



# The new combination *Coleus leemannii* (N.H.Hahn) A.J.Paton for *Rabdosiella leemannii* N.Hahn (Lamiaceae: Nepetoideae: Ocimeae)

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The new combination *Coleus leemannii* (N.Hahn) A.J.Paton is provided for *Rabdosiella leemannii* N.Hahn (Lamiaceae: Ocimeae) from South Africa, a species that was overlooked in the recent synopsis of subtribe Plectranthinae.

**Keywords:** new combination; nomenclature; South Africa; taxonomy

## Introduction

The genus *Rabdosiella* Codd (1984) was established for two species of Lamiaceae: Ocimeae that differed from other genera in the tribe in their densely paniculate synflorescences with ascending branches; erect, shortly cylindrical and distinctly 10-nerved fruiting calyx with suberect or incurved teeth; and declinate, basally saccate corolla. *Rabdosiella* was considered to be allied to both *Plectranthus* L'Hér. and *Isodon* (Schrad. ex Benth.) Spach (Codd 1975, 1985). In addition to the type species *R. calycina* (Benth.) Codd from southern Africa, the genus also included the southeast Asian *R. ternifolia* (D.Don) Codd.

A later morphological and cytological analysis (Ryding 1993) concluded not only that *Rabdosiella* was polyphyletic, but that its continued recognition was not justified; the southern African species being best returned to *Plectranthus* as *P. calycinus* Benth. and the Asian species readily accommodated in the genus *Isodon* under the name *I. ternifolius* (D.Don) Kudô.

These findings were supported by the subsequent molecular phylogenetic analyses of plastid DNA regions in Ocimeae by Paton et al. (2004) and Paton et al. (2018), which retrieved *I. ternifolius* deeply embedded among other species of *Isodon* and *P. calycinus* nested in the genus *Plectranthus sensu lato* in a subclade that included species of *Pycnostachys* Hook. and *Holostylon* Robyns & Lebrun. It was clear from these analyses that substantial changes in generic circumscriptions in Ociminae–Plectranthinae were required to render the genera monophyletic. As a result of these findings, Paton et al. (2018) proposed that *Coleus* be expanded to include all species in the clade containing the type of the genus, *Plectranthus* be restricted to the clade sister to *Thorncroftia* N.E.Br. plus *Tetradenia* Benth., and the new genus *Equilabium* Mwan., A.J.Paton & Culham be described for the clade containing the mainly tropical African species and Indian species formerly included in *Plectranthus*.

This taxonomic proposal was followed by a nomenclatural synopsis of the genera *Coleus*, *Equilabium* and *Plectranthus* (Paton et al. 2019). *Rabdosiella* (type species only) was among several genera that were included in the expanded circumscription of *Coleus*, and the new combination *C. calycinus*

(Benth.) A.J.Paton for *R. calycina* was among the 130 new combinations that were provided in that genus. In its expanded circumscription, *Coleus* is a genus of 295 species of the Old World tropics and subtropics, diagnosed by an oblique-based calyx with the pedicel attached asymmetrically to the base of the tube opposite the posterior lip, and a strongly zygomorphic corolla with the upper lip mostly shorter than the cymbiform lower lip enclosing the declinate stamens (Paton et al. 2019).

Paton et al. (2019), however, overlooked the existence of a third species of *Rabdosiella* that had been described from southern Africa several decades after the revision of the genus by Codd (1985). *Rabdosiella*

*leemannii* N.Hahn (Hahn & Bredenkamp 2007) is a narrow endemic of quartzitic substrates on the Soutpansberg and Blouberg in Limpopo, South Africa. It is morphologically very close to *R. calycina* and the two species are evidently an edaphic-allopatric species-pair. It falls within the currently expanded circumscription of *Coleus*, and we provide the necessary new combination for *R. leemannii* in *Coleus* here.

***Coleus leemannii* (N.Hahn) A.J.Paton, comb. nov.** *Rabdosiella leemannii* N.Hahn in Hahn & Bredenkamp in *Bothalia* 37(1): 37 (2007). Type: South Africa, Limpopo, 2329 (Polokwane): Soutpansberg, Lejuma, (-AB), 13 Apr 2005, N. Hahn 2086 (ZPB, holo.; PRE!, PRU, iso.).

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