

THE IDENTITY OF ANTHERICUM ROUWENORTII DE GORTER
(LILIACEAE)

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Anthericum Rouwenortii De Gorter, a species not occurring in the Index Kewensis, was described by De Gorter in his Catalogus Plantarum Horti Ulenpassiani, 1783, p. 51 and 52 as follows:

p. 51: ANTHERICUM.

2. Rouwenortii. foliis planis carinatis, scapo ramoso, corollis patentibus. Tab. I. Habitat in Zeylona!

Planta e seminibus e Zeylona, si bene meminit Ill. Baro De ROUWENOORT missis, ante multos annos enata colitur adhuc in Caldario Horti Ulenpassiani, ubi quotannis floret.

Descriptio.

Radix crassa, tuberosa, subtranslucida.

Folia radicalia, ensiformia, carinata, glabra, sesquipedalia, extremitate subulata.

p. 52: *Scapus* ramosus, fere tripedalis, ramis alternis, inferioribus brevioribus, superioribus longioribus. *Bracteis* lanceolato-subulatis bifidis. *Pedunculis* simplicibus.

Flores magnitudine *Antherici ramosi*, albi, apicibus petalorum viridibus. *Filamenta* alba, laevia. *Antherae* flavae. *Stylus* staminibus longior.

The Catalogus Plantarum Horti Ulenpassiani is a catalogue of plants cultivated in the gardens and greenhouses of Ulenpas, the estate of H. A. W. Baron van Rouwenoort and situated near Hummelo in the Netherlands' province of Gelderland. It contains lists of plant-names and the only species of which a description and a plate are given is the above mentioned *Anthericum Rouwenortii*.

The type of this species bearing the name *Anthericum Rouwenortianum* and a description of the living plant in De Gorter's handwriting is preserved in the collections of the Rijksherbarium at Leiden. It was discovered recently by the present author in the herbarium of David de Gorter, formerly professor of medicine and botany at the university of Harderwijk, Gelderland. This herbarium which had been totally lost

sight of for many years belonged to the museum of the "Vereeniging tot Beoefening van Overijsselsch Regt en Geschiedenis", at Zwolle, Gelderland, and was ceded to the Rijksherbarium some months ago.¹⁾

From an examination of the type, in which I was kindly assisted by Mr. A. Meeuse, it resulted that this is fully identic with *Chlorophytum elatum* (Ait.) R. Br., a species of South African origin and not occurring in Ceylon. It is consequently obvious that the statement "habitat in Zeylona" mentioned by De Gorter must be wrong. De Gorter himself evidently suspected this already, as appears from the addition of an interrogation-mark after "Zeylona" in the original description and from the words "planta e seminibus e Zeylona, si bene meminit Ill. Baro De Rouwenoot missis".

We now come to the question whether the name *Chlorophytum elatum* (Ait.) R. Br. as used by South African botanists is the correct one for this species.

Anthericum elatum Ait. on which *Chlorophytum elatum* has been based was described by Aiton in his *Hortus Kewensis* I, 1789, p. 448 with the words:

A. foliis planis, scapo ramoso, pedunculis aggregatis, corollis planis.

Asphodelus foliis planis, caule ramoso, floribus sparsis. *Mill. ic.* 38, t. 56.

Tall Anthericum.

Nat. of the Cape of Good Hope.

Introd. 1751, by Mr. Philip Miller. *Mill. ic. loc. cit.*

Fl. August and September.

G. H.²⁾ ♀

The combination *Chlorophytum elatum* always has been attributed to Robert Brown (R. Br., Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl., 1810, p. 277) but this author did not use that name. He only says that *Anthericum elatum* and an other species of *Anthericum* from the Cape belong to the genus *Chlorophytum* ("Huc *Anthericum elatum* Hort. Kew. et altera species capensis nondum descripta"). As far as I could check the name *Chlorophytum elatum* has been used for the first time by Sprengel (Sprengel, Syst. II, 1825, p. 88). Sprengel adds R. Br. as the author's name. From this it follows that the right name for our plant is *Chlorophytum elatum* (Ait.) R. Br. ex Spreng. according to Art. 48 of the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature.

However, in the 10th edition of Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae* (L.,

¹⁾ For a life history of professor David de Gorter and for a description of his herbarium see my paper in the 51st volume of the *Nederlandsch Kruidkundig Archief* issued by the *Nederlandsche Botanische Vereeniging* (Netherlands Botanical Society).

²⁾ greenhouse.

Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1759, p. 982) we find the name *Asphodelus capensis* L., accompanied by the words "A. scapo nudo ramoso, fol. lanceolatis planis. *Mill. ic.* 56"¹⁾. This is the same plate which Aiton mentions when describing his *Anthericum elatum* and as it seems to be the whole basis of the species of Linnaeus it is clear that *Asphodelus capensis* L. and *Anthericum elatum* Ait. (= *Chlorophytum elatum* (Ait.) R. Br. ex Spreng.) are identic. The specific epithet *capensis* being older than *elatum*, the correct name in the genus *Chlorophytum* must be *Chlorophytum capense*, a combination made already by Otto Kuntze.

The synonymy of *Chlorophytum capense* (L.) O. K. now becomes as follows:

Chlorophytum capense (L.) O. K., *Rev. Gen. Plant.* III, 2 (1898) p. 316.
Asphodelus capensis L., *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10 (1759) p. 982, non *Burm. f.* (1768).

Anthericum Rowenortii De Gorter, *Cat. Plant. Hort. Ulenpass.* (1783) p. 51, t. 1.

Anthericum elatum Ait., *Hort. Kew.* I (1789) p. 448.

Chlorophytum elatum (Ait.) R. Br. ex Spreng., *Syst.* II (1835) p. 88.

Phalangium elatum (Ait.) Poir., *Encycl.* V (1804) p. 248.

Phalangium fastigiatum Poir., *Encycl.* V (1804) p. 246.

Phalangium fasciculatum Baker, non Poir., in *Journ. Linn. Soc.* XV (1876) p. 331.

¹⁾ Dr. D. Mac Gillavry, Bergen, was so kind as to provide me with this description.