



(1439) Proposal to Conserve the Name *Spartium capense* (Leguminosae) with a Conserved Type
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(1439) Proposal to conserve the name *Spartium capense* (Leguminosae) with a conserved typeGael J. Campbell-Young¹, Ben-Erik Van Wyk² & Nicholas Turland³(1439) *Spartium capense* L., Pl. Rar. Afr.: 14. 20 Dec 1760 [Legum.], *nom. cons. prop.*

Type: [South Africa, Western Cape Province, Cape Peninsula], “Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, c. 0.9 km from entrance gate on gravel slope along roadside near resting place”, 100 m, 10 Dec 1995, *Campbell & Van Wyk 151* (NBG; isotypes K, MO, PRE), *typ. cons. prop.*

The current and traditional usage of the name *Rafnia capensis* (L.) Schinz (in Bull. Herb. Boissier 2: 199. 1894), based on *Spartium capense*, is for a plant occurring in the Cape region of South Africa, with linear to lanceolate leaves and a truncate to emarginate keel. Another species, *R. angulata* Thunb. (Gen. Nov. Pl.: 147. 1800), has a distribution that largely coincides with that of *R. capensis* but has ericoid or linear to broadly obovate leaves and a distinctly beaked (rostrate), never truncate or emarginate keel. All the relevant original material of *S. capense* belongs to *R. angulata* as currently understood. The current usage of *R. capensis* can be traced to Schinz (l.c.) when he made his new combination and classified the corresponding species in *R. sect. Pelecynthis*, one of two sections characterised by a truncate keel. If *S. capense* were lectotypified (no formal designation of lectotype could be traced), the species currently known as *R. capensis* would have to take the earliest available legitimate name, *R. retroflexa* Thunb. (l.c.: 148), whereas the species currently known as *R. angulata* would have to be called *R. capensis* – although Art. 57 of the *Code* could prevent this second change for the time being, because the combination based on the Linnaean name has been widely and persistently applied to a taxon not including its type. We therefore propose that *S. capense* be conserved with a new type in order to protect the current usage of both *R. capensis* and *R. angulata*.

Linnaeus, in the protologue of *Spartium capense* (as ‘*Spatium capense*’), provided a new diagnostic phrase name and a short description. He also cited a synonym from Burman (Cat. Pl. Afr.: 11. 1737), which was published without an illustration. A search of the Linnaean herbaria traced the specimens Herb. Linn. No. 895.23 (LINN), annotated with “*capense*” by Linnaeus (later deleted and with “*opposita*” added by Linnaeus filius), and No. 297.19 (S), annotated with “*Spartium capense*” by Linnaeus. There are also two relevant specimens studied by Linnaeus in Herb. Burman (G). All four specimens belong to *Rafnia angulata* as currently understood. (The “*opposita*” on the sheet at LINN refers to *Liparia opposita* L., Mant. Pl. Alt.: 269. 1771, an illegitimate renaming of *S. capense*.) A further sheet at LINN, Herb. Linn. No. 895.22, annotated with “*Spartium capense*” by Linnaeus (later deleted and with “*opposita*” added by his son), comprises two specimens, the right-hand

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one *R. angulata* and the left-hand one *R. capensis*. Unfortunately the latter is ineligible for designation as the lectotype of *S. capense* because both specimens are numbered collections from Tulbagh which can be correlated with a list received by Linnaeus (now at LINN) around 1769, long after the publication of the name in 1760, and hence could not have played any part in Linnaeus's original concept of the taxon.

Rafnia capensis and *R. angulata* have been used in the traditional sense described above in at least 34 publications, for example Polhill (in *Bot. Syst.* 1: 359. 1976), Bond & Goldblatt (in *J. S. African Bot.*, Suppl. 13: 297. 1984), Richardson & al. (in *Proc. Electron Microscop. Soc. S. Africa* 14: 71-72. 1984), Germishuizen (in Gibbs-Russel & al., *List Sp. S. African Pl.* 2: 75. 1987; and in Arnold & De Wet, *Pl. S. Africa, Names & Distrib.*: 374. 1993), Van Wyk & Verdoorn (in *S. African J. Bot.* 55: 520-522. 1989), Richardson & Cross (in *Scan. Microscop.* 5: 1165-1171. 1991), and Southon (*Phytochem. Dict. Legum.*, 1: 593-594. 1994). *R. angulata* is also used by Levyns (*Guide Fl. Cape Penins.*, ed. 2: 167. 1966), Maytham-Kidd (*S. African Wild Fl. Guide 3, Cape Penins.*: 74. 1983), Hoffman & Mitchell (in *S. African J. Bot.* 52: 316-320. 1986), and Manning & Goldblatt (*S. African Wild Fl. Guide 7, W. Coast*: 126-127. 1996).

In view of the taxonomic confusion that would result if this proposal were to fail (when Art. 57 would no longer protect *Rafnia angulata* from being displaced by *R. capensis* upon the lectotypification of *Spartium capense*), it seems most desirable to conserve the name *S. capense*, as proposed here, with a conserved type chosen from material undoubtedly agreeing with the current usage of the name.

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