# THE DELIMITATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HELIOPHILA BRACHYCARPA AND TWO RELATED SPECIES (BRASSICACEAE)

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**Abstract.** Typification of *Heliophila brachycarpa*, *H. florulenta*, *H. glauca*, and *H. sclerophylla* is established. The second species has been erroneously synonymized with the first for the past 50 years, and the first three are recognized as distinct, whereas the last is reduced to synonymy of the third.

Keywords: Brassicaceae, Cruciferae, Heliophila, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland.

The genus *Heliophila* L. (Brassicaceae or Cruciferae) includes 81 species (BrassiBase, 2019) all of which are native to South Africa (65 spp. endemic), with 16 species also native to Namibia (12 spp.), Lesotho (5 spp.), and Swaziland (1 sp.; author's compilation). In his excellent account of the genus for the floras of these countries, Marais (1970) recognized 71 species in *Heliophila*, two each in *Cycloptychis* E. Mey. ex Sond. and *Thlaspeocarpa* C.A. Sm., and one each in *Brachycarpaea* DC., *Schlechteria* Bolus, and *Silicularia* Compton. Based on molecular phylogenetic studies on this complex of six genera by Mummenhoff et al. (2005), the last five genera were united by Al-Shehbaz et al. (2005) into a more inclusive *Heliophila* s.l.

The present author has been involved in the past decade in monographing Heliophila s.l. in its entire range. As a result of examining well over 10,000 specimens on loan, many novelties are discovered and a large number of nomenclatural adjustments are needed. These will be published in separate papers. However, the present article deals with resolving the circumscription of four closely related species described in the nineteenth century. The first (*H. glauca* Burch. ex DC.) was described by de Candolle (1821), the next two (H. sarcophylla Meisn. and H. brachycarpa Meisn.) by Meisner (1842), and the last (*H. florulenta* Sond.) by Sonder (1846). Some duplicates of the type collections of all four species and their varieties were not examined, but their digital images were carefully checked in JSTOR (2019). Marais (1970) examined only the type collections at K, PRE, and SAM and did not study those of the two species described by Meisner (1842). As a result, the delimitations two of the three species below differ significantly from the conclusions reached by Marais. Meisner's types were not identified prior to the present study, and their images (Fig. 1-2) are shown here for the first time. Because the limits of H. florulenta and H. brachycarpa have been confused since the account of Marais some fifty years ago, detailed descriptions and examined specimens are given below for the three species recognized.

**1.** *Heliophila glauca* Burch. ex DC., Syst. Nat. 2: 690. 1821. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Eastern Cape: Nelson Mandela Bay, Uitenhage, between Galgebos and Melk

River, 17 February 1814, W. J. Burchell 4782 (holotype: K [000230569]; isotype: G [00207088].

Homotypic synonym: *Heliophila glauca* var. *candida* DC., Syst. Nat. 2: 690. 1821.

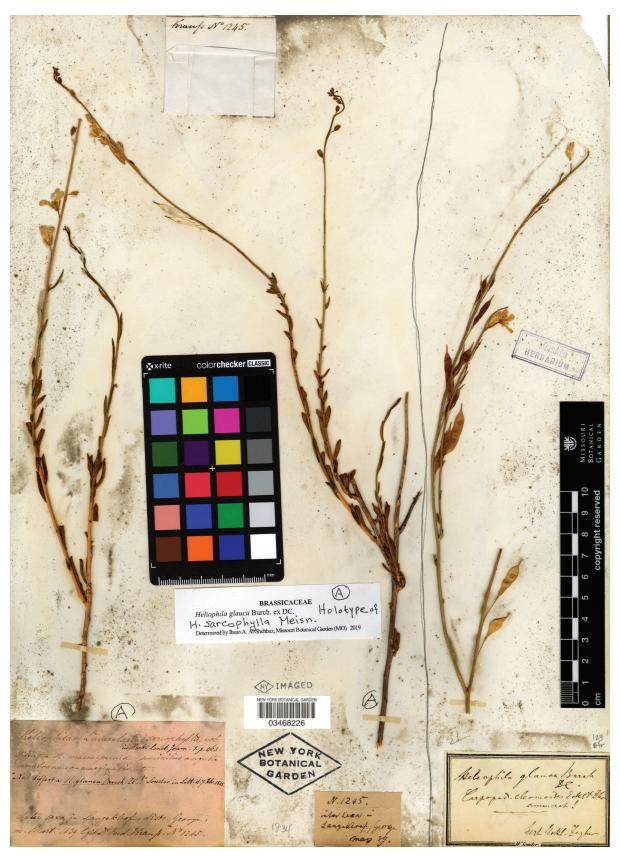
Heterotypic synonyms: *Heliophila glauca* var. *purpurascens* DC., Syst. Nat. 2: 690. 1821. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape: Garden Route, George, Uniondale, 14 March 1814, *W. J. Burchell* 4969 (holotype: K [000230571]; isotypes: G [00207088], PRE [0408604-0, image seen].

