

Short Communications

Protasparagus Oberm., nom. nov.: new combinations

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A new generic name is published for the homonym *Asparagopsis* Kunth and 38 new combinations are published for the southern African species previously placed under *Asparagus*.

'n Nuwe genusnaam word vir die homoniem *Asparagopsis* Kunth voorgestel en 38 nuwe kombinasies word vir die suidelike Afrikaanse spesies wat voorheen onder *Asparagus* geplaas is, voorgestel.

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While engaged on a revision of the southern African species of *Asparagus*, it was decided to adopt Kunth's concept of *Asparagus* and related genera according to his revision in *Enumeratio Plantarum* 5: 76 (1850). He divided *Asparagus* sensu lato into *Asparagus* L. sensu stricto, which covers most of the European species with *Asparagus officinalis* L. now accepted as the type species, and the genus *Asparagopsis* (Kunth) Kunth, which he had previously described as a section in *Phys. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1842: 35 (1844). *Asparagus officinalis* L. and other related northern species bear unisexual flowers and are dioecious. They also produce only two ovules in each locule of the tripartite ovary and seeds that are dorsally convex and ventrally angular with a central pointed hilum. In contrast, the many African species are bisexual and bear from 4–10 ovules in each locule and the seeds are globose. Kunth gave this African taxon the name *Asparagopsis* (Enum. Pl. 5: 76 (1850)) but unfortunately this name was used by Montagne in 1840 for a genus in the Rhodophyceae and is therefore an illegitimate later homonym.

As the African species are considered to be more primitive, the name *Protasparagus* was chosen for the bisexual species.

Kunth also upheld Willdenow's genus *Myrsiphyllum*, which I too prefer to use for 12 South African species as they differ in a number of characters from *Protasparagus*. (The revision of this genus is in the press).

Protasparagus Oberm., nom. nov.

Asparagopsis Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 76 (1850), non Montagne (1840). *Asparagus* section *Asparagopsis* Kunth in *Phys. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1842: 35 (1844).

Perennials, usually chamaephytes, erect or scandent. *Roots* cylindrical or fusiform or with tuberous lateral roots.

Cladodes solitary or fascicled. *Spines* present or rarely absent, formed from modified leaf-spurs or branches. *Flowers* bisexual, racemose or placed amongst cladode-fascicles, usually on stalks, viz. a pedicel ending in a disk and above it a pericladium which is the attenuated base of the perianth. *Perianth* with spreading segments. *Stamens* with the filaments longer than the introrse anthers. *Ovary* 3-locular with 4–10 ovules in each locule, biseriate; style erect, stigmas 3, usually small, curved outwards when receptive. *Fruit* a berry, rarely a nutlet. *Seeds* globose, smooth, black.

Lectotype species: *Protasparagus aethiopicus* (L.) Oberm. As Kunth does not mention a type species for the genus, the above species was selected.

Species c. 100; southern Africa (c. 50) to northern Africa, Asia.

Herewith the name changes for southern African species:

1. *Protasparagus acocksii* (Jessop) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus acocksii Jessop in *Bothalia* 9: 74 (1966). Type: Cape, Cradock district, 12 miles NNE of Fish River Station, *Acocks* 16296 (PRE, holo.!).

2. *Protasparagus aethiopicus* (L.) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus aethiopicus L., Mant. 32 (1767). Type: Cape, without precise locality (LINN No. 434.6, neo., NBG, PRE! photos).

3. *Protasparagus africanus* (Lam.) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus africanus Lam., *Encycl.* 1: 295 (1783). Type: Cape, without precise locality, *Sonnerat* s.n. (P, holo., PRE, photo.!).

4. *Protasparagus angusticladius* (Jessop) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus aethiopicus L., var. *angusticladius* Jessop in *Bothalia* 9: 69 (1966). Type: Transvaal: Middelburg district, Olifants River Gorge, *Mogg* 22470 (PRE, holo.!).

5. *Protasparagus aspergillus* (Jessop) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus aspergillus Jessop in *Bothalia* 9: 71 (1966). Type: Transvaal, Letaba district, near Birthday Mine at Mamaranga, *Breyer* in TRV 19063 (PRE, holo.!).

