
**FSA contributions 2: Asphodelaceae/Aloaceae, 1029010 Chortolirion**

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**Chortolirion A. Berger** in Das Pflanzenreich 4, 38, III, II (Heft 33): 72 (1908); E. Phillips: 149 (1926), 187 (1951); Oberm.: 119 (1973). Type: Haworthia angolensis Baker, i.e. Chortolirion angolense (Baker) A. Berger.

Herbaceous perennial; acaulescent with leaves originating from a short, simple (rarely once branched), cylindrical, subterranean butt ± 9 mm in diameter; roots few, fusiform, fleshy, up to 8 mm in diameter; bulb with few, loosely packed, membranous scales covering the inner, slightly fleshy leaf bases, ovoid-oblong, 30–40 mm long, ± 20 mm in diameter. Leaves rosulate, slender, grass-like, flaccid, erect, deciduous, ± 10, light green to glaucous green, usually once or twice twisted, upper 5–10 mm of leaves often dry, ± 150 mm long, diameter ± 2 mm; upper surface canaliculate, imbricate or with very few white spots near base; bulb with few white-spotted near base, the spots often slightly tuberous, upwards, 1–2 mm distant throughout. Inflorescence ± 360 mm tall; peduncle simple, diameter ± 2 mm, ± 200 mm long; sterile bracts membranous, ovate, abruptly long acuminate, erect, clasping the peduncle, keeled with 1–3 reddish brown vein(s), ± 8 mm across; pedicels erect, persistent, brownish green, 1–2 mm long, diameter 1 mm. Flowers erect, zygomorphic, greenish, brownish or pinkish white with greenish keels to the segments, base obtuse; perianth funnel-shaped, tube straight, constricted to 3 mm above, 14 mm long, ± 2 mm across; segments greenish white with darker green veins, not free to the base, closely adhering for two thirds of the length, limb bilabiata; upper-outer segments strongly recurved, retuse, spoon-shaped at tips; upper-inner segment slightly recurved, obtuse, spoon-shaped at tip, lower-outer segments recurved, lower-inner segment strongly recurved, tips flared; bud narrow, straight, decurved and pinkish at tip; stamens 6, of ± equal length, inserted within the perianth tube, attached below ovary, ± 7 mm long; filaments white, thinner towards apex; anthers yellow, dorsifixed, dehiscing longitudinally and introrsely; ovary green, sessile, 3 mm long, diameter 2 mm; style white, straight, capitulate, 4 mm long. Fruit light green, capsule trilocular, cylindric, apically acute, dehiscing loculicidally, chartaceous when dry, ± 15 mm long, 5–6 mm in diameter. Seed dark brown to black, angled, shortly winged, ± 3 mm long. Chromosome number. 2n = 14.

Monotypic. In southern Africa it occurs in Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and in all the provinces of the Republic of South Africa except the Western Cape. For KwaZulu-Natal the genus is known from a single accession only [grid reference unknown: Zululand, Anon. s.n. (K)] which is not shown in Figure 2. It also occurs in Angola and Zimbabwe. Chortolirion is found from near sea level up to altitudes of more than 2 000 m; the general habitat of Chortolirion is the climatically severe inland area above the Great Escarpment. The genus is adapted to sparse or dense grasslands in which a wide variety of graminoids and forbs dominate. These grasslands are usually subject to natural or deliberate seasonal burning.

Chortolirion is morphologically quite distinct from Haworthia, especially with regard to the presence of an underground bulbous rootstock. Furthermore, it is the only haworthioid taxon of which the leaves are deciduous and die back to ground level after fires or frost.

The name Chortolirion means 'heath lily' and refers to the fact that plants of the genus usually occur in grassland and, especially when not in flower, can easily be mistaken for small tufts of grass.

**Chortolirion angolense** (Baker) A. Berger in Das Pflanzenreich 4, 38, III, II (Heft 33): 73 (1908). Type: Angola, Huilla, regio subtemperata, in dumetis arenosis, Welwitsch 3756 (BM, holo.!, PRE, photo.!).

Description as for the genus.

Haworthia angolensis Baker: 263 (1878); Baker: 210 (1880); Baker: 469 (1898); Oberm.: 119 (1973). Type: as above.


H. subspicata Baker: 998 (1904). Chortolirion subspicatum (Baker) A. Berger: 74 (1908). Type: Transvaalkalakone, Modderfontein, Con­ruith 645 (Z, holo.).

Chortolirion bergamianum Dinter: 24 (1914). Type: Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika (Namibia), the Farm Voglind, 20 km to the east of Windhoek. K. Dinter, Neue und wenig bekannte Pflanzen Deutsch-Südwest-Afrikas t. 12 (1914) (holo.!, icono.!).

Vouchers: Dinter 4295 (B); Hanckel 1843 (PRE); Smith 8 (PRU); Smith 12 (PUC); Ubbink 318 (PUC).

FIGURE 1.—*Chortolirion angolense*: A, habit, $\times 1$; B, inflorescence, $\times 1$; C, longitudinal section of flower (one stamen removed), $\times 3$; D, flower face showing reflexed segments, $\times 2$; E, fruit, acuminate capsule, $\times 1.5$. All drawings, except E, were made from live material collected by Craib, deposited under Smith 234 (PRE). Fruit drawn from Leeman s.n. (PRE 34956). Artist: Gillian Condy.
REFERENCES


Dинтер, М.К. 1914. Neue und wenig bekannte Pflanzen Deutsch-Südwest-Afrikas unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Sukulenten. Im Selbstverlag, Okahandja.


