

## Taxonomic Notes

Name change: *Pelargonium minimum* (Geraniaceae), the correct name for *P. fumarioides*

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*Pelargonium minimum* (Cav.) Willd. is the correct name for what was previously known as *Pelargonium fumarioides* L' Hérit. ex Harvey.

*Pelargonium minimum* (Cav.) Willd. is die korrekte naam vir wat voorheen bekend was as *Pelargonium fumarioides* L' Hérit. ex Harvey.

**Keywords:** Geraniaceae, name change, *Pelargonium*

The currently used name *Pelargonium fumarioides* L' Hérit. ex Harvey was found not to be the oldest. The correct name for this species is:

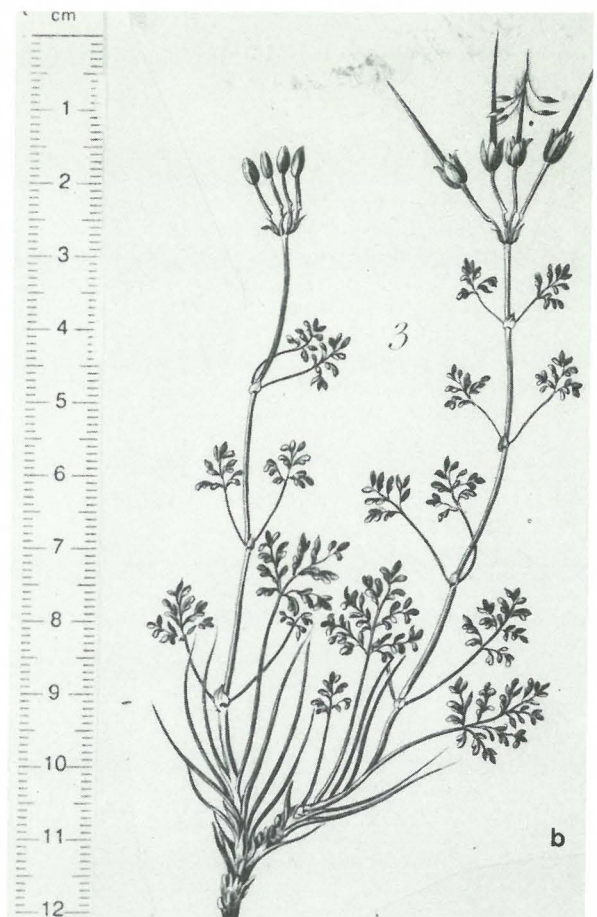
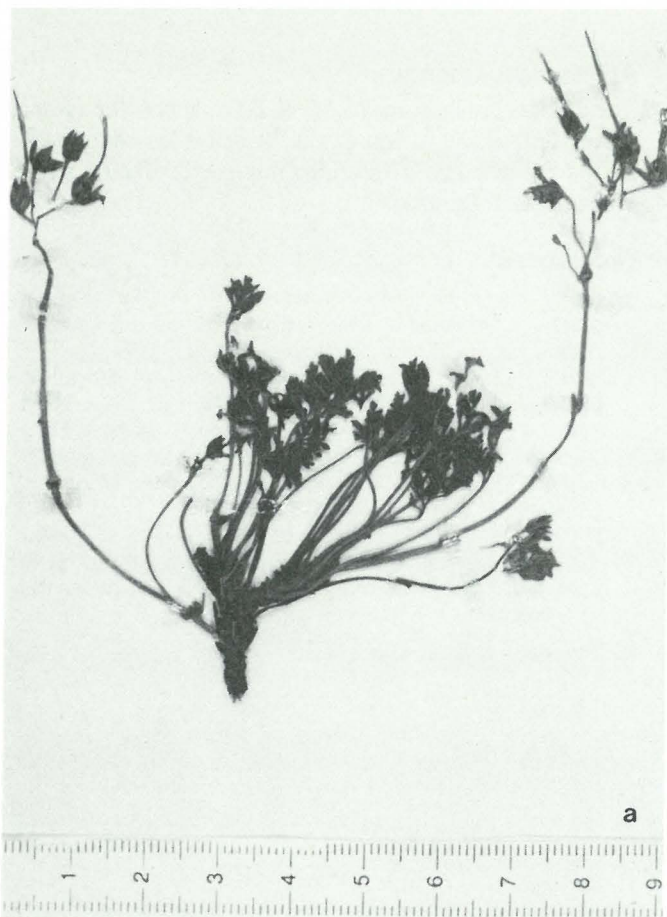
***Pelargonium minimum* (Cav.) Willd.**, Caroli a Linné species plantarum . . . 4th edn, Vol. 3: 664 (1800).

*Geranium minimum* Cav.: 260, t. 121.3 (1787); Thunb.: 116 (1794). Type: Cape, 'ad Caput Bonae Spei', Thunberg [MA, holo.!; ? UPS (fide Juel: 203 (1918), not seen)].

*Pelargonium capnoides* L' Hérit: 42 (1802). Based on *Geranium minimum* Cav.