6. *Protasparagus buchananii* (Bak.) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus buchananii Bak. in *Kew Bull.* 1893: 211 (1893). Type: Malawi (Nyasaland), *Buchanan* 1503 (K, lecto., PRE, photo.!), *Buchanan* 757.

7. *Protasparagus capensis* (L.) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus capensis L. Type: Cape of Good Hope, without precise locality, collector unknown, in Herb. Plukenet (BM, holo., PRE, photo.!).

8. *Protasparagus compactus* (Salter) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus compactus Salter in *Jl S. Afr. Bot.* 6: 165 (1940). Type: Cape Peninsula, Orange Kloof, *Wolley Dod* 2521 (BOL, holo.!).

9. *Protasparagus cooperi* (Bak.) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus cooperi Bak. in *Gdnrs' Chron.* 1: 818 (1874). Type: Cape, *Cooper* in hort. Saunders (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

10. *Protasparagus crassicladius* (Jessop) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagus crassicladius Jessop in *Bothalia* 9: 75 (1966). Type: Cape, Uniondale district, Kouga, *Esterhuysen* 4670 (BOL, holo.!).

11. *Protasparagus densiflorus* (Kunth) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagopsis densiflora Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 96 (1850). *Asparagus densiflorus* (Kunth) Jessop in *Bothalia* 9: 65 (1966). Type: Cape, *Lalande* s.n. (P, lecto., PRE, photo.!).

12. *Protasparagus denudatus* (Kunth) Oberm., comb. nov.

Asparagopsis denudata Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 82 (1850). *Asparagus denudatus* (Kunth) Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 606 (1875). Type: Cape, Queenstown, Stormberg, *Drège* 3533 (BOL, lecto.).

13. **Protasparagus exuvialis** (*Burch.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus exuvialis Burch., Trav. 1: 432 (1822). Type: Along the Vaal River, Griqualand West, *Burchell* 1768 (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

14. **Protasparagus falcatus** (*L.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus falcatus L., Sp. Pl. 313 (1753). Type: Burman, Flora Zeylanica t. 13, f. 2 (1737), (iconotype!).

15. **Protasparagus glaucus** (*Kies*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus glaucus Kies in Bothalia 6: 229 fig. 5 (1954). Type: O.F.S. Fauresmith, *Kies* 340 (PRE, holo.).

16. **Protasparagus krebsianus** (*Kunth*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagopsis krebsiana Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 93 (1850). *Asparagus krebsianus* (Kunth) Jessop in Bothalia 9: 74 (1966). Type: Cape, without locality, *Krebs* s.n. (KIEL †; B†); E. Cape, Komga, *Flanagan* 2377 (PRE, neo.!: BOL; GRA).

17. **Protasparagus laricinus** (*Burch.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus laricinus Burch., Trav. 1: 537 (1822). Type: Hay, between Griquatown and Witte Water, *Burchell* 1971 (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

18. **Protasparagus macowanii** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus macowanii Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 609 (1875). Type: Cape, Albany, *Zeyher* 879 (K, lecto.; BOL!).

19. **Protasparagus microraphis** (*Kunth*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagopsis microraphis Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 83 (1850). *Asparagus microraphis* (Kunth) Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 612 (1875). Type: Queenstown, *Drège* 3534 (BOL! lecto.).

20. **Protasparagus minutiflorus** (*Kunth*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagopsis minutiflora Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 89 (1850). *Asparagus minutiflorus* (Kunth) Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 616 (1875). Type: Delagoa Bay, *Forbes* s.n. (B, holo., PRE, photo.!).

21. **Protasparagus multiflorus** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus multiflorus Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 610 (1875); Fl. Cap. 6: 261 (1896). Type: Somerset division, *Bowker* s.n. (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

22. **Protasparagus natalensis** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus aethiopicus L. var. *natalensis* Bak. *Asparagus falcatus* L. var. *ternifolius* sensu Jessop in Bothalia 9: 70 (1966). Type: Natal, Inanda, *Medley Wood* 1351 (K, holo., PRE, photo.!: NH!).

