



Hymenolepis glabra (Anthemideae, Asteraceae), a new species from the Little Karoo (South Africa)

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Abstract

Hymenolepis glabra Magoswana & Magee (Asteraceae, tribe Anthemideae) is a new species from the Little Karoo, within the Greater Cape Floristic Region of South Africa, bringing the number of recognised species in the genus to nine. The species shares the glabrous involucre and open, doubly compound corymbs with *H. crithmifolia* and *H. indivisa* but is distinguished by the erect to suberect, 2- or 3-sect leaves, entire towards the synflorescence, and the complete lack of vestiture. The new species is described, and the existing key to the species is updated.

Key words: Athanasinae; Compositae; Greater Cape Floristic Region; *Hymenolepis crithmifolia*; *Hymenolepis indivisa*; quartzitic soil; rare; taxonomy

Introduction

The shrubby genus *Hymenolepis* Cassini (1817: 138) (Asteraceae: tribe Anthemideae) was recently revised by Magoswana & Magee (2014), who recognised eight species, all endemic to the Greater Cape Floristic Region of South Africa. *Hymenolepis* is closely related to the much larger genus *Athanasia* Linnaeus (1753: 1180) (Källersjö 1991, Powell & Magee 2013) but is distinguished by the narrower, few-flowered capitula, a pappus of lanceolate scales (absent in *H. calva*) and the thin, weakly sclerified pericarp (Källersjö 1985, Magoswana & Magee 2014). Both genera are placed within the early diverging, southern African-centred subtribe Athanasinae (Oberprieler *et al.* 2007).

Here we describe a ninth species, discovered during a survey of the farm Koktyls near Barrydale in the Little Karoo. As only a single specimen of this taxon was available to us at the time of our revision of the genus (Magoswana & Magee 2014), it was treated as an atypical specimen of *H. crithmifolia*. However, with the additional collections it has become clear that the material represents an undescribed species. This is the second new species of *Hymenolepis* from the Little Karoo region (Magoswana & Magee 2014), an area with an estimated 3 200 known species of which about 15% are endemic (Vlok & Schutte-Vlok 2010).

Updated key to the species (adapted from Magoswana & Magee 2014)

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|----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | Involucral bracts glabrous | 2 |
| 1. | Involucral bracts sericeous | 5 |
| 2. | Synflorescence a congested corymb with peduncles obscured; leaves ≤ 20 mm long | <i>H. dentata</i> |
| 2. | Synflorescence an open, doubly compound corymb with visible peduncles; leaves ≥ 30 mm long | 3 |
| 3. | Leaves linear and undivided; restricted to the Eastern Cape | <i>H. indivisa</i> |
| 3. | Leaves variously 2- or 3-sect to pinnatisect, sometimes entire towards synflorescence; restricted to Northern and Western Cape ... | 4 |
| 4. | Leaves spreading, pinnatisect with 5 to 9 lobes; branches and young leaves sparsely covered in short white hairs | <i>H. crithmifolia</i> |
| 4. | Leaves erect or suberect, mostly 2- or 3-sect, sometimes entire towards synflorescence; all parts glabrous | <i>H. glabra</i> |