



Clarifying the placement of *Trifolium capense* in *Leobordea* (Fabaceae)

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The genus *Leobordea* Del. in Laborde (1830: 82, 86) [Fabaceae Lindley (1836: 148)] was reinstated in 2011 based on a study that included phylogenetic and morphological evidence. It was one of four genera separated from the genus *Lotononis* (De Candolle 1825: 158) Ecklon & Zeyher (1836: 176), the others being *Euchlora* Ecklon & Zeyher (1836: 171), *Listia* Meyer (1836: 80), and the newly established genus *Ezoloba* B.-E.van Wyk & Boatwr. in Boatwright *et al.* (2011: 170). Where needed, new combinations were made, including a combination for *Leobordea diffusa* (Thunberg 1800: 136) B.-E.van Wyk & Boatwr. in Boatwright *et al.* (2011: 176). Silva *et al.* (2014) found that this combination was invalid because the basionym, *Trifolium diffusum* Thunberg (1800: 136), was illegitimately described as a later homonym of the existing *Trifolium diffusum* Ehrhart (1792: 165). Boatwright *et al.* (2011) listed *Lotononis rosea* Dümmer (1913: 305) as a synonym of *Leobordea diffusa* and with this name combination being available in *Leobordea*, Silva *et al.* (2014) established the valid combination *Leobordea rosea* (Dümmer) L.A.Silva & J.Freitas in Silva *et al.* (2014: 295).

At the time, *Lotononis rosea* was thought to be the only available and valid synonym. However, during curatorial activities and revision of names in the World Checklist of Vascular Plants: Fabaceae Checklist (LPWG 2023), another older synonym was located. After Thunberg's (1800) treatment of *Trifolium diffusum* was published (creating an illegitimate homonym as mentioned above), Willdenow (1802) quickly realised Thunberg's mistake and established a replacement name for this taxon, namely *Trifolium capense* Willdenow (1802: 1364), referring to “*Trifolium diffusum* Thunb. Prod. 136” in the protologue. Considering Article 11.3–11.4 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Turland *et al.* 2018), priority should be given to the oldest available final epithet at the same rank, which in this scenario is “capense” from *T. capense*. The accepted name for this taxon in *Leobordea* should therefore be *L. capensis* (Willd.) M.M.le Roux, Klopper & Boatwr., *comb. nov.* The formal nomenclature is provided below.

Leobordea capensis (Willd.) M.M.le Roux, Klopper & Boatwr., *comb. nov.*

Basionym:—*Trifolium capense* Willdenow (1802: 1364).

Type (lectotype UPS!, designated by Boatwright *et al.* 2011: 176):—SOUTH AFRICA. Cape Province, ‘e Cap. B. Spei’, (exact locality unknown), Thunberg *s.n.* sub THUNB-UPS 17620.

Trifolium diffusum Thunberg (1800: 136), *nom. illeg.*; *Leobordea diffusa* (Thunb.) B.-E.van Wyk & Boatwr. in Boatwright *et al.* (2011: 176), *nom. illeg.*

Lotononis rosea Dümmer (1913: 305); *Leobordea rosea* (Dümmer) L.A.Silva & J.Freitas in Silva *et al.* (2014: 296), *nom. superfl.*, *syn. nov.* **Type** (lectotype K!, designated by Van Wyk 1991: 163; isolectotype GRA!):—SOUTH AFRICA. Cape Province: Clanwilliam, Mader 207.

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