

**A NEW TAXON AND A NEW COMBINATION
IN AFRICAN LEGUMINOSAE - PAPILIONOIDEAE**

by

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Work on the subfamily Leguminosae-Papilionoideae for the Flora of Tropical East Africa is largely completed. New taxa, combinations and revisions concerning the tribes Hedysareae, Vicieae and Phaseoleae are embodied in a lengthy paper due to appear in parts, which has so far been held up due to reasons beyond my control. Unfortunately it is not possible to incorporate the results of all this work in the Papilionaceae for the Prodromus of a Flora of South West Africa being prepared by Dr. A. Schreiber. The genus *Dolichos* is to be divided but I do not wish to publish preliminary new combinations out of context; moreover a nomenclatural problem still remains to be decided by the Spermatophyta Committee (see proposal 220 in Taxon 17: 172 (1968)). At this stage I think it best to use *Dolichos* in the broad sense.

There is, however, one new combination which can be published preliminarily.

Dolichos junodii (Harms) Verdc., comb. nov.

Vigna junodii Harms in Engl., Bot. Jahrb. 30: 93 (1901).

This is a "problem species" in that it shows the characteristic flattened spatulate style tip of the genus *Sphenostylis* but differs from that genus in habit, leaf texture and particularly in the pod. It definitely does not belong in *Sphenostylis* and I believe that the flattened style tip has evolved independently in both. The general facies of the plant is clearly that of *Dolichos* L. sensu stricto (as typified by me in Taxon 17: 172 (1968)) and I

believe it should be transferred to that genus. The lack of a tenous lower part to the style, pollen and other characters exclude it from *Vigna*. It is a plant of sandy areas and few specimens seem to have been collected during the hundred years or so since its first discovery by KIRK. Material has been seen from Mozambique, Botswana and South West Africa and will be cited at length in the longer paper.

The following preliminary diagnosis of a new subspecies of *Abrus* is also made at the request of Dr. A. Schreiber. In the longer paper mentioned I have made a complete new revision of this genus since I was dissatisfied with the recent one published by F. J. BRETELIER. A survey of *Abrus precatorius* L. throughout its range indicates that there is sufficient difference between the pods of the African and Indian populations to justify subspecific segregation.

Abrus precatorius L., Syst. Nat. 2: 472 (1767)

subsp. *africanus* Verdc. subsp. nov.

A subsp. *precatorio* leguminibus brevioribus muriculatis differt.

A. minor Desv., Ann. Sci. Nat. 9: 418 (1826).

A. squamulosus E. Mey., Comm. Pl. Afr. Austr. 1: 126 (1836).

A. tunguensis Lima in Broteria, Sér. Bot. 19: 127 (1921).

A. cyaneus Viguiet in Not. Syst. 14: 172 (1952) pro parte
(detached fruits on sheet)

Type: Kenya, Tana River District: Kurawa, 48 km S. of Garsen, 7. X. 1961, POLHILL & PAULO 628 (K, holotype; EA, isotype).

Distribution: Widespread throughout tropical Africa, Seychelles, Madagascar and Mauritius; also introduced into Australia and the New World.



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