



Nemesia arenifera* (Scrophulariaceae), a new species from the Sandveld, Northern Cape Province, South Africa, and the lectotypification of *N. viscosa

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Abstract

Nemesia arenifera is described as a new species that has been overlooked since 1904. The name *Nemesia viscosa* was misapplied to specimens from the Namaqualand coast that was considered a coastal form of *N. viscosa*. *Nemesia arenifera* is a common and widespread plant on sandy soils in the coastal zone of Namaqualand, Northern Cape, while *N. viscosa* is only known from the original two gatherings made from one location in the Richtersveld, Northern Cape. The new species differs from *N. viscosa* and *N. rupicola* in habit, leaf and fruit shape, and by the orientation of the spur, which is similar to that of *N. rupicola*. A comparative table with diagnostic morphological features of *N. arenifera*, *N. viscosa* and *N. rupicola* is provided and a lectotype for *N. viscosa* is selected. Diagnostic characters of *N. arenifera* include the erect, sparsely branched habit, small yellow flowers, the orientation of the spur, and the densely viscid, glandular-pilose indumentum.

Introduction

As part of the National Herbarium Plant Collecting Programme at Pretoria, South Africa, some focus was given in recent years to a number of South African National Parks that contain under-collected grids (Bester *et al.* 2012a, 2012b), including Namaqua National Park (NNP) in the Northern Cape Province. During collecting trips to the coastal sections of NNP, specimens of a relatively inconspicuous, yellow-flowered *Nemesia* Ventenat (1804: 41) were collected. At first these were identified as *N. viscosa* E.Meyer ex Bentham (1836: 21) (coastal form). *Nemesia viscosa* was described by Bentham (1836, 1846) from specimens collected by Drège at Verleptpraam [Verleptpram] in the Richtersveld, Northern Cape Province (Drège 1843). In *Flora capensis*, we are convinced that two distinct taxa (*N. arenifera* and *N. viscosa*) were merged as Hiern (1904) cited *Bolus 650* together with Drège's specimens (3142a & b) as *N. viscosa* (erroneously in our opinion). As specimens collected in the coastal areas of Namaqualand matched *Bolus 650*, these were all considered as the coastal form of *N. viscosa*. However, after examination of the type specimens of *N. viscosa* (Drège 3142a [Kew Catalogue 2013a] & b [Kew Catalogue 2013b]), it was clear that *Bolus 650*, and hence the coastal taxon, was not conspecific with *N. viscosa*. Further investigation revealed that the coastal taxon represented an undescribed species.

The genus *Nemesia* consists of ±65 (Leistner 2000) species of annual and perennial herbs of which ±62 (Steiner 2010) are endemic to southern Africa. Numerous new species have been described (Steiner 2006, 2009 & 2010) since the partial revision by Hilliard & Burt (1986). Most of the southern African species are found in the Western and Northern Cape, and extend into southern Namibia.