Spetaea HYACINTHACEAE

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Spetaea Wetschnig & Pfosser (Taxon 52(1): 75, 2003). **Type:** *Spetaea lachenaliiflora* Wetschnig & Pfosser. – **Hyacinthoideae** – **Massonieae** – **Distr:** RSA (Western Cape). **Etym:** For Dr. Franz Speta (1941–2015), Austrian botanist and specialist of petaloid monocotyledons.

Perennial summer-deciduous bulbous plants; bulbs underground, ovoid, 3.5 cm Ø, bulb scales firm, dark brown; **R** fibrous; **L** up to 6, succulent, canaliculate, linear to lanceolate, acuminate, 15–25 × 1–3 cm, glabrous, surface shining, without spots; **Inf** solitary, erect, 20–50 cm, raceme 4–5 cm Ø, densely flowered; **Bra** 2–3 mm, recurved; **Ped** horizontally spreading, 9–19 mm, glabrous; **Fl** campanulate; **Tep** 9–11 × 1.8–2.5 mm, basally fused to form a narrow cup, blue to violet, 1-veined; **Fil** fused at the base, spreading, blue or violet, 9–12 mm; **Anth** 2.5 mm, violet to purple, dorsifixed, pollen yellow; **Ov** 3 × 2 mm Ø; **Fr** obovoid, obtusely 3-lobed, 10 × 8 mm; **Se** 2.6 × 1.7 mm, slightly wrinkled, black. — **Cytology:** 2n = 20 (protologue).

The single species of this genus was for long regarded as part of a widely circumscribed *Scilla plumbea* auct. (not *S. plumbea* Lindley, see *Merwillia plumbea*), but the studies of Wetschnig and Pfosser (2003) showed that the plants from

the Du Toits Kloof area are an independent taxon distinct from any other member of the tribe. In their molecular analysis, *Spetaea* forms a subclade with *Daubenya*, *Androsiphon*, *Amphisiphon* and *Massonia*. *Spetaea* is distinct within the tribe due to its almost uniquely wrinkled seeds.

S. lachenaliiflora Wetschnig and Pfosser (Taxon 52(1): 75, ill. (p. 76), 2003). **Type:** RSA, Western Cape (*Drège* 1997 [B, W]). – **Distr:** RSA (Western Cape: Du Toits Kloof); rocky parts in Hawequas Sandstone Fynbos vegetation, winter-rainfall region; flowering during mid-summer. **I:** Lewis (1947, as *Scilla plumbea*).

Description as for the genus.

References

- Lewis, G. J. (1947) *Scilla plumbea*. Flow. Pl. Afr. 26: t. 1006 + 2 pp. text.
- Wetschnig, W. & Pfosser, M. F. (2003) The *Scilla plumbea* puzzle — present status of the genus *Scilla* sensu lato in southern Africa and description of *Spetaea lachenaliiflora*, a new genus and species of *Massonieae* (Hyacinthaceae). Taxon 52(1): 75–91, ill., key. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3647303>

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