

# A volume of South African plant drawings for Johannes Burman (1707-1779)

Autor(en): **Wijnands, D. Onno / Goldblatt, Peter**

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# A volume of South African plant drawings for Johannes Burman (1707-1779)

D. ONNO WIJNANDS  
&  
PETER GOLDBLATT

## ABSTRACT

WIJNANDS, D. O. & P. GOLDBLATT (1992). A volume of South African plant drawings for Johannes Burman (1707-1779). *Candollea* 47: 357-366. In English, French and English abstracts.

A volume of South African plant illustrations in the manuscript department of the University Library, Utrecht has been recognized as Johannes Burman's. Its relation to other sets of illustrations from Burman's library is outlined and its importance for the interpretation of names published by Nicolaas Laurens Burman is shown. Two illustrations provide type material for hitherto ambiguous plant names, resulting in one new combination: *Tritoniopsis revoluta* (N. L. Burman) Goldblatt.

## RÉSUMÉ

WIJNANDS, D. O. & P. GOLDBLATT (1992). Une collection de figures de plantes sud-africaines de Johannes Burman (1707-1779). *Candollea* 47: 357-366. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Une collection de figures de plantes sud-africaines se trouve parmi les manuscrits de la bibliothèque de l'Université d'Utrecht. Elle est reconnue comme originaire de la bibliothèque de Johannes Burman. Ses relations vis-à-vis d'autres collections de figures de plantes de la bibliothèque de Burman sont indiquées et leur importance pour l'interprétation des noms publiés par Nicolaas Laurens Burman est démontrée. Deux figures représentent le matériel type pour des noms ambigus jusqu'à ce jour, en conséquence une combinaison nouvelle est proposée: *Tritoniopsis revoluta* (N. L. Burman) Goldblatt.

## Introduction

The many publications by Johannes Burman and by his son Nicolaas Laurens (1743-1793) were based on various sources: herbarium specimens, living plants in the Hortus Botanicus of Amsterdam and in their private garden near Amsterdam, and sets of drawings. It is not always easy to trace the material which they worked from. Yet it is of importance to know these sources, particularly for new plant names coined by the Burmans. For the larger part the Burman herbarium is now conserved in the herbarium at Geneva, but additional material may be found in L, P-Institut de France, LINN, M, SBT, S and TO (acronyms following HOLMGREN & al., 1990). Sets of drawings which were once in the rich Burman library have found their way to Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Haarlem, Oxford and London. An additional volume has now been recognized in Utrecht, which has similarities with sets in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but also contains unique illustrations.

*The volume and its relations*

A volume of water-colours and drawings in Indian ink of South African plants, *Afbeeldingen in Kleuren van Gladeolussen*, is preserved in the University Library of Utrecht, as HS 1877 (HULSHOFF, 1909). All 23 sheets in the volume appear to have belonged to Johannes Burman (1707-1779), Professor at the Hortus Medicus and Athenaeum Illustre of Amsterdam. Eighteen drawings are of Iridaceae, two of Liliaceae, one of Orchidaceae, two of Cyperaceae, and one is a landscape with wild almond, *Brabejum* (Proteaceae). The folios 1-7 are copied on folios 8-13 and 20.

Burman's original ownership is deduced from the binomial Linnaean names and some pre-Linnaean phrase-names which are written on some of the sheets in Burman's handwriting. Moreover, two of the drawings are by Johann Christian Cuno (1708-1783) and have been annotated by Cuno as made in the garden of Johannes Burman. This garden most likely was not the Hortus Medicus but Burman's private garden at his country house 'Middenmeer' ("in praedio suburbano") in the Watergraafsmeer near Amsterdam.

How and when *Afbeeldingen in Kleuren van Gladeolussen* arrived in Utrecht is not known, but possibly the Burman family, which had a tradition of academic teaching at the Utrecht University, donated the volume.

Annotations on the habitat of the plants and their use by the Khoi ("Hottentots") are similar to the kind of remarks made in Simon van der Stel's journal of his Expedition to the Copper Mountains in 1685-1686 (WATERHOUSE, 1932). Entries of the following type are common in the journal "and eat nothing but flower bulbs which they call small onions, also turtoises and a certain large kind of caterpillars". However, the handwriting of these notes in HS 1877 is more recent. For two drawings Burman's annotations refer to *Vieusseuxia* (now *Moraea* subgenus *Vieusseuxia*), a genus published by D. Delaroché in 1766.

One drawing, fol. 14, is identical to a drawing in the Florilegium in the National Botanical Institute, Pretoria (JESSOP, 1965).