Heliophila sarcophylla Meisn., London J. Bot. 1: 463. 1842. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape: Garden Route, George, Langkloof, 1 March 1839, *C. F. F. Von Krauss 1245* (holotype: NY [03468226]; isotypes: BAS [image seen], FI [005684, image seen], M [0108058], TUB [000635, 000636, images seen], W [0009170]. Fig. 1.

Plants subshrubs or shrubs, glaucous. Trichomes absent. Stems woody at least along lower parts, 40-200 cm tall, smooth, terete, erect to ascending, virgate, simple or branched, glabrous. Leaves cauline, fleshy; petiole absent; blade simple, oblong to narrowly lanceolate, 0.8–1.5 cm × 1.5-4.0 mm, entire, unsegmented, minutely auriculate at base, without a pair stipule-like glands at node, glabrous, base articulate, not decurrent. Racemes terminal, lax, 15–35-flowered, elongated in fruit, not secund; rachis straight, glabrous; fruiting pedicels without a pair of basal bract-like glands, articulate at base, glabrous, slender, erect and subappressed to rachis, straight, persistent, lowermost 5–11(–14) mm long; buds oblong. Sepals ascending, oblong, 4.0-6.5 mm long, glabrous, caducous, lateral strongly saccate at base, median not saccate, all cucullate. Petals purple, mauve, or white, obovate,  $7-12(-14) \times (3-)4-6(-14)$ 8) mm, ascending, rounded at apex, unappendaged, not papillate; claw 0.5–1.0 mm long. Stamens tetradynamous; filaments 2.5–7.0 mm long, glabrous, unappendaged; anthers oblong, 1.5-2.0 mm long, not apiculate at apex. Nectar glands lateral, lunar, median glands absent. Ovary glabrous; ovules 4-10 per ovary. Fruit dehiscent silique, capsular, narrowly oblong or subelliptic, (0.9-)1.5-2.8(-3.5) cm × 3.5–5.0 mm, latiseptate, glabrous, not moniliform, straight along replum, smooth, erect and appressed to rachis; valves

I am grateful to the directors, curators, and collection managers of the herbaria cited herein.

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 $\label{eq:figure 1.1} \textit{Holotype of $Heliophila sarcophylla Meisn.} \ (\textit{C.F.F. Von Krauss 1245}, NY).$ 

papery, coarsely reticulate veined, midvein distinct, margin not thickened; gynophore 0.2–1.0 mm long; style in fruit 2–6 mm long, cylindric tapering to apex, stout, glabrous; stigma entire. *Seeds* uniseriate, suborbicular, flattened, margined, 2.5–4.0 mm in diam.

**Phenology:** flowering August–April.

**Habitat:** well-drained clay stony grounds, rocky ridges, fynbos vegetation; 450–1590 m.

**Distribution:** South Africa, Western Cape (Cape Winelands, Central Karoo, and Garden Route districts) and Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman districts).

