

Ogastemma, a new name for *Megastoma* (*Boraginaceae*)

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The generic name *Megastoma* was first published on a printed exsiccata label which read 'B. BALANSA, PL. D'ALGERIE, 1853/1035. MEGASTOMA PUSILLUM, Coss. et DR! mss./Biskra, sur less collines incultes./10 Mai.' The name was without description and so not validly published. *Megastoma* was taken up by Bentham & Hooker f., Gen. Pl. 2: 851 (1876), but clearly not as a generic name but for a section of *Eritrichium* Schrad. The descriptive matter was just sufficient to allow validation of the sectional name, but no species was mentioned. It was recorded from Egypt as well as Algeria. In 1894 Index Kewensis listed *Megastoma* Coss. & Dur. ex Benth. & Hook.f. as a generic name, but gave it as a synonym of *Eritrichium*, and this cannot now be regarded as validation of the name at generic rank. In 1895 Bonnet & Barratte validated both the generic and specific names by publishing an illustration with analysis (Art. 42.1), and a year later they gave generic and specific descriptions and the distribution as Algeria and Tunisia. However, in the meantime *Megastoma* had been quite independently published by Grassi in 1881 for a genus of algae (see Index Nominum Genericorum, 1979) and *Megastoma* (Benth. & Hook.f.) Bonnet & Barratte is an illegitimate later homonym. No other name is hitherto available.

Bentham & Hooker's broad concept of *Eritrichium* has not been followed by later authors. I. M. Johnston in Contrib. Gray Herb. 73: 64-65 (1924) recognised *Megastoma*, including a single species, considering it to be related to *Cryptantha* Lehm. rather than to *Eritrichium* but differing in its nude, unappendaged corolla throat, very irregular calyx and opposite branching. Brand in Engler's Pflanzenreich 97, IV, 252: 77-78 (1931) also recognised the genus, with a single species, recording it from Algeria and Libya. Most North African Floras this century have given the species as *Megastoma pusillum* Coss. & Dur., and it is now known also from Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands (Eriksson, Check List Vasc. Pl. Canary Is.: 4. 1971) and from the Arabian peninsula.

The new generic name proposed here is an anagram of *Megastoma* and is to be regarded as neuter.

***Ogastemma* Brummitt** nom. nov.

Megastoma (Benth. & Hook.f.) Bonnet & Barratte, Ill. Phan. Tunis. t.11, fig. 4-11 (1895); Cat. Pl. Vasc. Tunis.: 301 (1896); non Grassi, Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. 24: 167 (1881) (Algae). Type: *M. pusillum* Coss. & Dur. ex Bonnet & Barratte.

Eritrichium sect. *Megastoma* Benth. & Hook.f., Gen. Pl. 7: 851 (1876).

Ogastemma pusillum (Coss. & Dur. ex Bonnet & Barratte) Brummitt comb. nov.

Megastoma pusillum Coss. & Dur. ex Balansa, Pl. d'Algérie 1853 [exsicc.] 1035 (? 1853 or 1854), nom. nud.; ex Bonnet & Barratte, Ill. Phan. Tunis. t.11, fig. 4–11 (1895); Cat. Pl. Vasc. Tunis.: 301 (1896). Type not seen.

DISTRIBUTION. Canary Is. (Fuerteventura, *Burchard* 335 (K) and *Aldridge* 1021 (BM)), Morocco (El Ardja, *Pitard* 3618 (K)), Algeria (Biskra, *Balansa* 1035 (BM, K); Baniot, *Merche* s.n. (K); El Golea, *Chevallier* s.n. (K); Tefedest, *Maire* 6274 (BM)), Tunisia (fide Bonnet & Barratte *loc. cit.*), Libya (Wadi Tengesir, *Guichard* Lib 194 (BM)), Egypt (in deserto Belbeys, *Schubert* s.n. (K)), Kuwait (aerodrome, *Dickson* 209 (K), 253 (K)), Bahrain (Jebel Dukhan, *Good* 216 (K); Awali road, *Good* 215 (K)), Abu Dhabi (Hafit Mt, *El Ghonemy* 8007006 (hb. Ghonemy)), Saudi Arabia (near Zabirah, 200 km N of Buraydah, *I. S. Collette* 2485 (E, K)).