagus mihi rubicundus". This is undoubtedly the type (Fig. 9) of *A. rubicundus* Bergius, which was described in his *Descriptiones plantarum ex Capite Bonae Spei* (1767). The specimen was collected at the Cape and communicated to Bergius by Grubb. It cannot be established whether or not Grubb collected it himself. The epithet has hitherto not been taken up as the description was considered inadequate and the type had not been seen.

Baker (Flora Capensis 6: 266; 1896) incorrectly treated *A. rubicundus* as a synonym for *A. africanus* Lam. var. *dependens* (Thunb.) Bak. I have retained *A. dependens* Thunb. as a synonym for *A. africanus*, but do not consider that *A. rubicundus* should be placed here. There is no reason to believe that Baker saw the material of *A. rubicundus*.

The specimen in Bergius' Herbarium is a flowering branch of the species currently known as *A. thunbergianus* J. A. Schult. & J. H. Schult. The correct name and important synonymy therefore become:—


2. Asparagus macowanii Bak.

I formerly recognized two varieties in *A. macowanii* Bak. (Bothalia 9: 57; 1966). On the evidence of herbarium material I believed that the eastern Cape plants never exceeded 1 m in height, while Natal and Transvaal material exceeded 1,5 m. An examination of many populations in the eastern Cape has shown that the herbarium record was very incomplete and that in this area plants may occasionally be up to as much as 2 m high.

It is, therefore, not possible to recognize *A. macowanii* var. *zuluensis* (N.E. Br.) Jess. as a distinct taxon.