

# CRASSULACEA

No. 3    APRIL 2013

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Miscellaneous notes and observations of the International  
Crassulaceae Network



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A replacement type for  
*Adromischus halesowensis*

Published by  
International Crassulaceae Network - Switzerland  
ISSN 2296-1666

## Impressum

Publisher International Crassulaceae Network

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## A replacement type for *Adromischus halesowensis* Uitewaal

The name *Adromischus halesowensis* was published as a replacement name for a taxon described in 1940 by Karl von Poellnitz under the illegitimate name *Adromischus cuneatus*. That was a later homonym of *Adromischus cuneatus* (Thunb.) Lem. (1852), a synonym of *Cotyledon cuneata* Thunb. (1794). Uitewaal therefore gave it a new name, which commemorates its only known locality at Halesowen, near Cradock, in the Eastern Cape.

Who actually gathered the type material is not recorded, but it was cultivated in the garden at the University of Stellenbosch until the garden eventually closed, and a herbarium sheet was deposited in Berlin as its type. That sheet was lost shortly afterwards during WW2, but, in his customary exemplary way, von Poellnitz took a photo of the type plant prior to preservation, which is still extant. As there is no other original material, this is now designated as a replacement type as follows:



Fig. 1 The lectotype of *Adromischus halesowensis* Uitewaal (B 10 0474975) designated here.

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***Adromischus halesowensis* Uitewaal**, The genus *Adromischus* Lem. - Corrigenda. *Desert Plant Life* **20**(9): 142. (Nov) 1948.

Replaced synonym: *Adromischus cuneatus* Poelln. non (Thunb.) Lem., *Fed. Rep. spec. nov. reg. veg.* **48**: 102-103. 1940.

Holotype: South Africa, E Cape, Halesowen, near Cradock; Stellenbosch 6866; B (lost).

Lectotype (designated here): Photo by von Poellnitz of a cultivated plant of the type gathering, Stell. 6866; B 10 0474975 (Fig. 1).

Isolectotype (designated here): Photo of Stell. 6866 (first leaf, row 2) in a photo by von Poellnitz of a group of 11 *Adromischus* leaves, in at least 5 species; B 10 0474976 (Fig. 2). The reason why these leaves were grouped together is not clear, but it could have been for the purpose of demonstrating some sort of proposed classification.

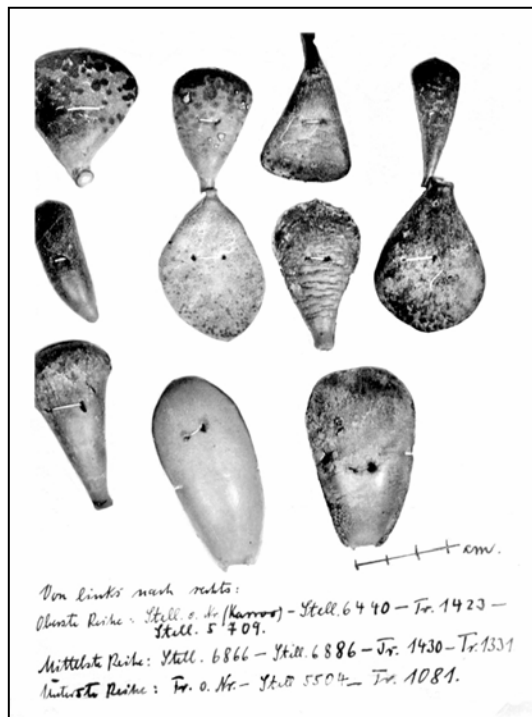


Fig. 2 Photo by von Poellnitz, which includes the following (identity indicated where known):

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Top row	Middle row	Bottom row
Stell. s.n. (Karoo)	Stell. 6866 <i>halesowensis</i> [type]	Triebner s.n.
Stell. 6440	Stell. 6886	Stell. 5504
Triebner 1423	Triebner 1430	Stell. 1081
Stell. 5709	Triebner 1331 <i>alstonii</i> [ <i>trieberi</i> type]	

*Adromischus halesowensis* has long been represented in cultivation by what is probably a single clone (Fig. 3). In Tölken's contribution on the *Crassulaceae* to the *Flora of southern Africa*, this taxon was erroneously subsumed under *A. cooperi*, from which it differs not only in its habit of growth but in its very different inflorescence (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3 *Adromischus halesowensis* in cultivation. Leaves to 5.7cm long, 1.5cm broad, 1.2cm thick. (photo: Roy Mottram)

Visitors to Halesowen report that *A. cooperi* is common there, but so far no one has seen *A. halesowensis* again since its first description. Land use in the area has changed significantly since 1931, where it may now have become extinct.

*Acknowledgements:*

I am very grateful to the Curator of the Berlin-Dahlem Museum for arranging a search for the von Poellnitz photographs, and for allowing their reproduction here.



Fig. 4 *Adromischus halesowensis* inflorescence, 20-40cm long.  
Flowers 1.8-2.0cm long. (photo: Roy Mottram)

*Literature:*

Poellnitz, K von (1940) Zur Kenntnis der Gattungen *Cotyledon* L. und *Adromischus* Lem. *Feddes Repertorium specierum novarum regni vegetabilis; Zeitschrift für systematische Botanik* **48**: 80-113. Leipzig & Berlin.

Tölken, H. R. (1985) *Crassulaceae*. In Leistner, O. A. (ed.), *Flora of southern Africa* **14**: 37-60. Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria.