

## CONVALLARIACEAE

A NEW COMBINATION IN *ERIOSPERMUM*

In 1872 J.G. Baker described the species *Anthericum flagelliforme* from material at Kew that had been collected by Joseph Burke in South Africa on his trip through the country in 1841–1842. The collection comprises rather withered inflorescences, without leaves or rootstock (Baker noted at the time that the leaves were perhaps developed at a different time to the flowers). Baker later transferred the species to *Schizobasis*, obviously impressed by the persistent inflorescence axis which, like that of *Schizobasis*, remains green and photosynthetic for some time after the flowers have abscised. He distinguished it from the other species of *Schizobasis* which he recognized by the erect, unbranched inflorescence. Burke's companion on the trip, C.F. Zeyher, also collected specimens of this taxon in the Magaliesberg, and the sheet deposited in the South African Museum collection (SAM 22787) bears the much more prescient determination '*Eriospermum*' in Zeyher's hand. Examination of the Burke and Zeyher material reveals that it lacks the spurred bracts and marcesant flowers which are characteristic of *Schizobasis* and its other urGINEOID allies. The collections in fact accord in all respects with *Eriospermum abyssinicum* Baker, probably the most common and widespread species in the genus (Perry 1994). This species was described by Baker in 1876 in the same publication in which he transferred *Anthericum flagelliforme* to *Schizobasis*. The name *Anthericum flagelliforme* is now the earliest available name for the species currently known as *Eriospermum abyssinicum* and is accordingly removed from the synonymy of *Schizobasis volubilis*,

where it was placed by Jessop (1977). The name *Eriospermum abyssinicum* Baker becomes a taxonomic synonym of *Eriospermum flagelliforme*. A full synonymy of *E. abyssinicum* is given in Perry (1994).

***Eriospermum flagelliforme* (Baker) J.C. Manning, comb. nov.**

*Anthericum flagelliforme* Baker in *Journal of Botany* 1: 140 (1872). *Schizobasis flagelliformis* (Baker) Baker: 261 (1876). Type: South Africa, Apies River (Aapages River), Burke s.n. (K!, holo.).

*Eriospermum abyssinicum* Baker: 263 (1876). Type: Ethiopia, Gallabat, Gendua, Schweinfurth 26 (K, lecto.; G), syn. nov.

## REFERENCES

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