

The *Solanum elaeagnifolium* clade (part of *Solanum* subgenus *Leptostemonum*) contains five species of small, often rhizomatous, shrubs from deserts and dry forests in North and South America. Members of the clade were not thought to be related and were classified by previous authors in a variety of sections. The group is sister to the species-rich monophyletic Old World clade of spiny solanums. The species of the group have an amphitropical distribution, with three species in Mexico and the southwestern United States and three species in Argentina. *Solanum elaeagnifolium* itself occurs in both North and South America, and is a noxious invasive weed in dry areas worldwide. Members of the group are highly variable morphologically, and this variability has led to much synonymy, particularly in the widespread *S. elaeagnifolium*. We review taxonomic history, morphology, relationships and ecology of these species; we provide keys for their identification, descriptions, full synonymy (including designations of lectotypes and neotypes) and nomenclatural notes. Illustrations, distribution maps and preliminary conservation assessments are provided for all five species.



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A REVISION OF THE *SOLANUM* *ELAEAGNIFOLIUM* CLADE (*ELAEAGNIFOLIUM* CLADE; SUBGENUS *LEPTOSTEMONUM*, SOLANACEAE)

BY

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Solanum homalospermum Chiarini, 2004

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