

Title: Systematics of the *Gnidia juniperifolia* clade (Thymelaeaceae)

Description: The genus *Gnidia* has been shown to be polyphyletic in recent and ongoing phylogenetic studies. As such there is an urgent need to reassess generic circumscriptions and explore possible synapomorphies. Unfortunately this is complicated by the poor state of our knowledge about most of the species and as such the genus is listed as one of the priority groups for taxonomic revision in South Africa. Due to the size and complexity of the genus our strategy has been to focus on revising and assessing clades within. One such clade includes a group of generally small winter rainfall species with few flowered heads, leathery leaves and membraneous petaloid scales. This group corresponds closely to Ecklon and Zeyher's genus *Epichroxantha* Eckl. & Zeyh. This project will focus on producing a taxonomic revision for the group, together with extensive field studies and conservation assessments.

Field: Taxonomy

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