Additional specimens examined: SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape: Cape Winelands, Langeberg, Witberg, E of Robinson Pass, G. C. Matthews 1236 (PRE). Garden Route, Kannaland [Calitzdrop], Rooiberg Pass, J. P. H. Acocks 20391 (BM, K, M, PRE, W), J. M. Wurts 1635 (NBG); N side of Rooiberg Mts., Mauve et al. 42 (MO, NBG, W); Klein Swartberg, J. M. Wurts 1514 (NBG); Rooiberg, J. M. Wurts 1306 (NBG), H. C. Taylor 9627 (NBG); Rooiberg, Bailey Peak, J. J. Meyer 437 (PRE), J. Volk 1786 (NBG), E. G. H. Oliver 5454 (K, NBG), M. F. Thompson 3352 (PRE); Touwsberg, D. J. McDonald 2369, 2448 (NBG), J. M. Wurts 1356 (NBG); Gamke Mt. Reserve, slopes of Paddafluitjieskloof, Erasmus 131 (NBG); N slope of Gamka Mts, A. F. Boshoff P174 (NBG); Klein Karoo, Gamka Mt. Reserve, P. & J. Cattell 43 (BOL), R. Allarice 1698 (NBG). Hessequa [Riversdale], Muiskraal, E. E. Galpin 3742 (PRE); Little Karoo, N slopes of Touwsberg, above farm Miskraal, G. A. Verboom 7 (BOL). George [Uniondale], Uniondale: 4 miles NW of Joubertina, J. P. H. Acocks 20023 (PRE); Misgund hills, E. Esterhuysen 6942 (BOL, K, NBG), H. G. Fourcade 4241 (K). Oudtshoorn: Roodeberg, Bond 222 (NBG); N side of Outeniqua Mts. near Moeras River, E. Esterhuysen 19459 (BOL). Central Karoo, Laingsburg, Anysberg, E. Esterhuysen 32859 (BOL, MO). Eastern Cape: Nelson Mandela Bay [Uitenhage], Loeri- and Camtoursrivier, C. F. Ecklon & C. L. P. Zeyher 102 (B, C, K, M, MO). Sarah Baartman, Dr Beyers Naudé [Willowmore], Antoniesberg, P. A. Bean & J. H. T. Volk 2045 (BOL); Kouga Mountains, Willowmore, H. C. Taylor 898 (NBG). Kouga [Humansdrop]: Witelsbos, H. G. Fourcade 2106 (PRE); Bo-Kouga, off Long Kloof, R. D. A. Bayliss 7124 (G, M, MO, NY, UC); Patensie Hills, W. F. Barker 7901 (NBG); Kouga Mts., above Geelhoutboskloof, P. A. Bean 1090 (B, MO, NBG); Kouga Mts. near Enselandkop, J. Volk 948 (MO).

The holotype of *Heliophila sarcophylla* consists or two branches on the left of sheet with a small label in the middle handwritten by Krauss and a fully detailed label on the left hand written by Meisner. The FI and M sheets of the type collection lack the collection number, but all of the other gathering data are identical to that of the holotype and, therefore, they are recognized here as isotypes.

As indicated by Stafleu and Cowan (1981), Meisner's herbarium is housed in NY, not BAS where he worked most of his life. His label of the species reads: "Heliophila (Lanceolaria) sarcophylla nob[is] in Hook. Lond. Journ.

1: p. 463. Differt a H. macrosperma seminibus angusta membranaceo-marginatis, etc. Non differt a H. glauca Burch DC.! Sonder in Litt. D. 7 Febr. 1845."

A controversial specimen of Krauss in the Bernhardi Herbarium, MO [1925794], has a label that reads "N. 1245. *Heliophila sarcophylla* n.sp. Meiss. In Landekloof, George, Mart." The label is identical to that of the holotype the above, but the plant definitely belongs to *H. florulenta*. Clearly, there is a mix-up of the label and the plant, and the specimen is not a type material of any taxon. It has the characteristic gland pairs at the bases of leaves and pedicels that *H. glauca* (including *H. sarcophylla*) lacks.

Heliophila glauca is easily distinguished among the shrubby members by having articulate leaves and fruiting pedicels lacking the basal pair of glands, minutely auriculate leaves, fruit and fruiting pedicels appressed to rachis, and narrowly oblong to subelliptic fruit.

**2.** Heliophila florulenta Sond., Abh. Naturwiss. Verein Hamburg 1: 263. 1846. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Eastern Cape: Zwartkopsrivier, 1829, *C. F. Ecklon* (lectotype designated by Nordenstam (1980: 262): S [G8767]; isolectotypes: B [100153871, 100299439], C, GOET [002608, image seen], K, M [0108069], MO [925695], P [00739548], PRC [451618], PRE, SAM [0028064-0], UPS, W [0009167, 18890303895]).

