

# Saintpaulia, the NEW Streptocarpus

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OVER THE YEARS, BOTANISTS HAVE DISCOVERED new and fascinating plants throughout the world and have tried to classify them according to accepted rules available at the time of discovery. Evolving over time, new research techniques or classification ideas have become available that expand earlier research, or at least cause rethinking about relationships. Current methodology allows DNA analysis to form more accurate comparisons of related organisms to provide a clearer picture of similarity or diversity. This research has resulted in a reclassification of many existing species – in particular for us the genus *Saintpaulia* appears to be more appropriately placed as a **section** within subgenus

*Streptocarpella* of the genus *Streptocarpus* instead of being a separate genus.

How will we now correctly cite this new reclassification?

genus *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella* sect. *Saintpaulia*  
genus *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia*

Both are correct. The one including subgenus *Streptocarpella* just gives additional information, but *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* is unique and can be confused with nothing else.

Latin nouns (*Streptocarpus*) have grammatical gender, often indicated by their ending. Since the grammatical gender of *Saintpaulia* is feminine and *Streptocarpus* is masculine, in several instances the spelling of species' names has been updated for gender agreement with *Streptocarpus*.

Dr. Jeffrey Smith has provided a reference table that can be used to correlate the former classification of *Saintpaulia* to the new classification with the updated spellings.

It is highly recommended for anyone growing these species and subspecies that the original names be preserved in order to maintain the diversity and stability of this group. In the future there may be another reclassification that recognizes the diversity of *Saintpaulia*, and by preserving the distinctiveness today, we protect the future diversity of this group. (It also helps us in not having to rename everything we are currently growing.)

For more information on this subject, please read Dr. Smith's article on the Gesneriad Reference Web <http://www.gesneriads.info/articles/saintpaulia/saintpaulia/>.



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Parker. All photos by the author

## Accessions of Saintpaulia Known to be Available in North America

Column 1 follows the numbering system and species identification of Darbyshire (2006) as modified by the African Violet Society of America (*S. brevipilosa*, *S. nitida*, and *S. rupicola* were kept as species rather than subspecies). List by J. Smith as of July 18, 2008 and modified on December 28, 2016 and October 4, 2017 to include subspecies changes suggested by Nishii et. al., 2015 and the addition of species *S. ulugurensis* and *S. watkinsii*.



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *rupicolus* Cha Simba or Chasimba



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5c1. cl. *ionanthus*



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5i. cl. *velutinus*



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5c1. cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397



*Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *confusa* Uppsala 2004-0790

Column 2 is the proposed AVSA abbreviations and names following the Nishii et al., 2015 merger of *Saintpaulia* as a section in genus *Streptocarpus*. The former *S. rupicola* was inserted as a subspecies under *ionanthus* moving subspecies *velutinus* from position h to position i. Some names have been corrected for Latin gender agreement with the genus name *Streptocarpus*.

### AVSA Abbreviated (2009/2017)

- S. 1. *inconspicua*
- S. 2. *pusilla*
- S. 3. *shumensis*
  - S. 3. cl. *shumensis*
  - S. 3. cl. *shumensis* Mather EE
- S. 4. *teitensis*
- S. 5 *ionantha*
  - 5a. subspecies *grandifolia*
    - S. 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 237
    - S. 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 299
  - 5b. subspecies *grotei*
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa*
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Mather Brother Paddy
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Mather E
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Uppsala 3395
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis*
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis* Mather No. 2
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis* Uppsala 3396
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei*
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Amazon
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Cornell G149
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 7
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 21
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather V
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Protzen or Uppsala 3091
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Silvert
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* sport
    - S. 5b. cl. *magungensis*
    - S. 5b. cl. *magungensis* var. *minima*
  - 5c. subspecies *ionantha*
    - 1. variety *ionantha*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionantha* House of Amani
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionantha*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionantha* Amazon
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionantha* 930919
      - S. 5c1. cl. Pangani Falls
      - S. 5c1. cl. Sigi Falls
      - S. 5c1. cl. *tongwensis*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397
      - S. 5c1. cl. white *ionantha* or Mather No. 20
    - 2. variety *diplotricha*
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Parker
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Punter No. 0
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Punter No. 6
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Punter No. 7
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Uppsala 3084
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Uppsala 3085
  - 5d. subspecies *mafiensis*

