

Systematics of the genus *Eriosema*

The aim of the study is to undertake a comprehensive taxonomic revision of the genus *Eriosema* and reconstruct a phylogenetic tree of the relationship within the genus based on morphological and molecular data. The genus belongs to the large and very diverse flowering plant family Fabaceae and within the subfamily Papilionoideae, tribe Phaseoleae and subtribe Cajaninae. It is characterised by erect or climbing subshrubs or herbs with unifoliolate or trifoliolate leaves and leaflets that often have small glands underneath. The flowers are reflexed, have a 5-lobed calyx and mainly yellow corolla. The genus is distributed worldwide but mostly found in tropical areas and comprises about 150 species, with 100 of them occurring in Africa and 36 in South Africa. The genus has not never been revised neither in its entirety worldwide nor in southern Africa. Therefore correct identifications have become difficult, compounded by the fact that introgressive hybridisation is common. Furthermore species distribution ranges are not well-known. The infrageneric and infraspecific phylogenetic relationships of this genus remain unknown due to the fact previous phylogenetic studies have included only one African species or no species from this genus.