Typification of two Linnaean names in *Polygala* (*Polygalaceae*): *P. bracteolata* and *P. myrtilifolia*

Estrela Figueiredo,1,2 Jorge Paiva3 & Gideon F. Smith2,3,4

1 Department of Botany, P.O. Box 77000, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, 6031 South Africa
2 Centre for Functional Ecology, Departamento de Ciências da Vida, Universidade de Coimbra, 3001-455 Coimbra, Portugal
3 Office of the Chief Director: Biosystematics Research & Biodiversity Collections, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Private Bag XI01, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa
4 H.G.W.J. Schweickerdt Herbarium, Department of Plant Science, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002 South Africa

Author for correspondence: Estrela Figueiredo, estrelafigueiredo@hotmail.com

Abstract Two Linnaean names of *Polygala*, *P. bracteolata* and *P. myrtilifolia*, are lectotypified.

Keywords Africa; nomenclature; *Polygala*; *Polygala bracteolata*; *Polygala myrtilifolia*; typification

Received: 10 Mar. 2013; revision received: 6 June 2013; accepted: 14 June 2013. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.12705/624.4

■ INTRODUCTION

In the course of revising the genus *Polygala* L. in the Flora of Southern Africa region (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland), it was noted that two accepted Linnaean names (*Polygala bracteolata* L., *Polygala myrtilifolia* L.) do not have types.

*Polygala bracteolata* is endemic to South Africa where it is widespread in the Western Cape, extending to the Eastern Cape. *Polygala myrtilifolia* has a wide geographical distribution range in southern Africa, is easy in cultivation and popular in domestic horticulture (Pienaar & Smith, 2011). A native of South Africa, it has been introduced to, and subsequently became naturalized in, many parts of the world with a mild to temperate climate (Paiva, 1998). It shows some variability that was previously recognized by some authors at the varietal rank (see for example Harvey in Harvey & Sonder, 1860 and Chodat, 1893). Recent authors (Levyns, 1955; Paiva, 1998) did not accept these varieties.

The names *Polygala bracteolata* and *Polygala myrtilifolia* are typified as follows. Acronyms of herbaria follow Index Herbariorum (Thiers, 2013).

■ POLYGALA BRACTEOLATA

Levyns (1955: 24) and Paiva (1998: 273) indicated that the holotype of *P. bracteolata* was deposited at LINN. Levyns merely noted that the type was in the Linnaean herbarium in London. Paiva cited the type as “Sudáfrica, s. loc., sine col. s/n (LINN)”. According to the data available for online examination, two specimens of *Polygala bracteolata* exist in LINN with the references LINN-HL882-12 and LINN-HS1176-21. According to Jarvis (2007) both collections are post-1753 and therefore cannot be part of the original material used by Linnaeus when he described the species.

The original material for *P. bracteolata* is given by Jarvis (2007) as consisting of:

1. A specimen in the George Clifford Herbarium, Page 353, Polygala 2 (BM No. BM000646529; image: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/clifford-herbarium/search);
2. A specimen in the Bergius Foundation Herbarium (SBT), number L98 (image: http://www.bergianska.se/english/collections/the-bergius-herbarium/search-the-collections);
3. An illustration in Plukenet (1696: 300; (4) Two illustrations in Burman (1739: 202, t. 73, f. 2, 3; images: http://books.google.co.za/books/about/Rariorum_Africanarum_plantarum_decas_pri.html?id=5IWBMJnewMC&redir_esc=y).

L98 (SBT) is a good specimen that matches the description of the species. Therefore, this specimen is here designated as lectotype of the name *Polygala bracteolata*.


■ POLYGALA MYR蒂LOFIA

Paiva (1998) previously cited syntypes of the name *Polygala myrtilifolia* as existing at LINN. However, according to Jarvis (2007) the specimens referred to are post-1753 collections and therefore do not form part of the original material used by Linnaeus when he described the species.

According to Jarvis (2007) the original material for *P. myrtilifolia* consists of:

1. A specimen in the George Clifford Herbarium, Page
353, Polygala 3 (BM No. BM000646530; image: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/clifford-herbarium/search);

(2) A specimen in the Linnaean Herbarium at S, IDC [microfiche] no. 292.1 (S-LINN; image: http://linnaeus.nrm.se/botany/Tbo/p/welcome.html);

(3) Illustration in Plukenet (1705: 153, t. 437, f. 4);

(4) Reference in Plukenet (1700: 153) and voucher in Sloane Herbarium 94: 52 (BM-SL);

(5) Illustration in Commelin (1697: 87, t. 46; image: http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/15229#page/147/mode/1up);

(6) Illustration in Burman (1739: 200, t. 73, f. 1; image: http://books.google.co.za/books/about/Rariorum_Africanarum_plantarum_decas_pri.html?id=z5IWBmJnewMC&redir_esc=y).

As noted by Jarvis (2007), specimen number 292.1 (S-LINN) was previously suggested as lectotype by Wijnands (1983) but not formally designated. We here designate this specimen as lectotype of *P. myrtifolia*.


### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. Charlie Jarvis for advice. Dr. Gerry Moore and two anonymous referees are thanked for comments on the manuscript.

---

**LITERATURE CITED**