Heterotypic synonym: *Heliophila florulenta* var. *obliqua* E.Mey. ex Sond., Abh. Naturwiss. Verein Hamburg 1: 263. 1846. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Eastern Cape: Witpoortberg, *J. F. Drège s.n.* (lectotype designated by Nordenstam (1980: 262): S [G8766]; isolectotypes: B [100153870], P [05445366, 00739545], PRE [0408614-0,0408615-0, images seen], W [0009168]).

Plants shrubs or small trees, glaucous. Trichomes papillate on stamens and petal claws, absent elsewhere. Stems woody, 0.5-2.2 m tall, striate, ridged and with contiguous papilla-like tubercles, erect to ascending, branched above, glabrous. Leaves cauline, fleshy; petiole undifferentiated; blade simple, linear to oblanceolate,  $1.5-5.0 \text{ cm} \times 1-4 \text{ mm}$ , entire, not auriculate at base, with a pair stipule-like subulate glands at node, glabrous, base decurrent, apex attenuate into pointed apicula. Racemes terminal on lateral branches, corymbose, 5-30-flowered, elongated slightly and remaining subcorymbose in fruit, not secund; rachis straight, papillate or smooth; fruiting pedicels with a pair of basal bract-like glands, not articulate at base, glabrous, slender or slightly stout, much expanded at receptacle, ascending to divaricate, straight, persistent, lowermost 5-10(-15) mm long; buds oblong. Sepals erect to ascending, oblong, 3-5 mm long, glabrous, caducous, lateral pair strongly saccate at base, median not saccate, all not cucullate. Petals white to creamy white, obovatespatulate,  $6-8 \times 1.0-2.5$  mm, ascending, rounded at apex, unappendaged; claw 2-4 mm long, strongly differentiated from blade, papillate. *Stamens* subequal; filaments 3.5–5.0 mm long, densely papillate at least along proximal half or third, unappendaged; anthers oblong, 0.6-0.8 mm long, not apiculate at apex. Nectar glands lateral, lunar; median

glands absent. *Ovary* glabrous; ovules 4–6 per ovary. *Fruit* dehiscent silique, capsular, elliptic-lanceolate, 2.0–3.7 cm  $\times$  (3.0–)4.5–6.0 mm, latiseptate, glabrous, not moniliform, straight along replum, smooth, ascending to divaricate; valves papery, midvein and lateral veins prominent, forming a reticulum, margin not thickened, apex attenuate into style; gynophore (0.5–)1.0–3.0 mm long; style in fruit (0.7–)1.0–2.0(-2.7) mm long, attenuate, glabrous; stigma entire. *Seeds* uniseriate, suborbicular, flattened, minutely reticulate, wingless, not margined, 2.5–4.0 mm in diam.

**Phenology:** flowering in July through August, rarely as early as May or as late as December.

**Habitat:** barren mountain slopes, scrubland, sandy soil on rocky ridge, rocky loams soil in arid fynbos; 50–1200 m.

**Distribution:** South Africa, Western Cape (Garden Route District) and Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman disricts).

Additional specimens examined: SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape: Garden Route, Mossel Bay, Hounslow Farm, ridge after Brakriver, *T. Dold & A. D. Booi 380* (GRA, NGB). Eastern Cape: Nelson Mandela Bay, Port Elizabeth, *J. F. Drège 9283* (PRE), *J. F. Drège 1711* (SAM), *R. Marloth 1703* (E); New Brighton, near Port Elizabeth, *E. West 312* (BOL). Sarah Baartman, Dr Beyers Naudé, Steytlerville, 10 miles from Steytlerville on Mt. Steaward Rd, *R. Storey 2490* (PRE); 25 miles E of Willowmore, *R. H. Compton 19649* (BOL, NBG). Makana, Coombes Valley, *R. D. A. Bayliss 4314* (NBG, UC). Kouga [Humansdrop], Lower Papiesfontein, *R. M. Cowling 776* (GRA); W bank of Gamloos River, near Hankey, *H. G. Fourcade 2272* (K).

