

Taxonomic history

The *Petalidium* genus was described by Nees in *Plantae Asiaticae rariores*, or, Descriptions and figures of a select number of unpublished East Indian plants by N. Wallich in 1832.

One species, *Petalidium barlerioides*, was included in this description as the type of the genus. It had previously been known as *Ruellia barlerioides* Roth and *Ruellia bracteata* Roxb. was placed in synonymy.

The authors and dates of species described since then are as follows:

P = *Petalidium*

Ps = *Pseudobarleria*

Anderson 1863, 1864	<i>P. linifolium</i> ; <i>Ps. hirsuta</i>
Benoist 1950	<i>P. elatum</i> ; <i>P. microtrichum</i>
Clarke 1899; 1912	<i>P. canescens</i> ; <i>P. englerianum</i> ; <i>P. glutinosum</i> ; <i>P. huillensis</i> ; <i>P. lanatum</i> ; <i>P. latifolium</i> ; <i>P. ovatum</i> ; <i>P. spiniferum</i> ; <i>P. spiniferum</i> var. <i>obtusum</i> ; <i>P. variabile</i> ; <i>P. oblongifolium</i>
Dalz. & A.Gibson 1861	<i>P. patulum</i>
Dinter 1928	<i>P. otaviense</i>
Engl 1988	<i>P. variabile</i> var. <i>incanum</i> ; <i>P. variabilis</i> var. <i>viridescens</i> ; <i>Ps. canescens</i> ; <i>Ps. glutinosa</i> ; <i>Ps. lanata</i> ; <i>Ps. variabilis</i> ; <i>Ps. variabilis</i> var. <i>incana</i> ; <i>Ps. variabilis</i> var. <i>viridescens</i>
Lindau 1895, 1920;	<i>P. hamatum</i> ; <i>Ps. lepidagathis</i> ; <i>Ps. linifolia</i> ; <i>Ps. coccinea</i> ; <i>Ps. currori</i> ; <i>Ps. glandulosa</i> ; <i>Ps. glandulifera</i>
Meeuse 1960	<i>P. luteo-album</i>
Merxm. & Hainz 1955	<i>P. pilosi-bracteolatum</i>
Mildbr. 1907, 1941	<i>P. variabile</i> var. <i>spectabile</i> ; <i>P. eurychlamys</i> ; <i>P. incanum</i>
Moore 1880, 1902, 1907;	<i>P. sp.1</i> ; <i>P. coccineum</i> ; <i>P. currori</i> ; <i>P. glandulosum</i> ; <i>P. halimoides</i> ; <i>P. lepidagathis</i> ; <i>P. loranthifolium</i> ; <i>P. physaloides</i> ; <i>P. rupestre</i> ; <i>P. welwitschii</i> ; <i>P. cirrhiferum</i> ; <i>P. gossweileri</i> ; <i>P. tomentosum</i> ; <i>P. damaranse</i> ; <i>P. eenii</i>
Nees 1832, 1847	<i>P. barlerioides</i> ; <i>Barleria halimodes</i>
Obermeyer 1936;	<i>P. aromaticum</i> var. <i>aromaticum</i> ; <i>P. aromaticum</i> var. <i>canescens</i> ; <i>P. bracteatum</i> ; <i>P. lucens</i> ; <i>P. rubescens</i> ; <i>P. wilmaniae</i>
Meyer 1961, 1967, 1973	<i>P. crispum</i> ; <i>P. hirsutum</i> ; <i>P. rossmannianum</i> ; <i>P. angustitubum</i> ; <i>P. giessii</i> ; <i>P. subcrispum</i> ; <i>P. ohopohense</i>
Roth 1821	<i>Ruellia barlerioides</i>
Roxburgh 1814, 1847	<i>Eranthemum barlerioides</i> ; <i>Ruellia bracteata</i>
Schinz 1890, 1900, 1916, 1926	<i>Ps. engleriana</i> ; <i>Ps. latifolia</i> ; <i>Ps. ovata</i> ; <i>P. rautanenii</i> ; <i>P. latifolium</i> forma <i>ovatum</i> ; <i>P. ramulosum</i> ; <i>P. setosum</i> ; <i>P. cymbiforme</i> ; <i>P. parvifolium</i> ; <i>P. parvifolium</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>

The genus *Pseudobarleria* T.Anderson which contained species with a 4-fid calyx, similar to genus *Barleria* (hence the name), has not been retained. It initially housed the African species, while the name *Petalidium* was used for the species with the 5-fid calyx from the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent.

All species have 2 large bracteoles, small 4 or 5-fid calyx, 4 stamens in 2 pairs, ovary with 2 ovules in each cell, mature placentas elastic, seeds covered with hygroscopic hairs (Obermeijer 1936).