Nine drawings (and seven copies) are identical to drawings in the Witsen Codex in the Johannesburg Africana Museum Library, except in their numbering (KENNEDY, 1967; MACNAE & DAVIDSON, 1969; KERKHAM, 1991). In most cases the annotations in the Utrecht volume are more detailed than those in Johannesburg, but fol. 113 in Johannesburg has an annotation which lacks in the corresponding fol. 21 in Utrecht, and fol. 134 in Johannesburg has an annotation on the habitat which is lacking in the corresponding fol. 16 in Utrecht. The annotations of fols 2 and 3 in Utrecht are interchanged with those on fols 108 and 109 in Johannesburg; probably those in Utrecht are correct. It is impossible to say with certainty if one set is a copy from the other, or that both are based on a common source. The Utrecht drawings make a slightly more natural impression than the Johannesburg ones, judging from the reproductions in KENNEDY (1967). Another set of copies from the Johannesburg Witsen Codex is present in the Natural History Museum, London.

A few of the Johannesburg drawings of *Aloe* and of *Haworthia* were used for publication by Caspar COMMELIN in 1701 (WIJNANDS, 1983: 214). Several of the drawings of Proteaceae have been used for publication by BOERHAAVE in 1719 and many by Johannes BURMAN in his *Decades* (1738-1739) and in WEINMANN (1734-1737), but none of those are in the Utrecht volume, except fol. 23 which is published in WEINMANN, vol. 4 t. 911. It may be assumed therefore, that the Johannesburg volume was completed in 1701. It is possible, however, that drawings were added to the volume at a later date. If all of the volume really was Witsen's, it must have been complete in 1717, when Witsen died.

HS 1877 must have been compiled at a much later date, its present binding probably dates from the early 20th century. It is a collation of loose drawings from different sources. The fols 1 and 6, 2 and 5, and 3 and 4 are on the same sheet, they are numbered 105 to 110 in large numerals and obviously they are part of a larger set of which the remainder is unknown. The others are loose and pasted on strips of paper. One loose drawing which seems to belong to the series of HS 1877 is preserved in the Burman Herbarium in Geneva. The watermarks are all quite common ones and



Fig. 1. — The lectotype of *Aletris bifolia* N. L. Burman, Courtesy University Library, Utrecht.



Fig. 2. — The lectotype of *Antholyza revoluta* N. L. Burman, Courtesy University Library, Utrecht.

give no clue to a precise dating. Most are consistent with a tentative dating of about 1700, when Caspar Commelin was Professor at the Amsterdam Hortus. Some watermarks (fols 17, 18, 19) point to later paper, about 1750; these drawings were made for Johannes Burman.

The Johannesburg volume is not annotated by Burman with binomial names, unlike some drawings in the Utrecht volume.

In 1768 Nicolaas BURMAN published the *Prodromus florum capensis*, an appendix to the *Flora indica*. The album with gladioli was in his possession then (whether bound or not) and therefore it is of importance for the interpretation of Burman's plant names. One drawing, of *Antholyza revoluta* is designated as the lectotype of this name, another is designated as the lectotype of *Aletris bifolia*.

The volume has a reference in pencil to HULSHOFF (1941) on Van Reede's Hortus Africanus. HS 1877 has no relation to Van Reede. See HENIGER (1986) for a discussion on the Hortus Africanus. Dr. A. Hulshoff was Librarian of the manuscript department of the Utrecht University Library.

### *Description of the volume*

The modern binding of the volume, 27.9 × 43.3 cm, open 57 cm, contains one modern sheet, one old sheet, 23 sheets with drawings, one modern sheet.

I. Modern sheet, watermark Strassburg lily-VGL, Van Gelder en Zonen.

II. Old sheet, countermark 16 × 25 mm IV: I Villedary

1. Numbered 105; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroché) Jacquin

watermark Strassburg lily-WR 15 cm

water-colour

gladiolus Afr[icanus] unifol[ius] fl[ore] luteo

Word in de Vlakte gevonden en van de hottentotten gegeten bloeijdt in octob[er]

Burman's annotation: *Vieusseuxia*

The Witsen Codex fol. 107, Johannesburg Africana Museum Library (KENNEDY, 1967, C412) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr: unifol. fl: luteo, and in ink: monopot. esculenta bloeijdt in octobr. It has been identified in KENNEDY as *Moraea juncea* L. and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Moraea edulis* (L.f.) Ker. The former name is often associated with *M. vegeta* L. and the latter a synonym of *Moraea fugax*.