### Names Nishii et. al., 2015

- S. 1. *inconspicuus* (not in cultivation)
- S. 2. *afroviola* (not in cultivation)
  - S. 3. *shumensis*
  - S. 3. cl. *shumensis*
  - S. 3. cl. *shumensis* Mather EE
- S. 4. *teitensis*
- S. 5. *ionanthus*
  - 5a. subspecies *grandifolius*
    - S. 5a. cl. *grandifolius* No. 237
    - S. 5a. cl. *grandifolius* No. 299
  - 5b. subspecies *grotei*
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa*
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Mather Brother Paddy
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Mather E
    - S. 5b. cl. *confusa* Uppsala 3395
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis*
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis* Mather No. 2
    - S. 5b. cl. *difficilis* Uppsala 3396
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei*
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Amazon
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Cornell G149
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 7
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 21
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather V
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Protzen or Uppsala 3091
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Silvert
    - S. 5b. cl. *grotei* sport
    - S. 5b. cl. *magungensis*
    - S. 5b. cl. *magungensis* var. *minima*
  - 5c. subspecies *ionanthus*
    - 1. variety *ionanthus*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionanthus* House of Amani
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionanthus*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionanthus* Amazon
      - S. 5c1. cl. *ionanthus* 930919
      - S. 5c1. cl. Pangani Falls
      - S. 5c1. cl. Sigi Falls
      - S. 5c1. cl. *tongwensis*
      - S. 5c1. cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397
      - S. 5c1. cl. white *ionanthus* or Mather No. 20
    - 2. variety *diplotrichus*
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Parker
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Punter No. 0
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Punter No. 6
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Punter No. 7
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Uppsala 3084
      - S. 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Uppsala 3085
  - 5d. subspecies *mafiensis* (not in cultivation)

- 5e. subspecies *occidentalis*  
*S.* 5e. cl. *magungensis* var. *occidentalis*  
*S.* 5e. cl. *magungensis* var. *occidentalis*  
Mather No. 12
- 5f. subspecies *orbicularis*  
*S.* 5f. cl. *orbicularis*  
*S.* 5f. cl. *orbicularis* var. *purpurea*
- 5g. subspecies *pendula*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *intermedia*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula* Cornell G304  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula* Uppsala 3087  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula* Uppsala 3089  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula* Uppsala 3090  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendula* var. *kizarae*
- 5h. subspecies *rupicola*  
*S.* 5h. cl. *rupicola*  
*S.* 5h. cl. Mather No. 5  
*S.* 5h. cl. pale or lite  
*S.* 5h. cl. Cha Simba or Chasimba
- S.* 5h. cl. Kacharoroni or Robertson
- 5i. subspecies *velutina*  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutina*  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutina* Amazon  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutina* lite  
*S.* 6. *brevipilosa*  
*S.* 6. cl. *brevipilosus*  
*S.* 6. cl. Mather No. 10  
*S.* 6. cl. Grusell or Nguru Mnt
- S.* 7. *nitida*  
*S.* 8. *ulugurensis*  
*S.* 9. *goetzeana*  
*S.* 10. *watkinsii*
- 5e. subspecies *occidentalis*  
*S.* 5e. cl. *magungensis* var. *occidentalis*  
*S.* 5e. cl. *magungensis* var. *occidentalis*  
Mather No. 12
- 5f. subspecies *orbicularis*  
*S.* 5f. cl. *orbicularis*  
*S.* 5f. cl. *orbicularis* var. *purpurea*
- 5g. subspecies *pendulus*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *intermedia*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus*  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus* Cornell G304  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus* Uppsala 3087  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus* Uppsala 3089  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus* Uppsala 3090  
*S.* 5g. cl. *pendulus* var. *kizarae*
- 5h. subspecies *rupicolus*  
*S.* 5h. cl. *rupicolus*  
*S.* 5h. cl. *rupicolus* Mather No. 5  
*S.* 5h. cl. *rupicolus* pale or lite  
*S.* 5h. cl. *rupicolus* Cha Simba or Chasimba
- S.* 5h. cl. *rupicolus* Kacharoroni or Robertson
- 5i. subspecies *velutinus*  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutinus*  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutinus* Amazon  
*S.* 5i. cl. *velutinus* lite  
*S.* 6. *brevipilosus*  
*S.* 6. cl. *brevipilosus*  
*S.* 6. cl. *brevipilosus* Mather No. 10  
*S.* 6. cl. *brevipilosus* Grusell or Nguru Mnt. or Uppsala 3154
- S.* 7. *nitidus*  
*S.* 8. *ulugurensis* (not in cultivation)  
*S.* 9. *goetzeanus*  
*S.* 10. *watkinsii* (not in cultivation)

Note: The use of italics for the “S” in the former AVSA system represents a *Saintpaulia* species. Under the Nishii et. al. system, the “S” does not need to be in italics.

Labeling Suggestion: The purpose of using abbreviated names (the number codes established by AVSA) is to shorten the required scientific names that need to be used. For example, you can more easily write on your label *S.* 5c2. cl. *diplotrichus* Parker than *Streptocarpus* sect. *Saintpaulia ionanthus*, subspecies *ionanthus*, var. *diplotrichus*, clone Parker. (The 5c2. code indicates that it is the species *ionanthus*, subspecies *ionanthus*, var. *diplotrichus* so all that information does not need to be written out.)

#### Literature Cited

- Darbyshire, I. 2006. Gesneriaceae. Flora of tropical East Africa. Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens.
- Nishii, K., M. Hughes, M. Briggs, E. Haston, F. Christie, M.J. DeVillers, T. Hanekom, W.G. Roos, D.U. Bellstedt, and M. Möller. 2015. *Streptocarpus* redefined to include all Afro-Malagasy Gesneriaceae: Molecular phylogenies prove congruent with geographical distribution and basic chromosome numbers and uncover remarkable morphological homoplasies. *Taxon* 64(6): 1243-1274.

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