



## A Revision of the genus *Asparagus* (Asparagaceae) in Southern and South-Central Africa.

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The genus *Asparagus* comprises currently  $\pm$  140 species, confined to the Old World (but not Australia). Africa has the greatest concentration of species, while by far the greatest diversity of *Asparagus* is to be found in southern Africa.

Figure 1 *A. secalimontanus*

The group is a particularly difficult group to classify accurately and past attempts have not always been successful. This has led to incorrect names being applied to many species, some of which have become serious weeds on other continents (Australia, USA). Without the correct names being applied to these invasive *Asparagus* species, it is very difficult to apply biological control methods in those countries. Other species are widely cultivated as ornamentals – *Asparagus sprengeri*, a native of the eastern South African coast, is one of the most popular pot plants in the world.

The aim of this project is to completely revise the nomenclature (names) of African *Asparagus* species by going back to basics and revisiting all the type localities (where they were first collected) and get to understand the correct concepts for each species. It is anticipated that  $\pm$  30 new species will be described as new to science.

**Final product:** will be a comprehensive well-illustrated book covering all the known *Asparagus* species in the African subcontinent, a publication which will hopefully lay the ghost of *Asparagus* confusion finally to rest and provide a worldwide standard for *Asparagus* names.

### Estimated Costing:

Exchange rate: R1 = US\$0.071 (20/11/2018)

No	Item	Rands	US\$
5	Collecting expeditions: South Africa @ 15 000 each	75 000	5 325
3	Collecting expeditions: extra South African @ 25 000 ea.	75 000	5 325
1	Herbarium Research: Europe	40 000	3 050
	Publication costs	300 000	21 300
	TOTAL	<b>490 000</b>	<b>35 000</b>



Figure 2 *A. soutpansbergensis*



Figure 3 *Asparagus* sp.



Figure 4 *A. macowanii*