

Towards a revision of *Othonna* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae): Taxonomy of the *Othonna auriculifolia* and *O. fruticosa* groups and relationships within the subtribe Othonninae

Phylogenetic analyses of Asteraceae tribe Senecioneae have demonstrated that phylogenetic relationships in the tribe are unresolved. Moreover, little is known about the tribe's intergeneric relationships. Published results demonstrate that several of the larger genera are not monophyletic, and changes to the generic taxonomy in the tribe are ongoing. Three subtribes are currently recognised. Of these, subtribe Othonninae with about half a dozen genera is the smallest and primarily southern African in distribution. The central genus *Othonna* L. (\pm 120 spp.) is the largest of the Othonninae, and confined to southern Africa. It is recognized as a one of the highest priority genera in need of taxonomic revision. The South African species of *Othonna* were last revised more than a century ago and many species, particularly in the winter rainfall-region, remain poorly understood. As a first start to ultimately revising the genus we treated the geophytic species within the *O. bulbosa* group recognising 25 species of which four were described as new. However, another two additional putative new species have since come to light but require further field studies to collect complete material before they can be accessed and described. In this project we propose (1) assessing and describing these putative new species (as well as a further two from the other groups), (2) continuing with the taxonomy of the genus by revising another two groups (viz. the *Othonna auriculifolia* and *O. fruticosa* groups) with ca. 3 spp. and ca. 11 spp. respectively, (3) generating barcode regions for 60 species of the genus (currently only 6 species have been barcoded) and (4) assessing generic delimitations and relationships within the subtribe Othonninae by completing the broad level DNA phylogeny started by one of the collaborators.