Sonder (1846) listed two collections by Ecklon and Zeyher from Zwartkopsrivier and Bethelsdrop. However, as indicated by Nordenstam (1980), both collections were distributed mixed in all isolectotype sheets as *Ecklon & Zeyher 101*, and it is impossible to tell which specimen on a given sheet belongs to which locality.

Sonder (1846) had an isotype of Heliophila brachycarpa in his herbarium and recognized the species as distinct from the material he described in the same work as *H. florulenta*. Indeed, he placed the two species in different sections and indicated in the species descriptions that former has shortclawed, oblong-spatulate petals 2 lines wide, whereas the latter has puberulent long claws and ovate [actually obovate] petal blades 1 line wide. In that, Sonder's description of H. brachycarpa was more detailed than and fully in agreement with original of Meisner (1842). Despite these very significant differences in petal morphology, Marais (1970), who did not examine any specimen in Sonder's herbarium or authentic material of H. brachycarpa, reduced H. florulenta to synonymy of the earlier-published former species. Unfortunately, this misinterpretation by Marais continues for the past 50 years, and one still finds the two distinct species united in all herbaria of the world.

The entire species description of *Heliophila brachycarpa* in Marais (1970) is a perfect fit for *H. florulenta*, and his description of the floral and fruit morphology do not apply to the type collection of the former, which he never studied.

Both Meisner (1842) and Sonder (1846) did not describe the mature fruit of *H. brachycarpa*, and that may have misled Marais to overlook the fact that the two species have very different fruit morphology, as evidenced from his 1 March 1962 annotation and his (Marais, 1970: 68) citation of the isolectotype sheet of H. florulenta (K) as H. brachycarpa. This sheet consists of a flowering branch of the isolectotype on the right and a fruiting branch near its base, and it is a mixed collection with MacOwan 845 that includes two large flowering branches of H. florulenta (one on the left and the other in the center center) and a smaller fruiting branch of H. brachycarpa. I have not examined all of the specimens cited by Marais under his H. brachycarpa, but for at least two collections, Compton 19649 (BOL, NBG) and Fourcade 2272 (K), the plants definitely belong to H. florulenta. He cited Compton 11216 (perhaps in NBG) from Whitehill that I did not examine. However, from the same locality he annotated on 8 Oct. 1963 Compton 10880 (NBG), but this one has glabrous filaments and petal claws and definitely belongs to H. brachycarpa (sensu this author, not Marias; see below). Therefore, in order to avoid any future confusion, all material of the two species examined for this study are cited below. MacOwan's collection is a good indication that the two species grow sympatrically, at least for part of their ranges.

Heliophila florulenta is easily distinguished from H. brachycarpa in flower, fruit, and young sterile stems. It has white to creamy white, spatulate-obovate petals 6-8 × 1.0-2.5 mm, papillate petal claws strongly differentiated from blade and 2–4 mm long, densely papillate filaments along at least proximal half or third, anthers 0.6-0.8 mm long, elliptic-lanceolate fruit (3.0-)4.5-6.0 mm wide, and gradually attenuate styles (0.7–)1–2(–2.7) mm long (Fig. 3A, B, C). By contrast, H. brachycarpa has pale mauve to pink, oblanceolate petals  $9-14 \times (2.5-)3.0-5.0$  mm, glabrous petal claws 1-2 mm long and hardly differentiated from blade, glabrous filaments, anthers 1.2-1.5 mm long, ovatelanceolate fruit (6–)7–9 mm wide, and cylindrical style (4–) 5–10 mm long, abruptly terminating fruit apex (Fig. 3D, E, F). When lacking both flower and fruit, plants H. florulenta are distinguished by having young stems with contiguous, minute, papilla-like tubercles that *H. brachycarpa* lacks.

**3.** *Heliophila brachycarpa* Meisn., London J. Bot. 1: 465. 1842. TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA. Eastern Cape: Nelson Mandela Bay, Uitenhage, *C.F. F. Von Krauss* 1254 (holotype: NY [03468302]; isotypes: M [0152274], MO [1925731], S [1216058], TUB [000630, 000631, images seen]). Fig. 2.

