





# *Othonna koos-bekkeri* Van Jaarsv. is a synonym of *Othonna cerarioides* Magoswana & J.C.Manning (Asteraceae: Othonninae)

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*Othonna koos-bekkeri* Van Jaarsv. is recognised as a synonym of *O. cerarioides* Magoswana & J.C.Manning.

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## Introduction

The genus *Othonna* L. (Asteraceae: Senecioneae: Othonninae) comprises ± 90 species of succulent or sub-succulent perennial herbs or shrubs with more-or-less dorsiventrally flattened leaves and radiate or disciform capitula with female sterile disc florets and female marginal florets with a beige or reddish pappus that is sometimes accrescent. The genus is concentrated in the Greater Cape Floristic Region (GCFR) of South Africa but extends into southern Namibia, southern Angola and Zimbabwe (Manning 2013; Magoswana et al. 2019, 2020).

The genus was last revised by Harvey (1865) and is in urgent need of a modern taxonomic revision, although the preliminary floristic treatments by Manning and Goldblatt (2012) and Manning (2013), along with the recent taxonomic revision of the geophytic species of the genus by Magoswana et al. (2019), constitute a valuable contribution to a complete revision of the genus in the Greater Cape Floristic Region. Among the species included by Manning (2013) in his treatment of the Namaqualand members was an unnamed taxon, *Othonna* sp. A from the Richtersveld and northern Namaqualand, characterised by erect, rod-like stems 1–2 m tall, with ascending branches bearing spur-shoots terminating in disciform capitula.

This species was subsequently and almost simultaneously described and published by Magoswana et al. (2020) and Van Jaarsveld (2020). *Othonna cerarioides* Magoswana & J.C.Manning (Magoswana et al. [March] 2020) was characterised as an erect shrub with rod-like stems and branches, bearing numerous spur-shoots with obovate-oblancheolate leaves clustered at the tips, and up to nine disciform capitula per spur-shoot; and *Othonna koos-bekkeri* Van Jaarsv. (Van Jaarsveld [June] 2020) as a succulent shrub distinguished by its ascending, rod-like stems and lateral spur-shoots bearing sub-umbellate clusters of yellow capitula.

In Magoswana et al. (2020) the flowering time was erroneously given as 'April to August' although citing a specimen flowering in September. Following examinations of specimens available to us and those cited in Van Jaarsveld (2020), it is

evident that this was an error and the correct flowering period for this species is in autumn from March to May.

Manning (2013: 314) in his treatment of *Othonna* suggested that *Senecio crassicaulis* Hutch. was possibly conspecific with *Othonna* sp. A (now *O. cerarioides*). The latter was a typographical error for *O. cyclophylla* Merxm., as was clearly indicated later (Manning 2013: 328).

Of the nine paratypes cited by Van Jaarsveld (2020), six were also examined and cited in Magoswana et al. (2020). *Othonna cerarioides* and *O. koos-bekkeri* quite clearly represent the same species, for which the name *O. cerarioides* has nomenclatural priority (Turland et al. 2018: Art. 11.3) having been published three months before *O. koos-bekkeri*, and we formally synonymise the latter. We have since seen a collection of *O. cerarioides* from southern Namibia (*Bruyns* 7320 (BOL), cited below, along with additional collections from BOL), which extends the known distribution range of the species just north of the Richtersveld onto the hills just north of the Orange River near the junction with the Gamkab River.

## Nomenclature

***Othonna cerarioides*** Magoswana & J.C.Manning in *Nordic Journal of Botany* 38(3): 1 (21 March 2020). Type: South Africa, Northern Cape, Springbok (2917): Brandberg, near O'kiep, (–DB), 13 May 1978, *Hugo* 1214 (NBG!, holo.; PRE, iso!).

*Othonna koos-bekkeri* Van Jaarsv. in *Bradleya* 38: 225 (26 June 2020), *syn. nov.* Type: South Africa, Northern Cape, Springbok (2917): Tafelberg near Kosies (Steinkopf, Richtersveld) (–BA), without date, *Van Jaarsveld and Combrink* 27729 (NBG!, holo.).

### Additional specimens examined

NAMIBIA. Vioolsdrif (2817): Aussenkehr, hills west of Marinkas Quellen, 8 Jul. 1997, *Bruyns* 7320 (BOL).

SOUTH AFRICA. Northern Cape, Vioolsdrif (2817): Ploegberg above Black Hills, 10 Jul. 1997, *Bruyns* 7322 (BOL). Springbok (2917): Steinkopf, Kosies, 5 Sept. 2002, *Bruyns* 9238 (BOL); Steinkopf, 13 Jul. 2006, *Pole-Evans* 2353 (BOL); 5 km N. of Concordia, 20 Jun. 1992, *Bruyns* 5158 (BOL).

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### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no financial or personal relationship(s) that may have inappropriately influenced them in writing this article.

### Authors' contributions

SLM and JCM were the project leaders, ARM and JSB made conceptual contributions.

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