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The identity of *Ceropegia tanzaniensis* Peckover (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae)

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Summary. *Ceropegia tanzaniensis* Peckover is shown to be synonymous with *C. cordiloba* Werderm.

Key Words. Nomenclature, synonymy.

Introduction

Ralph Peckover (2019) described *Ceropegia tanzaniensis* Peckover as a new species, based on a single collection from the Njombe region of southern Tanzania (Fig. 1). He compared it with *C. papillata* N.E.Br. (Brown 1898), from which it differs in possessing flowers of a different colour, with more broadly expanded corolla lobe apices which form an umbrella-like structure, and the more deeply fused cupular corona.

Peckover seems to have overlooked the existence of *Ceropegia cordiloba* Werderm. (Werdermann 1939), described from the same region of southern Tanzania, and which was later treated as *C. papillata* var. *cordiloba* (Werderm.) H.Huber in Huber's monograph of the genus (Huber 1958). The corollas of the two varieties were illustrated with tiny line drawings (Huber 1958: tab. IX, fig. 127a & b). A much clearer and more informative illustration of this taxon showing several of the diagnostic characters outlined by Peckover appears in *Flowering Plants of Africa* (Bally 1976: plate 1716).

Peter Bally had acquired living material from Edgar Milne-Redhead, who made herbarium collections from the Matengo Hills in Songea District of southern Tanzania in 1956 (*Milne-Redhead & Taylor* 8898 & 8898A), now deposited at Kew. Bally cultivated the material in his garden in Nairobi and made a line drawing of the corolla, corona and leaf in 1957, which is now attached to one of the sheets of this collection at Kew (K001291897). This drawing was worked up into a more complete plate in 1958 which is now in South Africa's National Herbarium in Pretoria (PREART0002918) and is reproduced here as Fig. 2. It was published eventually in 1976 in an issue of *Flowering Plants of Africa* alongside accounts of several other asclepiads from eastern and southern Africa.

Ceropegia cordiloba is currently recognised again at specific rank (Goyder *et al.* 2012: 235) and has been recorded from the Nguru Mountains north of Morogoro, the Livingstone Mountains SW of Njombe and the Matengo Hills which form the escarpment above Lake Malawi a little further to the south. The newly proposed synonymy is outlined below.

Taxonomic Treatment

Ceropegia cordiloba *Werderm.* (Werderman 1939: 209). Type: Tanzania, "Matingo-Hochland, westsüdwestlich von Songea, auf buschigen und felsigen Abhängen bei Litembo", 16 Feb. 1936, *Zerny* 438 (holotype B†; isotype P! [P00109660]).

Ceropegia papillata N.E.Br. var. *cordiloba* (Werderm.) H.Huber (1958: 152).

Ceropegia tanzaniensis Peckover (2019: 174), **synon. nov.** Type: Cult. South Africa, *Peckover* 291 (holotype PRU! [PRU122477]) ex Tanzania, Njombe Region, Mlangali village, Feb. 2015, *Specks* 20603 sub "*Ceropegia* sp. nova. aff. *papillata* 8235 Mlangali" (Peckover 2019: 174).

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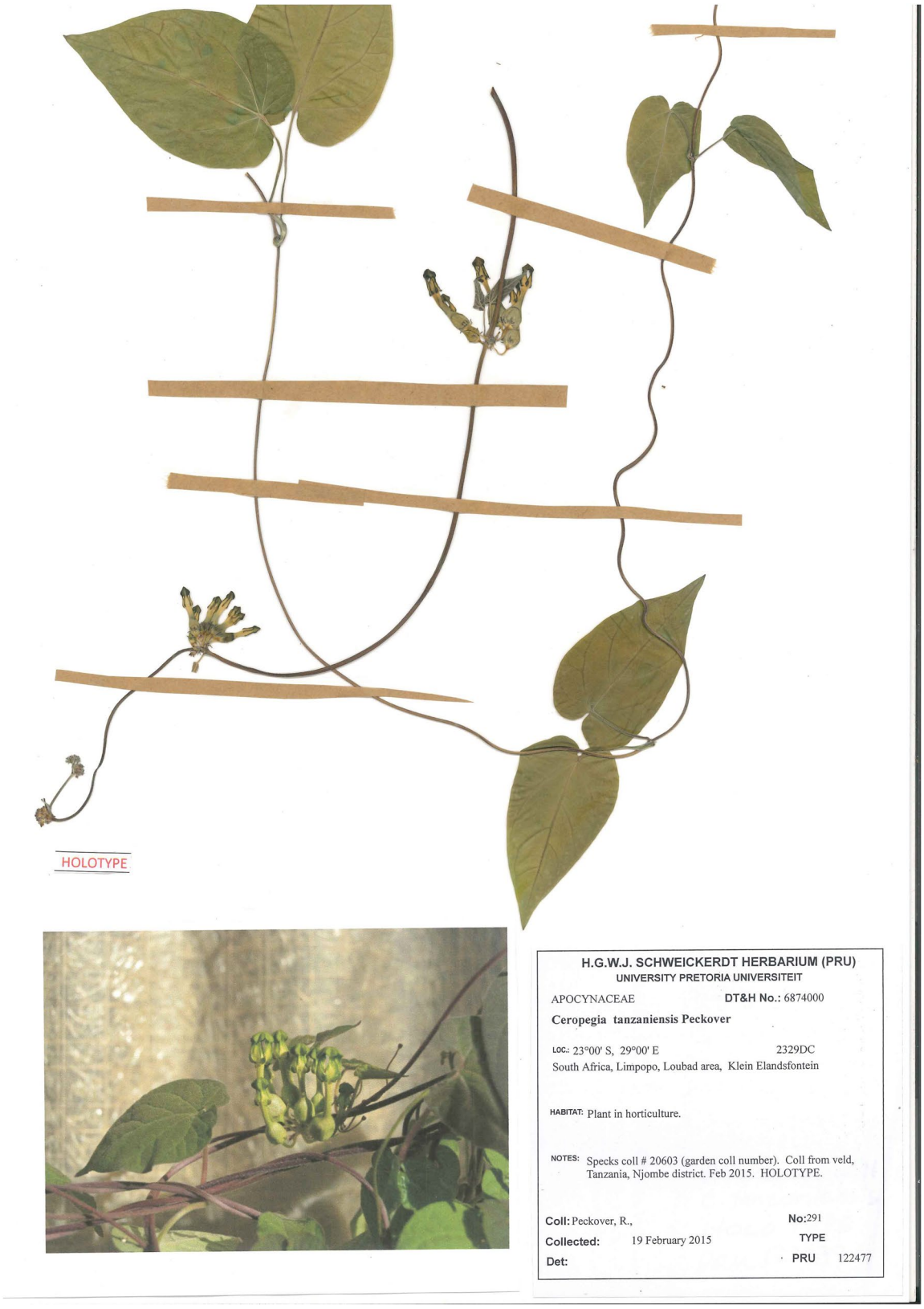


Fig. 1. Holotype of *Ceropegia tanzaniensis* Peckover in the H. G. W. J. Schweickerdt Herbarium (PRU).

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Fig. 2. Peter Bally's original illustration of *Ceropegia cordiloba* which was subsequently published as Plate 1716 of *Flowering Plants of Africa* under the name *C. papillata* var. *cordiloba*. Reproduced by permission of the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

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Declarations

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