

“*Sarcostemma*” – an update

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An overview on the current taxonomic status of the stem-succulent group of plants known as *Sarcostemma* is given. This Old World taxon, well-known to horticulturists because of being so hardy in cultivation but reluctant in flowering, has been found to belong within the stemsucculent part of *Cynanchum* phylogenetically. This originally Madagascan subgroup of *Cynanchum*, which already includes the genera *Folotsia*, *Karimbolea* and *Platykeleba*, would be paraphyletic unless *Sarcostemma* is also included. *Sarcostemma* is considered to be a fairly young group that underwent rapid expansion outside Madagascar between Cap Verde Islands and New Caledonia. More species and subspecies have been described in recent years, either under *Sarcostemma* or *Cynanchum*.