Klopper et al. (2008) reported on the conspecific status of Bulbine triebneri Dinter and B. alba Van Jaarsv., but neglected to formalize the synonymy of the later name under the earlier name, which takes priority under the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill et al. 2006). This is now done here:


It is important to note that Bulbine alba is not considered to be a nomenclaturally superfluous name, as Van

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>A. hahnii</th>
<th>A. swynnertonii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bract length (mm)</td>
<td>5–15</td>
<td>8–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedicel length (mm)</td>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>20–35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perianth length (mm)</td>
<td>25–28</td>
<td>25–35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower colour</td>
<td>Glossy scarlet-red</td>
<td>Orange-red to pinkish red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower shape</td>
<td>Decurved</td>
<td>Slightly curved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES**


REYNOLDS, G.W. 1950. The aloe of South Africa. The Aloe Book Fund, Mbabane, Swaziland.


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Jaarsveld (2001) did not include the type of *B. triebneri* in the circumscription of his taxon.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank Dr Dee Snijman from the Compton Herbarium for bringing the omission in the previous report to our attention and also Dr Hugh Glen from the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium for his input and discussions about citing synonymy and the ICBN.

**REFERENCES**


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MS: received: 2008-08-13.

**EBENACEAE**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Maba natalensis*, the basionym of *Diospyros natalensis*, was published by Harvey (1863) and based on a Gerard & McKen specimen from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. For a long time this species was known as a constituent of coastal dune forest ranging from East London to northern KwaZulu-Natal. Hutchinson (1912) described *M. dawei* from Mozambique, but it was subsequently transferred to *Diospyros* by Brenan (1948) as *D. dawei*, a taxon which turned out to be a small leaf form of *D. natalensis*, and the latter’s distribution range was consequently extended along the coast through Mozambique and Tanzania to as far north as southern Kenya.

Brenan (1948) described a related species, *Diospyros nummularia* from Zimbabwe, based on a specimen collected by Eyles in the present-day Harare, Zimbabwe. For a long time it was thought that this species was confined to granite outcrops near water in Zimbabwe, but it was also found in the Crocodile Gorge, Mpumalanga, and on the Lebombo Mountains in Swaziland and adjacent parts of Mozambique. Brenan (1954) added a third species to this complex, *D. nyasae* from Malawi. It was first collected on Mt Mulanje (formerly Mt Mlanje) in 1946 by L.J. Brass and he recorded this plant as growing on the flood-swpt edges along the Likabula River, a habitat which prompted Van Steenis (1981: 225) to list the species as a rheophyte. With leaves long and narrow, tapering at both ends and usually 32–41(–50) mm long, *D. nyasae* has been referred to by various authors (White 1983, 1988; White & Verdcourt 1996) as the ‘stenophyllous or narrow-leaved form’ or ‘Mulanje variant’ of *D. natalensis*.

*Diospyros natalensis* varies considerably in leaf shape and size (White 1988: fig. 10). *D. nyasae* and the much smaller rounded-leaved form, *D. nummularia*, are merely two extreme forms at opposite ends of the range of leaf variation in the *D. natalensis* complex. *D. num-