

## REDUCTION OF ORNITHOGALUM HYGROPHILUM TO *O. BAURII*

O. M. HILLIARD & B. L. BURTT

*Ornithogalum hygrophilum* Hilliard & Burtt was based on collections made in Transkei, on the hill above Mhlahlane Forest Station, NW of Umtata. It was compared with *O. diphyllum* Baker. Miss Clare Reid (Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria) has written to tell us that it looks very like *O. baurii* Baker, of which a photograph was available to her in Pretoria. Miss Reid is perfectly correct: comparison with the type specimen at Kew leaves no doubt that the two are conspecific.

In her revision of the southern African species of *Ornithogalum* (in *Bothalia* 12: 323–376, 1978), A. A. Obermeyer reduced *O. baurii* to *O. conicum* Jacq., the species that had previously been more commonly known as *O. lacteum*. The type of *O. baurii* is, like *O. hygrophilum*, a small plant up to about 10cm high. *O. conicum* is keyed out by Obermeyer as a tall plant up to 1m high; even though this is reduced to 0.4 to 0.6m in the description, *O. conicum* is still a much larger plant than *baurii*. There is no indication that *O. baurii* ever has as many as 6–12 leaves as described for *O. conicum* subsp. *conicum* (it has 2–3) nor does the inflorescence elongate markedly with age. We have no doubt that *O. baurii* should be reinstated as a species separate from *O. conicum*, thus:

***Ornithogalum baurii*** Baker in Thiselton-Dyer, Fl. Cap. 6: 504 (1897).

Type: Transkei, Baziya Mt, *Baur* 552 (K).

Syn.: *O. hygrophilum* Hilliard & Burtt in Notes RBG Edinb. 45: 195 (1989).

Type: Transkei, 3128 BC, NW of Umtata, hill above Mhlahlane Forest Station, 10 xii 1985, *Hilliard & Burtt* 18768 (E).