GOLDBLATT (1986: 98) noted "The corms of *Moraea fugax* are edible and pleasant tasting. The species was an important food source for early man, and the corm tunics are abundant in caves and shelters occupied by the first human inhabitants of the western Cape".

2. Numbered 106; **Moraea bituminosa** (L. f.) Ker

watermark Strassburg lily-WR 15 cm

water-colour

gladeolus Afr[icanus] bifol[ius] montan[us] flore luteo dese uijentjes wort aan het gebergte in steenagtige plaatsen gevonden zijnde de steel en de bladen kleevagtig worden van de hottento[t]s gekookt, en gegeten. bloeijen in octob[er]

The Witsen Codex fol. 109 (KENNEDY, 1967, C414) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr: bifol. fl. luteo and in ink: groeijdt in de vlakte: word veel gegeten: bloeijdt in octobr. It has been identified in KENNEDY and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Moraea ? bituminosa* (L. f.) Ker. The reference to sticky [kleevagtig] leaves (actually leaf bases and stem inter-nodes), which are also mentioned by GOLDBLATT (1986: 30) confirms this identification.

3. Numbered 107; **Hexaglottis lewisiae** Goldblatt

watermark Strassburg lily-WR 15 cm

water-colour

gladeolus afr[icanus] bifol[ius] fl[ore] luteo worden in de vlakke gevonden en van de hottentots veel gegeten bloeijen in octob[er]

Burman's annotation: *Vieusseuxia fugax* la Roche dissert[atio]

The Witsen Codex fol. 108 (KENNEDY, 1967, C413) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr: bifol: mont: fl. luteo, and in ink: groeijsd aan't gebergte in Steengrond, bloeijds in octobr. It has been identified in KENNEDY as *Moraea ? bituminosa* (L. f.) Ker, and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *M. decussata* Klatt, a synonym of *M. gawleri* Sprengel.

4. Numbered 108; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroche) Jacquin

countermark 12 × 30 mm LVG: Lubertus van Gerrevink

water-colour

gladeolus afr[icanus] bifol[ius] fl[ore] rubr[o] dese uijentjes worden in sandagtige grond gevonden, van de hottentots in melk, gebraden, en ook rouw gegeten

The Witsen Codex fol. 111 (KENNEDY, 1967, C416) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr: bifol: fl: rubr., and in ink: groeijsd in Sandgrond mede eetbaar. It has been identified in KENNEDY and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Moraea edulis* (L. f.) Ker, a synonym of *M. fugax*.

5. Numbered 109; **Hexaglottis cf. virgata** (Jacquin) Sweet

countermark 12 × 30 mm LVG: Lubertus van Gerrevink

water-colour

gladeolus afr[icanus] bifol[ius] autumnalis flor[e] luteo word in de Vlakten gevonden van de hottentotten veel gegeten, bloeijen in novemb[er]

The Witsen Codex fol. 110 (KENNEDY, 1967, C415) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr. bifol: autumnalis fl: luteo, and in ink: groeijsd in vlackten, word veel gegeten bloeijds in 9br. It has been identified in KENNEDY as *Moraea ? bituminosa* (L. f.) Ker and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Hexaglottis flexuosa* Sweet, which is a synonym of *H. lewisiae*.

6. Numbered 110; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroche) Jacquin

countermark 1.5 × 11 cm I VILLEDARY

water-colour

gladeolus afr[icanus] unifol[ius] fl[ore] coerul[eo] word in brakke valleijen gevonden bloeijds in octob[er]

The Witsen Codex fol. 112 (KENNEDY, 1967, C417) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gladeolus afr. unifol. fl: coerul., and in ink: goeijds in brakke grond bloeijds in octobr. It has been identified in KENNEDY as *Moraea tripetala* (L. f.) Ker and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *M. edulis* (L. f.) Ker.

7. Numbered 165; **Ficinia radiata** (L. f.) Kunth

countermark 12 × 20 mm WK

water-colour

gramen afric[anum] fl[ore] luteo word gevonden in santagtige gront daar het vogtig is

The Witsen Codex fol. 171 (KENNEDY, 1967, C476) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: gramen afr: fl: luteo, and in ink: groeijsd in Sandgrond, in vogtige plaats. It has been identified in KENNEDY and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Sickmannia radiata* (L. f.) Nees.

