

EBENACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *EUCLEA* FROM THE TRANSVAAL

Euclea dewinteri Retief, sp. nov., *E. crispae* (Thunb.) Guerke affinis, sed marginibus laminarum foliorum non undulatis, lamina ovata vel elliptica non obovata vel lanceolata atque pedunculis inflorescentiae valde brevioribus differt.

TYPE. — Transvaal, 2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): path from Bourke's Luck passing the old mine down to Belvedere (-DB), *Davidson 3628* (PRE, holo.; J).

A virgate, single- to multi-stemmed shrublet, 1-2 m high, branched at the ends of the stems. *Branches* hairy when young, glabrescent when older. *Leaves* simple, spirally arranged; crowded at the ends of the branches; blade broadly ovate to elliptic, 5-26 × 3-15 mm, densely hairy when young, glabrescent when older, apex obtuse to rounded, base rounded,

margin entire; petioles more or less appressed, 1-3 mm long, densely hairy when young, glabrescent when older. *Inflorescence* with both male and female flowers single or in 3-flowered pseudocymes. *Flowers* dioecious. *Male flowers* greenish yellow to dull white; calyx saucer-shaped, densely hairy, 4-lobed, deltoid; corolla campanulate, cleft at least halfway down or more, appressed trichomes present along the middle, 2.5-3 mm long; stamens with filaments 0.75 mm long; ovary rudimentary, usually with two slender styles, densely hairy, disc present. *Female flowers* smaller than male flowers; corolla subcampanulate, 2-2.5 mm long; staminodia present. *Fruit* a globose berry with a persistent non-acrescent calyx, purplish black when ripe, hairy when young, 5.5-7 mm in diameter, one-seeded; seed globose, 4-6 mm in diameter, divided into three parts by two thin curved lines and a shallow groove. Figure 2.



FIGURE 2. — *Euclea dewinteri*
E. Retief. Branch. $\times 0.6$.
(from Davidson 3628).

TRANSVAAL. — 2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve. Bourke's Luck Potholes. \pm NE of parking area. May 1970. *Scheepers & Engelbrecht 1256* (PRE); on quartzite ridges. September 1970. *Kerfoot 6444* (PRE); Belvedere Valley. quartzite outcrops. September 1970. *Kerfoot 6445* (PRE); at junction of Blyde and Treur Rivers. February 1973. *White 10261* (PRE); below old mine. August 1978. *Birchmore 1126* (PRE); trail above old mine. November 1978. *Kruger 312* (PRE); path from Bourke's Luck passing the old mine down to Belvedere. April 1982. *Davidson 3628* (J. PRE).

E. dewinteri is endemic to the Transvaal, being restricted to the Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve where it grows against quartzite hillslopes, often rooted in crevices between boulders. The species is often found in association with species of *Smilax*, *Bowkeria*, *Rhus*, *Bequaertiodendron*, *Helichrysum*, *Phylica*, *Syzygium*, *Cliffortia* and *Halleria*. It also occurs in *Loudetia*-*Monocymbium* Grassland of the North Eastern Mountain Sourveld. *E. dewinteri* flowers and fruits from September till May.

In southern Africa species of the genus *Euclea* can be divided into two groups based on corolla structure. In the one group the corolla is shallowly lobed at the apex only (seven species), while in *E. dewinteri*, together with eight other species, the corolla is cleft at least halfway down or more. Five of the species in this latter group have young leaves and twigs that are quite glabrous or covered with a rust-coloured granular exudate, while in *E. dewinteri*, *E.*

asperrima Holz., *E. crispa* (Thunb.) Guerke and *E. natalensis* A. DC. they are pubescent or asperulous. *E. natalensis* usually has a compound inflorescence and keeled corolla lobes. The inflorescence of *E. dewinteri*, *E. crispa* and *E. asperrima* is a pseudoraceme and the corolla lobes are without a keel. The corolla of *E. asperrima* is hairy on the outside, the young twigs and leaves of the species are scabrid or asperulous. *E. dewinteri* and *E. crispa* are distinguished by a corolla that is glabrous except for a median line of appressed bristles and young twigs and leaves that are pubescent with fairly long hairs.

E. dewinteri is most closely related to *E. crispa*, especially in flower structure. Our species differs from *E. crispa* in (i) having the leaf blades ovate to elliptic and not obovate to lanceolate; (ii) not having leaf blades with undulate margins; and (iii) having much shorter peduncles than *E. crispa*. *E. dewinteri* differs from the other known species of the genus in growth form, being a virgate single- or multi-stemmed shrublet, 1–2 m high with divaricate branching at the end of the stems.

The specific epithet *dewinteri* has been chosen in recognition of the work on the family Ebenaceae for the *Flora of southern Africa* done by Dr. B. de Winter, Director of the Botanical Research Institute, and of his continued interest in the family.