23. **Protasparagus nelsii** (*Schinz*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus nelsii Schinz in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 1, 4, app. III: 44 (1896). Type: S.W.A./Namibia, 'Hereroland', *Nels* 70 (Z, holo., PRE, photo.!).

24. **Protasparagus oxyacanthus** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus oxyacanthus Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 625 (1875). Type: Cape, Somerset East, *Bowker* s.n. (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

25. **Protasparagus pearsonii** (*Kies*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus pearsonii Kies in Bothalia 6: 179 (1951). Type: S.W.A., 10

km N of Ramans Drift, *Pearson* 4003 (K, holo.; SAM; PRE!).

26. **Protasparagus pilosus** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus pilosus Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 610 (1875). Type: Botswana, near Lake Ngami, *McCabe* 15 (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

27. **Protasparagus plumosus** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus plumosus Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 613 (1875). Types: Port Natal, *Drège* 4482 (K, syn., PRE, photo.!:); British Kaffraria, *Cooper* 202, partly (K, syn., PRE, photo.!:); Durban, *Gerrard & M'Ken* (TCD).

28. **Protasparagus racemosus** (*Willd.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus racemosus Willd., Sp. Pl. 2: 152 (1799). Type: India, in herb. Willdenow (B, holo., PRE, photo.!).

29. **Protasparagus retrofractus** (*L.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus retrofractus L., Sp. Pl. 313 (1753). Type: without locality or collector (LINN No. 434.4, holo., NBG, PRE, photo.!).

30. **Protasparagus rigidus** (*Jessop*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus rigidus Jessop in Bothalia 9: 64 (1966). Type: Transvaal, Mariëpskop, *Killick & Strey* 2380 (PRE, holo.!).

31. **Protasparagus rubicundus** (*Berg.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus rubicundus Berg., Pl. Cap. Bon. Spei: 88 (1767); Jessop in Bothalia 12: 60, fig. 9 (1960). Type: Caput Bonae Spei, comm. *Grubb* (SBT, holo.).

32. **Protasparagus schroederi** (*Engl.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus schroederi Engl. in Bot. Jb. 32: 97 (1902). Type: Togo Republic, Togo, *Schroeder* 20 (B, holo.).

33. **Protasparagus setaceus** (*Kunth*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagopsis setacea Kunth, Enum. 5: 82 (1850). *Asparagus setaceus* (Kunth) Jessop in Bothalia 9: 51 (1966). Types: Cape, George district, Karatara, *Drège* 8584 c in Herb. reg. Berol. (†) et Luc. (KIEL, lecto, PRE, photo.!) *Drège* 8584 b (K, PRE, photo.!).

34. **Protasparagus stellatus** (*Bak.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus stellatus Bak. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14: 612 (1875). Types: 'Albert Div.', *Cooper* 622 (K, syn., PRE, photo.!:); Aliwal North, Witteberge, *Drège* 8589 (K, syn., PRE, photo.!).

35. **Protasparagus stipulaceus** (*Lam.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus stipulaceus Lam., Encycl. 1: 297 (1783). Type: Cape, *Sonnerat* s.n. (P, holo., PRE, photo.!).

36. **Protasparagus striatus** (*L.f.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Dracaena striata L.f., Suppl. 204 (1781). *Asparagus striatus* (L.f.) Thunb., Prodr. 65 (1794). Type: Cape of Good Hope, without precise locality, *Thunberg* s.n. (UPS, holo., PRE, photo.!).

37. **Protasparagus suaveolens** (*Burch.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus suaveolens Burch., Trav. 2: 226 (1822). Type: Griquatown, *Burchell* 1956 (K, holo., PRE, photo.!).

38. **Protasparagus subulatus** (*Thunb.*) *Oberm.*, **comb. nov.**

Asparagus subulatus Thunb., Prodr. 66 (1794). Type: Cape of Good Hope, without precise locality, *Thunberg* (UPS, holo., BOL, PRE, photos.!).