*Plants* small trees or scrambling shrubs, not glaucous. *Trichomes* absent. *Stems* woody, 1–2 m tall, slightly striate, ridged, without papilla-like tubercles, erect to ascending, many branched, glabrous throughout. *Leaves* cauline, not fleshy; blade simple, linear to linear-oblanceolate, (1.3–)2.5–6.0 cm  $\times$  1–2 mm, attenuate to petiole-like base, margin entire, not auriculate at base, with a pair of stipule-like glands at node, glabrous, base not articulate, somewhat decurrent. *Racemes* terminal and lateral, not intercalary,



FIGURE 2. Holotype of Heliophila brachycarpa Meisn. (C. F. F. Von Krauss 1254, NY).

corymbose, 4-23-flowered, elongated in fruit, not secund; rachis straight, glabrous; fruiting pedicels with a pair of basal bract-like glands, not articulate at base, glabrous, slightly stout, divaricate-ascending to divaricate, straight or slightly curved, persistent, lowermost (6–)10–25 mm long; buds oblong-ovate. Sepals ascending, oblong, 5-6 mm long, glabrous, caducous, lateral pair not cucullate at apex, saccate at base, median pair slightly cucullate, not saccate. Petals pale mauve to pink, oblanceolate,  $9-14 \times (2.5-)3.0-$ 5.0 mm, ascending, rounded at apex, unappendaged, not papillate; claw 1-2 mm long, hardly differentiated from blade. Stamens tetradynamous; filaments 3.5-6.0 mm long, glabrous at base, unappendaged; anthers oblong, 1.2–1.5 mm long, not apiculate at apex. Nectar glands lateral, median glands absent. Ovary glabrous; ovules 6-8 per ovary. Fruit dehiscent silique, capsular, ovate-lanceolate, 2.2–3.0 cm × (6–)7–9 mm, latiseptate, glabrous, not moniliform, straight along replum, not torulose, apex abruptly ending in style, ascending to suberect; valves thick papery, midvein and lateral veins prominent, margin not thickened; gynophore 1–2 mm long; style in fruit (4–)5–10 mm long, cylindric, stout, glabrous; stigma entire. Seeds uniseriate, ovate, flattened, wingless, not margined,  $4.0-4.5 \times 3.0-3.5$  mm; sinus shallow, wide.

**Phenology:** flowering March, July–Aug; fruiting September into October.

**Habitat:** arid areas in shale, rocky places, flats at foot of mountains: ca. 600 m.

**Distribution:** South Africa, Western Cape (Central Karoo District) and Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman districts).

Additional specimens examined: SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape: Central Karoo, Laingsburg, Karoo Garden, Whitehill, *R. H. Compton 10880* (NBG). Eastern Cape: Sarah Baartman, Dr Beyers Naudé, Ganna Leegte, *M. R. Levyns 6468* (BOL). Makana: 27 miles on East London road from Grahamstown [=Mokhanda], *E. Brink 188* (GRA); near Trumpeters Drift, Albany, *L. L. Britten 7045* (GRA, PRE); Fish River Pass, *R. D. A. Bayliss 2257* (A, G, MO, NBG, NY, UC).

Meisner's annotation on the label of the holotype of *Heliophila brachycarpa* reads "H. (Carpopodium) brachycarpam, nob[is]. M[ihi. Hook. Lond. Journ. 1 p. 465." The above isotypes at M and the Bernhardi Herbarium (MO) have the exact locality data as that of the holotype but without the collection number.

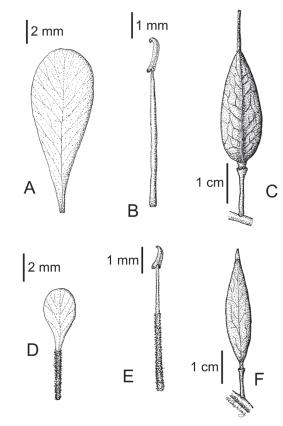


FIGURE 3. Heliophila brachycarpa Meisn. (A–C) and H. florulenta Sond. (D–F). A, D, Petals; B, E, Median stamens; C, F, Fruit and fruiting pedicel. Drawn by Al-Shehbaz: A–C from R. D. A. Bayliss 2257 (MO [2007181]); D, E from R. H. Compton 19649 (NBG); F, from R. D. A. Bayliss 4314 (UC).

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