*Pelargonium fumarioides* L' Hérit. ex Harvey: 290 (1860); Knuth: 415 (1912); syn. nov. Syntypes: Cape, 'between Beaufort and Graaf Reynet', Ecklon & Zeyher 568 (S!); 'Bitterfontein', Zeyher 161 (MEL!; S!; Z!); 'Nieuweveldsberg, Sneeuweberg, 6000 f.', Drège (not seen); 'near the Gareep', Drège (S!); 'Graaf Reynet', Barber [129] (GRA!; TCD); [Caledon River], Zeyher 159 (S!).

For some reason known only to himself, Knuth (l.c.) included the older name *P. minimum* in the synonymy of *P. fumarioides*. Comparison of the holotype specimen of *Geranium minimum* with the syntypes of *P. fumarioides* revealed that the two are conspecific. It should be noted though that the holotype of *G. minimum* is neither very ample nor very typical of the species, and the illustration in Cavanilles (l.c.) (see my Figure 1b) which is obviously based on it, exaggerates the length of the peduncles. The type specimen is atypical in that the hypanthium is developed to an unusual length (as also shown in Cavanilles' illustration). A superficially similar species, *P. pseudofumarioides* Knuth, does have such a well-developed hypanthium, but examination of a selection of specimens of both species (including types) led to the conclusion that *P. minimum* is conspecific with *P. fumarioides* rather than with *P. pseudofumarioides*. The reasons for this decision are:



**Figure 1** *Pelargonium minimum*: (a) holotype specimen of *Geranium minimum* (Thunberg s.n. in MA); (b) illustration of the type specimen which accompanied Cavanilles' original description [Diss. 4: t. 121.3 (1787)]. Both life size.

1. The non-glandular trichomes on the sepals are uniformly short instead of a mixture of long and short trichomes as in *P. pseudofumarioides*.
2. The pseudo-umbels are 4-flowered. In *P. fumarioides* the pseudo-umbels consist of up to 5 (rarely 8) flowers, while in *P. pseudofumarioides* the number is 7–13.
3. The peduncles are 9–11 mm long. This falls within the range recorded for *P. fumarioides* (5–10, rarely up to 15 mm), in contrast to *P. pseudofumarioides* where the peduncle varies between 25 and 80 mm in length.
4. The plant is small and compact, while plants of *P. pseudofumarioides* are larger and more lax with long branches.
5. *P. fumarioides* is widely distributed throughout the drier southern South West Africa/Namibia, the Orange Free State, the whole Cape Province, and the southern Transvaal where it occurs in the same general area as *P. pseudofumarioides*; whereas *P. pseudofumarioides* is restricted to the cooler and moister southern Transvaal and the inland parts of Natal and northern Transkei. Though not impossible, it seems unlikely that material of *P. pseudofumarioides* would have reached Europe by 1787.

As future students of *Pelargonium* may not have ready access to the type of *P. minimum*, a photograph is reproduced here (Figure 1a).

#### Acknowledgements

The Instituto Botanico Cavanilles, Madrid, graciously lent me the type of *Geranium minimum* for study. The continuing financial support by the University of Stellenbosch and the C.S.I.R. to Prof. J.J.A. van der Walt is herewith acknowledged.

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## *Fuirena obcordata* (Cyperaceae): A correction

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In order to validate publication of the name, *Fuirena obcordata* P.L. Forbes, an error in a previous paper is corrected and a Latin diagnosis is supplied.

Om die publikasie van die naam, *Fuirena obcordata* P.L. Forbes, geldig te maak is 'n fout in 'n vorige publikasie verbeter, en 'n Latynse diagnose word aangebied.

**Keywords:** Cyperaceae, *Fuirena*, taxonomy

*Fuirena obcordata* P.L. Forbes was published as an avowed substitute (*nomen novum*) in a recent paper (Forbes 1986). As this name is a replacement, however, for the misapplied name, *F. microlepis sensu* C.B. Clarke in *Flora Capensis* 7: 262 (1898) *non* Kunth, the requirements of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature for valid publication have not been satisfied. According to Article 33.3, Note 1 (ICBN 1978, 1983), it should have been treated as a new species and a Latin diagnosis should have been supplied. The correction is made below.

***Fuirena obcordata* P.L. Forbes, sp. nov.** *F. hirsuta* (Berg.) P.L. Forbes affinis sed squamellis hypogynis obcordatis brevistipitatis, achenio substipitato brevirostri, cellulis extimis achenii amplis subhexagonis differt; a *F. umbellata* Rottb. laminis foliorum uninerviis (nec quinquenerviis), culmis trigonis (nec pentagonis) praecipue distinguenda.

TYPUS. — Port Natal, *Drège* 4339 (P, holotypus)

#### Acknowledgement

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#### Reference

- FORBES, P.L. 1986. Studies in Cyperaceae in southern Africa: 12. A new specific name in *Fuirena* Rottb. *S. Afr. J. Bot.* 52: 237–240.