

FABACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *RHYNCHOSIA* FROM THE RICHTERSVELD

Rhynchosia emarginata *Germishuizen*, sp. nov., *R. candidae* affinis sed floribus longioribus, foliolis emarginatis, infra punctis luteis glandularibus differt.

TYPE.—Cape Province, 2816 (Oranjemund): Richtersveld, Numees, west side of ridge north of Numees Camp (–BD), *McDonald* 703 (PRE, holo.; STE–U, iso.). Figure 5.

Robust, erect, much branched woody shrub up to 0,75 m tall. Branches and branchlets densely white adpressed tomentose, interspersed with conspicuous yellow resinous glands; old stems glabrescent with bark flaking off in irregular pieces. *Stipules* free, adnate to base of petiole, up to 3,5 mm long, white adpressed tomentose on the outside, glabrous inside. *Leaves* trifoliate; leaflets broadly obovate, (4–) 5–11,2 (–12) × 3,5–8 (–9) mm, emarginate, obtuse at base, with dense, adpressed strigose white hairs on the upper surface, sparsely white adpressed strigose mainly along the veins interspersed with conspicuous yellow resinous gland dots on lower surface. *Petiole* up to 11,5 mm long, white adpressed tomentose, interspersed with yellow resinous glands.

Inflorescences axillary, few-flowered racemes up to 65 mm long, including a 25–45 mm long peduncle, white adpressed hairy, interspersed with yellow resinous glands; bracts caducous. *Flowers* up to 17 mm long. *Calyx* 8 mm long, 5-lobed; lobes unequal, 4–5 mm long, the upper pair connate, white adpressed strigose, interspersed with yellow resinous glands. *Standard* yellow with conspicuous purple veins on the outside, obovate, 15 × 10 mm, eared at the base, glabrous. *Wing petals* yellow, oblong, eared, 13 × 3 mm, sculpturing absent. *Keel blades* up to 17 mm long, yellow, purple at the apex, shallowly pocketed. *Stamens* up to 17 mm long, 9 fused into a staminal sheath and the 1 vexillar stamen free; anthers uniform, 1 mm long. *Ovary* ovate, strigose. *Style* up to 18 mm long, filiform, slightly thickened and incurved in the upper third; stigma capitate, hairy. *Fruit* a rimmed, flat, slightly falcate 2-seeded pod, 30 × 8 mm, straw-coloured, often streaked with purple, densely tomentose when young becoming sparsely tomentose, interspersed with yellow resinous glands later.

CAPE.—2816 (Oranjemund): Richtersveld, Numees (–BD), *Jürgens* 52; *Jürgens* 10114; *McDonald* 753; west side of ridge



FIGURE 5.—Holotype of *Rhynchosia emarginata* Germishuizen.

north of Numees Camp (—BD), McDonald 703. 2817 (Vioolsdrif); head of Helskloof, Hottentotsparadysberg (—AA), Thompson & Le Roux 146.

R. emarginata is found in the Richtersveld in north-western Cape Province just south of the Orange River (Figure 6) growing amongst rocks on steep slopes or in dry streambeds. The first record of the species in the PRE Herbarium was collected by Thompson and Le Roux during August 1977 from Helskloof. It flowers during August and September. All the material cited above was incorrectly identi-

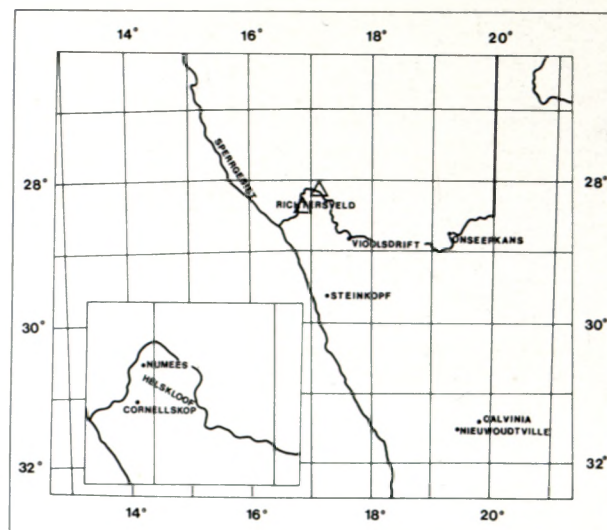


FIGURE 6.—Distribution map of *Rhynchosia emarginata* Germishuizen.

fied as *Rhynchosia schlechteri* Bak.f. and *R. viscidula* Steud. *R. emarginata* can be distinguished from the two above species by having emarginate obovate leaflets adpressed hairy on the undersurface, interspersed with conspicuous yellow resinous glands and the absence of yellow glandular hairs with bulbous bases on the stems, petioles and undersurface of the leaves that are readily found on the above-mentioned species. In appearance, *R. emarginata* is closest to *R. emarginata* but it differs in having longer flowers, emarginate leaflets and yellow resinous glands on the undersurface of the leaflets.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr H.F. Glen for translating the diagnosis into Latin and Mr E.G.H. Oliver of the Stellenbosch Herbarium for sending their material of this species on loan and Mrs W. Roux for drawing the map.

G. GERMISHUIZEN*

* Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001.