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Glinus is a small genus of Molluginaceae with 8–10 species mostly distributed in the tropics of the World. Among Caryophyllales as well as Molluginaceae, *Glinus* is characterized by the remarkable seed aril divided into two parts: a white, usually well-visible hood covering the funiculus and a large ribbon-like appendage

A new molecular phylogeny using nuclear (ITS) and chloroplast (*rbcL*, *trnK-matK*) markers confirmed the monophyly of the genus. In both trees based on nuclear and plastid datasets, the major phylogenetic clades cannot be characterized by the peculiar morphological characters. Ten new morphological and carpological traits distinguishing *Glinus* members we found in our study. A new key to the identification of all *Glinus* species in Sub-Saharan Africa, the most species-rich region of the genus, is provided. The results provide completely new insight into the taxonomy of *Glinus* in Sub-Saharan Africa. A checklist is given of all accepted species in this region (*G. bainesii*, *G. hirtus*, *G. lotoides*, *G. oppositifolius* s.l., *G. setiflorus*, and *G. zambesiacus*) with their nomenclature, morphological description and geographical distribution.

Glinus seems to have originated from Africa around the Late Eocene or Early Miocene, with further radiations to Australia and the Americas during the Late Miocene or Late Pliocene. Many shared character states leading to their contrasting pattern in the multivariate analysis model are interpreted as a high homoplasy in the phylogenetically distant species.

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EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS, BIOGEOGRAPHY AND MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS OF *GLINUS* (MOLLUGINACEAE), WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE GENUS COMPOSITION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

BY

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Glinus hirtus Sennikov & Sukhor., comb. nov.

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