

**A monograph of the genus *Passerina* L. (Thymelaeaceae)**

by

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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

**PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR**

in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

(Department of Botany)

**UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

**PRETORIA**

Promoter: Prof. Dr. A.E. van Wyk

May 2002





*Passerina burchellii*



*Passerina quadrifaria*



*Passerina falcifolia*



*Passerina rigida*



*Passerina paleacea*



*Passerina drakensbergensis*



*Passerina corymbosa*



*Passerina truncata* subsp. *truncata*



*Passerina rigida*



## ABSTRACT

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A monograph of *Passerina* L., a mainly southern African genus, is presented. The genus comprises 20 species and four subspecies. A few species occur along the Great Escarpment, two with outliers in East Africa, but most are concentrated in the Cape Floristic Region. Palynological, macromorphological and anatomical evidence was used in the delimitation of the genus and its infrageneric taxa. A cladistic study supports *Passerina* as a monophyletic genus. Taxonomic and phylogenetic significance of the character set and the most important generic characters were evaluated. A genus treatment and key to species are given. Each species treatment includes a taxonomic description, diagnosis and notes on etymology, economic value and distribution. Illustrations of representative species are provided and distribution maps are included for each species. A list of excluded species names highlights the previous cosmopolitan taxonomic interpretation of *Passerina*, as many names are now in synonymy under other genera of the Thymelaeaceae.

KEYWORDS: anatomy — cladistics — flower — morphology — monograph — palynology — *Passerina* — phylogeny — phytogeography — southern Africa — taxonomy — Thymelaeaceae.

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