

COMBRETACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *COMBRETUM* FROM THE TRANSVAAL

Combretum petrophilum Retief, sp. nov., *C. apiculato* Sond. subsp. *apiculato* affinis, sed petalis non ciliatis et lamina anguste ovate differt.

TYPE.—Transvaal, 2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): Strýdom Tunnel (–BC), Carr 203 (PRE, holo.; K).

A shrub or small slender tree, up to 4 m high; deciduous; bark \pm smooth, longitudinally reticulate, grey. *Stems* with few or no lateral branching for c. 1–1,5 m above ground; young twigs dull reddish brown. *Leaves* opposite, petiolate; lamina narrowly ovate to elliptic, occasionally broadly ovate to ovate, (14) 36–60(75) \times (10) 15–23 mm, discolorous, base asymmetrical, rounded, apex acute, obtuse or rounded, apiculate, often twisted, both surfaces sparsely to densely lepidote, sometimes with trichomes along margin and main vein, principal lateral veins alternate or opposite, in 5–7 pairs, main vein and reticulate tertiary veining of under surface prominent, margin smooth, occasionally undulate; petioles (2) 5–8 mm long, lepidote, trichomes sometimes present. *Inflorescence* an axillary spike; peduncles 11–16 mm long, rachis (3) 8–11 mm long,

glutinous and lepidote; bracts caducous. *Flowers* 4-merous. *Receptacle* glutinous and lepidote; lower receptacle c. 1,5 mm long, cylindrical, upper receptacle c. 1,5 mm long, campanulate. *Sepals* yellow, c. 1 mm long, lobes broadly triangular with a few trichomes at apices of lobes. *Petals* obtriangular, shortly unguiculate, margins not ciliate, c. 1 \times 1,5 mm, dull yellow. *Stamens* 8, 1-seriate; filaments 5,5–6 mm long; anthers c. 1 mm long. *Disk* free for c. 0,5 mm, purplish pink, outer part pilose. *Style* 5 mm long. *Fruit* a 4-winged samara; subglobose, 16–18 \times 10–15 mm; apical peg 0,5–1 mm long; stipe 3–4 mm long; glabrous but lepidote; light reddish brown when mature. *Cotyledons* 2, epigeal. *Scales* circular in outline, c. 55–75 mm in diameter delimited by 8 primary radial walls and 6–8 tangential walls. Fig. 4.

TRANSVAAL.—2429 (Zebediela): 12,8 km from Malipsdrif to Ganspoort (–BB), Van Wyk 5243 (PRE; PRU). 2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): Strýdom Tunnel (–BC), Van der Schijff 7318 (PRE); Abel Erasmus Pass (–BC), Strey 3454 (K; MO; PRE); Swadini National hiking trail (–BD), Van Greuning 513 (PRE; PRU); Ma-

riepskop picnic spot (-DB), *Van der Schijff 6094* (PRE; PRU). 2529 (Witbank): Fonteinsonderend, Loskop Dam (-AD), *Theron 2171* (PRE; PRU); Doornkop (-CB), *Du Plessis 422* (PRE; PRU).



FIG. 4. — *Combretum petrophilum*. 1, branch with leaves and inflorescences, $\times 0,8$; 2, flower, $\times 3$ (Strey 3454).

Combretum petrophilum is endemic to the Transvaal. The species usually occurs on north-western or southern slopes in sourish mixed bushveld. Specimens of the species are found growing between rocks, in fissures or along ledges. The specific epithet refers to the habitat preference of the species.

C. petrophilum is placed in the section *Ciliatipetala* Engl. & Diels even though [as in the case of *C. psidioides* Welw. subsp. *glabrum* Exell (1978), which was also placed there] its petals are not ciliate at the apex. All other characteristics of the new species are typical of the section *Ciliatipetala*.

C. petrophilum is similar to *C. apiculatum* subsp. *apiculatum*. Apart from its petals being without cilia at the apex it differs mainly in its leaf lamina which is ovate to elliptic rather than broadly to narrowly obovate-elliptic. The main and secondary veins of the new species are also much less prominently raised and not markedly yellow and the flowers are arranged in laxer spikes than in *C. apiculatum* subsp. *apiculatum*.

The first record of *C. petrophilum* was from the Abel Erasmus Pass, where Mr R. G. Strey collected some fruiting material in March 1960. In November of the same year he went back and collected flowering specimens. Exell examined the material in 1967 and tentatively identified the taxon as a form of *C. apiculatum*.

REFERENCE

EXELL, A.W. 1978. Combretaceae. *Fl. Zambesiaca* 4: 100-183.