

This revision treats the 14 species of the African Non-Spiny (ANS) clade of *Solanum* (Solanaceae). Members of the group are mostly large canopy lianas or scandent shrubs. The species are confined to Madagascar (10 species) and continental Africa (4 species, with one species reaching the southern Arabian peninsula). Members of the clade were previously thought to be related to a variety of New World *Solanum* groups, but are instead an early-branching lineage of non-spiny solanums and characters shared with other vining New World solanums are homoplastic.

The 14 species occupy a wide range of habitats, from wet forests in western Africa to savanna and dry forests of southern Madagascar and coastal dune habitats in South Africa. Many members of the group are highly variable morphologically, and habit can vary between shrub and canopy vine in a single locality. The taxonomic history, morphology, potential relationships and ecology of these species is reviewed, and descriptions, full synonymy, illustrations, distribution maps and preliminary conservation assessments are provided for all species. Keys for the entire clade and for each of the geographical areas (i.e., continental Africa and Madagascar) are provided to help identification.

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**A REVISION OF THE “AFRICAN NON-SPINY”
CLADE OF SOLANUM L.
(SOLANUM SECTIONS AFROSOLANUM BITTER,
BENDERIANUM BITTER, LEMURISOLANUM
BITTER, LYCIOSOLANUM BITTER,
MACRONESIOTES BITTER, AND
QUADRANGULARE BITTER: SOLANACEAE)**

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Solanum sambiranense D'Arcy & Rakot.

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Book chapters: Mayr E (2000) The biological species concept. In: Wheeler QD, Meier R (Eds) *Species Concepts and Phylogenetic Theory: A Debate*. Columbia University Press, New York, 17–29.

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