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Validation of two invalidly published plant names in Asteraceae from Saudi Arabia

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During a taxonomic revision of Asteraceae in Saudi Arabia, two plant names published by Chaudhary (2000) in the *Flora of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* were found to be not validly published under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN; Greuter *et al*. 2000), which was in force at the time. *Echinops abuzinadianus* Chaudhary was published with an ineffective type designation because, although a holotype was cited, more than one herbarium was simultaneously indicated for its deposition, contrary to Art. 37.6 of the ICBN, corresponding to Art. 40 of the current International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN; Turland *et al*. 2025). Similarly, the status of *Phagnalon stenolepis* subsp. *abdulazizianum* Chaudhary also required clarification because the original publication treated the same taxon at two different infraspecific ranks within the same work. On p. 143, the taxon was explicitly published as a variety, whereas on p. 418 it was treated as a subspecies. This inconsistency renders the rank ambiguous and the name not validly published under Art. 37.1 of the ICBN. Both names are validated here in accordance with the provisions of the ICN (Turland *et al*. 2025), thereby clarifying their nomenclatural status and enabling their correct use in the flora of Saudi Arabia, where both taxa are endemic and of particular relevance to taxonomic, floristic, and conservation studies.

Taxonomic treatment

Echinops abuzinadianus Chaudhary, ***sp. nov.***

Echinops abuzinadianus Chaudhary (2000: 198, 418), *nom. inval.*

Type:—SAUDI ARABIA. Asir region: near Abha, 17 November 1988, *S.A. Chaudhary 962* (holotype RIY!; isotype E!).

Description:—see Chaudhary, *Flora of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* Vol. 2(3): 198, 418, 2000.

Taxonomic note:—*Echinops abuzinadianus* was recognised by Chaudhary (2000) as morphologically distinct from the other Saudi Arabian species of *Echinops*, particularly in its thick, felty, white-arachnoid stem indumentum, heads with long protruding spines, white florets, and leaves dark green above but densely felty white-tomentose beneath. In Chaudhary's key, it is separated from its relatives chiefly by the nature of the stem indumentum. As a Saudi Arabian endemic that has remained without a validly published name, its validation is required to ensure its correct use in future taxonomic, floristic, and conservation studies.

Phagnalon stenolepis **subsp.** ***abdulazizianum*** Chaudhary, ***subsp. nov.***

Phagnalon stenolepis subsp. *abdulazizianum* Chaudhary (2000: 143, 418), *nom. inval.*

Type:—SAUDI ARABIA. Al-Baha region: 7 km south of Baljurshi, top of "Grandi Lavori" road, 18 April 1985, *I.S. Collenette 9960* (holotype RIY!; isotype E!).

Description:—see Chaudhary, *Flora of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* Vol. 2(3): 143, 418, 2000.

Taxonomic note:—Chaudhary (2000) distinguished this taxon by its wholly glabrous plants, discolorous leaves, and pink florets, whereas var. *stenolepis* was described as having dense appressed woolly indumentum and yellow florets. These differences support recognition of the taxon and justify validation of its name. As this infraspecific taxon is endemic to Saudi Arabia, a validly published name is needed to ensure its unambiguous treatment in future systematic, floristic, and conservation studies.

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