

Short Taxonomic Note

Name change: *Pelargonium trifidum* (Geraniaceae), the correct name for *P. tripartitum* and *P. fragile*

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Pelargonium trifidum Jacq. is the correct name for what was previously known as *P. tripartitum* Willd. and *P. fragile* (Andr.) Willd.

Pelargonium trifidum Jacq. is die korrekte naam vir wat voorheen bekend was as *P. tripartitum* Willd. en *P. fragile* (Andr.) Willd.

Keywords: Geraniaceae, name change, *Pelargonium trifidum*

Pelargonium trifidum Jacq., *P. fragile* (Andr.) Willd., and *P. tripartitum* Willd. have long been considered synonymous, e.g. by Knuth (1912) and Van der Walt (1977). This was confirmed in the present instance by comparing the illustrations (iconotypes) accompanying the descriptions by Jacquin (1797) and Andrews (1798). Although Willdenow (1800) supplied his own description with his name *P. tripartitum*, this name is clearly an avowed substitute for *P. trifidum* Jacq.

(cited as a synonym), non *Geranium trifidum* Burm. f. (1759).

Van der Walt (1977) stated that *P. trifidum* Jacq. is a later homonym of *P. trifidum* (Burm. f.) Willd. (1800), and is thus an illegitimate name. However, according to Stafleu & Cowan (1979), *P. trifidum* Jacq. was published three years before *P. trifidum* (Burm. f.) Willd. It is therefore not a homonym, but the correct name:

***Pelargonium trifidum* Jacq.**, Hort. Schoenbr. 2: 5, t. 134 (1797).

Type: Icon.

Geranium fragile Andr., Bot. Rep. 1: t. 37 (1798).

Pelargonium fragile (Andr.) Willd., Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 3: 686 (1800); Van der Walt, Pelargoniums S. Afr. [1]: 15 (1977). Type: Icon., Andrews l.c. t. 37.

Pelargonium tripartitum Willd., Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 3: 683 (1800); Knuth in Pflanzenr. 4, 129, 53: 388 (1912). Type: as for *P. trifidum* Jacq. above.

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