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- aageodontus** Gr. 'aages', hard; and Gr. 'odous, odontos', teeth. (*Aloe*)
- abayensis** For the occurrence in the Abay Gorge, Ethiopia. (*Orbea*)
- abbreviatus** Lat., shortened; (1) for the overall size. (*Senecio*) – (2) for the small plants, with few leaves and flowers. (*Phyllobolus*) – (3) for the very short internodes of the lateral branches. (*Mitrophyllum*) – (4) for the reduced leaf lamina. (*Ruschia*) – (5) for the short corolla tips. (*Ceropegia arabica* var.) – (6) application obscure. (*Uncarina*)
- abchasicus** For the occurrence in the region of Abchasia, W Caucasus, Georgia. (*Sedum*)
- abdelkuri** For the occurrence on the island Abd-El-Kuri off the coast of Socotra. (*Euphorbia*)
- aberdeenensis** For the occurrence near Aberdeen, Eastern Cape, RSA. (*Delosperma*)
- abhaisicus** For the occurrence near the city of Abha, Asir Prov., Saudi Arabia. (*Aloe*)
- aboriginus** Lat., native, ancestral, aboriginal; because the type plants were growing on shell heaps made by the Florida aboriginal people. (*Harrisia*)
- abramsii** For Prof. LeRoy Abrams (1874–1956), US-American botanist at the Stanford University. (*Dudleya*)
- abrotanifolius** Lat. '-folius', -leaved; for the similarity of the leaves to those of *Artemisia abrotanum* (*Asteraceae*). (*Pelargonium*)
- abruptus** Lat., broken off, steep; application obscure. (*Octopoma*)
- Absolmsia** For Prof. Hermann M. C. L. F. zu Graf Solms-Laubach (1842–1915), German botanist. (*Asclepiadaceae*)
- abyssi** Gen. of Lat. 'abyssus', abyss; for the occurrence in a canyon near the Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA. (*Cylindropuntia*)
- abyssicola** Lat. 'abyssus', abyss; and Lat. '-cola', -dwelling. (*Aloe*)
- abyssinicus** Lat., Abyssinian, Ethiopian; for the occurrence there. (*Bulbine*, *Ceropegia*, *Delosperma*, *Euphorbia*, *Hypagophytum*, *Schlechterella*)
- Acanthocalycium** Gr. 'akanthos, akantha', thorn, prickle; and Gr. 'kalyx', calyx; for the spine-tipped scales on the receptacle and the spine-tipped perianth segments. (*Cactaceae*)
- acanthocarpus** Gr. 'akanthos, akantha', thorn, prickle; and Gr. 'karpos', fruit; for the spine-covered fruits. (*Cylindropuntia*, *Erythrina*, *Tetragonia*)
- Acanthocereus** Gr. 'akanthos, akantha', thorn, prickle; and *Cereus*, a genus of spiny columnar cacti. (*Cactaceae*)
- acanthosetus** Gr. 'akanthos, akantha', thorn, prickle; and Lat. '-setus', -bristled; for the bristle-like spines. (*Echinocereus pulchellus* ssp.)
- acanthurus** Gr. 'akanthos, akantha', thorn, prickle; and Gr. 'oura', tail; for the densely spined stems. (*Cleistocactus*)
- acaulis** Lat., stemless; (1) for the growth form. (*Furcraea*, *Opuntia*) – (2) for the growth form, but erroneously applied. (*Senecio*)
- acervatus** Lat., in heaps; for the cushion-forming growth habit. (*Euphorbia*)
- acetosus** Lat., sour; for the acid taste of the leaves. (*Pelargonium*)
- achabensis** For the occurrence on the Farm Achab, Northern Cape, RSA. (*Conophytum*)
- Acharagma** Gr. 'a-, an-', without; and Gr. 'charagma', groove; because the tubercles of the plant body are without a groove, contrasting with the related genus *Escobaria*. (*Cactaceae*)
- achirasensis** For the occurrence at Achiras, Prov. Córdoba, Argentina. (*Gymnocalycium monvillei* ssp.)
- acicularis** Lat., needle-shaped; (1) for the end spine of the leaves. (*Agave*) – (2) for the spination. (*Echinocereus engelmannii* var.)
- aciculatus** Lat., marked with fine irregular streaks; (1) for the petal colouration. (*Pelargonium*) – (2) application obscure. (*Opuntia*)
- acidus** Lat., acid, sour-tasting; for the taste of the fruits. (*Eulychnia*)
- acifer** Lat. 'acus', needle; and Lat. '-fer', carrying; for the spination. (*Echinocereus polyacanthus* ssp.)
- acinacifolius** Lat. 'acinaces', oriental scimitar; and Lat. '-folius', -leaved. (*Gasteria*)