8. Not numbered; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroché) Jacquin  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR CVH 17.5 cm  
water-colour  
no text, a copy of fol. 1

9. Not numbered; **Moraea bituminosa** (L. f.) Ker  
countermark I VILLEDARY  
*Sisyrinchium bifolium* foliis gramineis longissimis floribus pedunculatis, caule articulato  
a copy of fol. 2

10. Not numbered; **Hexaglottis lewisiae** Goldblatt  
countermark I VILLEDARY  
water-colour  
no text, a copy of fol. 3

11. Not numbered; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroché) Jacquin  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR CVH  
water-colour  
no text, a copy of fol. 4

12. Not numbered; **Hexaglottis cf. virgata** (Jacquin) Sweet  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR CVH  
water-colour  
no text, a copy of fol. 5

13. Not numbered; **Moraea fugax** (Delaroché) Jacquin  
countermark I VILLEDARY  
water-colour  
no text, a copy of fol. 6

14. Not numbered; **Gladiolus alatus** L.  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR CVH 16 cm  
water-colour  
Burman's annotation: galeatus Gladiolus fl[ore] singulari Breijn Prodr. 12F: 2

The Florilegium in the National Botanical Institute, Pretoria has an identical drawing, another copy is in the Breyne florilegium, Brenthurst Library, Johannesburg, fol. 45.

15. Not numbered, 24.6 × 37.8 cm; **Veltheimia capensis** (L.) DC.  
no watermark  
drawing in ink, no text

16. Numbered 15, 23.8 × 37.5 cm; **Lachenalia bulbifera** (Cirillo) Aschersson & Graebner  
countermark DI  
water-colour  
Burman's annotation: Aletris, and: Hyacinthus afric[anus] bifolius, oblongo flore ruberrimo.  
Herm. Cat pl Afr. p. 14

The Witsen Codex fol. 134 (KENNEDY, 1967, C439) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: hijacinthus afr. fl: rubr., and in ink: groeijnd in Santgrond bl: in julij. It has been identified in KENNEDY and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Lachenalia pendula* Ait. The combination of "Aletris" and "bifolius" shows that this drawing is the basis of Burman's *Aletris bifolia*, *Prodromus florae capensis* 10. 1768. Moreover, Burman's diagnosis "folio oblongo canaliculato,



scapum foliolumque involvente, floribus pendulis“ agrees exactly with the drawing. No herbarium specimen is found for this name. The drawing is therefore designated here as the lectotype of *Aletris bifolia*. *Phormium bulbiferum* Cirillo was published in 1788, Burman's name has priority. *Aletris bifolia* N. L. Burman, Prodrumus florum capensis 10. 1768; non *Lachenalia bifolia* Ker Gawler in Curtis' Botanical Magazine t. 1611. 1814. Lectotype: a drawing in HS 1877 fol. 16, University Library Utrecht; isotype in Icones Plantarum et Animalium fol. 134, Africana Museum Library, Johannesburg. Heterotypic names: *Phormium bulbiferum* Cirillo. Plantarum rariorum regni Neapolitani fasc. 1: 35. 1788.

**Lachenalia bulbifera** (Cirillo) Aschersson & Graebner  
*Lachenalia pendula* Aiton, Hortus Kewensis 1: 461. 1789

17. Not numbered, 23.0 × 18.6 cm; **Micranthus tubulosus** (N. L. Burman) N. E. Brown and **Micranthus alopecuroides** (L.) Rothmaler  
watermark J Honig & Zoonen with beehive  
line drawing in red ink, no text

18. Not numbered, 40.8 × 31.7 cm, folded; **Gladiolus** cf. **quadrangularis** (N. L. Burman) Aiton  
watermark virgin and lion in the garden of Holland. Pro Patria; countermark crown-GR; drawing in pencil and ink, Cunonia flore e luteo rubescente die ultimo Aprilis 1760 bij Johannes Burman bloeide  
Burman's annotation: *Antholyza declinata*.

The manuscript name *Antholyza declinata* is not published in Burman's Prodrumus florum capensis.

19. Not numbered, 31.6 × 40.4 cm, folded; **Tritoniopsis revoluta** (N. L. Burman) Goldblatt  
watermark coats of arms of Amsterdam, no bar, countermark IV  
water-colour and ink

Cunonia flore purpureo eleganter distincto die in oktober 1757 bij J. Burman bloeide, ad vivum depinxit J. C. Cuno. Burman's annotation: *Antholyza revoluta*. No herbarium specimen vouching for this name has been found. The data on flowering and the description are in full agreement with Cuno's drawing. Therefore this drawing is designated here as the lectotype of *Antholyza revoluta* N. L. Burman. LEWIS (1960: 66) rejected *Antholyza revoluta* as being a source of error, the interpretation of the name based only on Burman's description being uncertain. She considered it to represent possibly *Anapalina longituba* Fourcade (now *Tritoniopsis longituba* (Fourcade) Goldblatt), whereas Brown had interpreted it earlier as *Anapalina nervosa* (Thunberg) G. Lewis (now *Tritoniopsis antholyza* (Lamarck) Goldblatt). However, now a lectotype for Burman's name has been discovered which can be positively identified, its position in *Tritoniopsis* is unambiguous. *Antholyza revoluta* 1768 has priority over *Gladiolus apiculatus* 1917 and therefore Burman's name must be adopted.