Subdivisions in the Acanthaceae relevant to *Petalidium* are as follows:

Lindau, G. 1895 (1895). Acanthaceae. In A. Engler & K. Prantl (eds.), Die Natfirlichen Pflanzenfamilien, vol. 4(3b): 274 - 353. Engelmann, Leipzig.
Subfamily: Contortae Tribe: Petalideae

Bremekamp, C.E.B. 1965 (1965). Delimitation and subdivision of the Acanthaceae. Bull. Bot. Surv. India 7: 21 - 30.
Subfamily: Ruellioideae; Tribe: Ruellieae; Subtribe: Petalidiinae [Pollen]

Scotland, R.W. & Vollesen, K. 2000:

A new classification of Acanthaceae based on combinations of morphological diagnostic features and published molecular sequence analysis

Subfamily: Acanthoideae Link; Tribe: Ruellieae Dumont; Subtribe: Ruelliinae Nees [Cystoliths; Left-contort aestivation & filament curtain]

Subdivisions in the genus *Petalidium* are as follows:

Burkill, I.H. & Clarke, C.B. 1899– 1900. FTA 1899

Pseudobarleria	2 anticous calyx segments connate >0.5 their length			
	Innovations with stellate hairs	Inflor lax or fls solitary		<i>latifolium</i> <i>englerianum</i> <i>physaloides</i> <i>welwitschii</i>
		Infl very dense, near base of stem		<i>halimoides</i> <i>lanatum</i>
	Innovations with simple sts gl-tipped hairs	Inflor lax or fls solitary	Infl without sterile branches	<i>ovatum</i> <i>glandulosum</i> <i>currori</i>
			Infl with sterile branches	<i>spiniferum</i> <i>huillense</i> <i>rupestre</i> <i>glutinosum</i>
		Infl very dense, near base of stem		<i>variable</i> <i>canescens</i> <i>lepidagathis</i>
Eu <i>Petalidium</i>	2 anticous calyx segments connate <0.5 their length			<i>coccineum</i>

Obermeijer, A.A. 1936.

Section	Subsection			
Haplanthus Lindau Fls solitary, axill, sts massed in upper part of branches, bracts 0, calyx 5-fid, corolla large 2-3 cm		Bracteoles with dark veins, glabrous or with few scattered, gl hairs, membranous	Pedicels 8 mm, bracteoles shiny	<i>linifolium</i> <i>lucens</i>
			Pedicels 3 mm, bracteoles not conspic	<i>oblongifolium</i> <i>wilmaniae</i>
		Bracteoles without dark veins, densely gl pubescent, cartilinous	Leaves linear	<i>cymbiforme</i>
			Leaves spatulate	<i>rautanenii</i>
Soreianthus Lindau Infl on contracated side shoots, usu many-fled, bracts present, calyx 4-fid, corolla large or small	variabiles	Infl a dichasium, often reduced, ... pedicels & often sterile shoots distinctly visible, bracts +- rudimentary, corolla large or small, erect pls	Pls white tomentose	<i>latifolium</i> <i>engerlerianum</i>
			Pls not white tomentose	<i>variable</i> var <i>v</i> & <i>i</i> <i>coccineum</i> <i>rubescens</i> <i>glutinosum</i> <i>aromaticum</i>
	decumbens	Infl a monopodial cyme appearing as a compact axill spike, multi-fls, bracts well-dev, different to the leaves, corolla small, up to 2 cm, pls decumbent or less spreading	Bracts long-ciliate, pls not stellate-tomentose	<i>canescens</i> <i>setosum</i>
			Bracts not ciliate; pls densely stellate-tomentose	<i>lanatum</i> <i>ramulosum</i>
Prophyllanthus Oberm.		Infl an axillary, sev to few-fled spike, fls decussate, bracts large &		<i>bracteatum</i>

		broad, calyx 4-fid, erect plants	
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Meyer, P.G. 1961

Section	Type of section	syn	species
Petalidium	<i>P. barlerioides</i> (Roth) Nees Calyx regular 5-fid, no sterile shoots	Pseudobarleria T.And. section Haplanthus Lindau p.p. Petalidium sect Haplanthus (Lindau) Oberm.	<i>barlerioides</i> <i>linifolium</i> <i>oblongifolium</i> <i>rautanenii</i> <i>cymbiforme</i> <i>parvifolium</i> <i>lucens</i> <i>luteo-album</i>
Pseudobarleria (T.And.) P.G.Meyer	<i>P. hirsutum</i> (T.And.) P.G.Meyer	Pseudobarleria T.And. section Soreianthus Lindau non illeg.; Pseudobarleria T.And. section Haplanthus Lindau p.p.; Petalidium Nees sect Soreianthus (Lindau) Oberm. non illeg.; Petalidium Nees sect Soreianthus (Lindau) Oberm. non illeg. subsection Variabiles Oberm. non illeg (no Latin descrip); Petalidium Nees sect Soreianthus (Lindau) Oberm. non illeg. subsection Decumbentes Oberm. non illeg (no Latin descrip); Petalidium Nees sect. Pophyllanthus Oberm. non illeg (no Latin descrip);	All minus above