**Tritoniopsis revoluta** (N. L. Burman) Goldblatt, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Antholyza revoluta* N. L. Burman, Prodrumus florum capensis 1. 1768.

Lectotype: *Antholyza revoluta*, a drawing by J. C. Cuno in HS 1877 fol. 19, University Library Utrecht.

Homotypic synonym: *Anapalina revoluta* (N. L. Burman) N. E. Brown, Trans. Roy. Soc. South Africa 20: 275. 1932.

Heterotypic synonyms: *Gladiolus apiculatus* L. Bolus, Ann. Bolus Herb. 2: 106. 1917.

Lectotype: Muir 2016 (BOL). *Tritoniopsis apiculata* (L. Bolus) Lewis, J. South African Bot. 25: 353. 1959.

20. Not numbered, 37 × 23.8 cm; **Ficinia radiata** (L. f.) Kunth  
no watermark, water-colour, a copy of fol 7

21. Numbered 26, 41.2 × 26.2 cm; **Tritoniopsis unguicularis** (Lamarck) G. Lewis or **T. caledonensis** (Foster) G. Lewis  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR AJ: Abraham Janse

The Witsen Codex fol. 113 (KENNEDY, 1967, C418) has an identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: orchidis afr. aquatica fl: rubr.; and in ink: groeijdt in Steenachtige grond bloeijdt in Septembr. It has been identified in KENNEDY as *Exohebea parviflora* (Jacq.) Foster and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Tritoniopsis parviflora* (Jacq.) Lewis.

22. numbered 50, 38.8 × 24.5 cm; **Satyrium carneum** R. Brown  
watermark Strassburg lily-WR 16 cm  
water-colour

Burman's annotation: *Orchis palmata*. This name is not mentioned in Burman's Prodrum florum capensis.

The Witsen Codex fol. 106 (KENNEDY, 1967, C 411) has a similar, but not identical drawing. It has an annotation in pencil: orchis afr: maxim latifol: fl: rubr., and in ink: groeijdt in d' sand duijnen bloeijdt in Septemb. It has been identified in KENNEDY and by MACNAE & DAVIDSON as *Satyrium carneum* (Dryand.) R. Br.

23. Not numbered, 40.6 × 53.3 cm, folded  
no watermark, water-colour

Landscape with **Brabejum stellatifolium** L. showing the hedge of wild almond at Cape Town (recognized as such by Dr. J. J. Bos). The first (1652-1657) head gardener of the Companies Garden at the Cape, Hendrick Hendrikssen Boom, may have assisted with the planting of hedges of the wild almond round the fields and to mark the boundary of the settlement. Fragments of the latter still stand, the largest portion being preserved as a national monument in the Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden (GUNN & CODD, 1981: 24). An engraving after this water-colour was published in WEINMANN vol. 4 t. 911 with the name *Sedum Africanum monstruosum*.

### III. Modern sheet

watermark Strassburg lily-VGL Van Gelder en Zonen

#### *A related drawing in Geneva*

One loose drawing which seems to belong to the series of HS 1877 is preserved in the Burman herbarium in Geneva, numbered 48, 22.2 × 37.5 cm, trimmed; **Corymbium africanum** L. subsp. **scabridum** (Bergius) Weitz, identified by F. M. Weitz, countermark DI 20 × 12 mm, the same as in fol 16 water-colour. It is annotated in Burman's hand as [*Co*]rymbium *gramineum*, a name published in the Prodrum florum capensis 29, 1768. This drawing is nearly identical to the one on fol. 160 of the Witsen Codex (KENNEDY, 1967, C465), identified as *Corymbium ?glabrum* L. by MACNAE & DAVIDSON, 1969. It has an annotation in pencil: gramen afr. angustifol: fl: rubr.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Addresses of the authors: D. O. W.: Botanical Gardens, Agricultural University Wageningen, P. O. Box 8010 6700 ED Wageningen, The Netherlands.

P. G.: B. A. Krukoff Curator of African Botany, Missouri Botanical Garden, P. O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, U.S.A.