



FIG. 5.—*Plectranthus dolomiticus* (Van Jaarsveld 7052, PRE, holotype).

long, free to the base. Style exerted by 2 mm, shortly bifid. Nutlets broadly ovoid, 1.5 mm long, pale brown. Figs 5 & 6.

TRANSVAAL.—2430 (Pilgrims Rest): 7 km NW of Penge Mine (—AD); Van Jaarsveld 7052.

This species was discovered independently in 1982 by Mr E. J. van Jaarsveld of the Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden and Mr S. Venter of the Transvaal Nature Conservation Department on the dolomite formation which crops up in and near the Olifants River and Blyde River valleys in the eastern Transvaal. Here it grows in shallow, humus-filled rock crevices in arid woodland, usually in open



FIG. 6.—*Plectranthus dolomiticus* (Van Jaarsveld 7052, PRE, holotype), approximately natural size.

sunny places, forming small, semi-succulent plants about 100 mm tall and 300 mm across with slender, greyish-tomentulose, decumbent stems.

In growth habit the plants superficially resemble *Aeollanthus parvifolius*, but the calyx places it in *Plectranthus*. The shape and colour of the corolla are reminiscent of *P. petiolaris*, in which the tube is also somewhat sigmoid in shape, i.e. narrow at the base and at first ascending, then deflexed about the middle and expanding to the throat, but here the resemblance ends. *P. dolomiticus* is a smaller plant with semi-succulent, greyish stems and smaller leaves and corolla 9–10 mm long, whereas *P. petiolaris* is a robust herb, 0.5–1 m tall of forest margins with fairly thick, 4-angled, strigose stems, large, thin-textured leaves 40–140 × 35–110 mm, and corolla 12–15 mm long.

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MELIANTHACEAE

TWO NEW COMBINATIONS IN MELIANTHUS

Melanthus pectinatus Harv. in Fl. Cap. 1, Add. sub praef 21 (1860); Coulston & Bailey in Bailey, Cycl. Hort. 4: 2024 (1916); Phillips & Hofmeyer in Bothalia 2: 353 (1927); Bean in Chittenden, R. Hort. Soc. Dict. 3: 1281 (1951). Type: Cape, Namaqualand, Wyley s.n. (TCD, holo.).

Melanthus trimenianus Hook. f. in Trimen Jl. Bot. N.S. 2: 353 (1873); Hook. f. in Curtis's bot. Mag. 37: t.6557 (1881). Type: Cape, Namaqualand, Barkley s.n. (?K, holo.).

Shrub. Leaves up to 140 mm long; stipules paired, acuminate, 8 mm long, 1 mm wide; rachis unwinged to wings as broad as terminal leaflet; leaflets 7–27, narrowly linear to lanceolate, sinuate to dentate, dorsal surface stellately hairy over sunken veins, sometimes sparsely pilose over blade, ventral surface with a dense mat of short stellate hairs with large emergent stellate hairs. Inflorescence a sub-terminal raceme, erect to pendulous, elongating

to 70–140 mm. Flowers in whorls of 2–4 per node; bracts tapering, apex acute, 10 mm long, 4 mm wide; pedicels elongate to 25 mm in fruit. Sepals green, posterior lateral sepal 20 mm long, odd sepal ovate, acute, gibbous, 10 mm long. Petals red or pink, 16 mm long. Nectary horseshoe shaped. Ovary with 2 or 4 ovules per carpel. Fruit sharply 4 winged, membranous to parchment-like, glabrous, veins prominent, 10–15 mm long.

Found in the Cape Province, Namaqualand and Namibia, Lüderitz District, from 27° to 31° S at altitudes from sea level to 900 m above sea level.

Harvey (1860) misnamed this species *M. pectinata*. As *Melianthus* is masculine in its Latinized form, the name becomes *M. pectinatus* (Stearn, 1966).

a. subsp. *pectinatus*

Leaflets 11–27, narrowly linear to lanceolate, sinuate to dentate; 20–50 mm long, 1–6 mm wide, stellate hairs on upper surface usually restricted to canal over veins; inflorescence usually erect; ovules 4 per carpel; capsule parchment-like.

Found in the Cape Province, Namaqualand, from sea level to 900 m above sea level (Fig. 7).

CAPE.—2816 (Oranjemund): Waterkloof at Doornpoort (–DA), Pillans 5374. 2817 (Vioolsdrif): 16 km NNE of Stinkfontein (–CD), Leistner 3387. 2917 (Springbok): Klipfontein (–BA), Bolus 9485; between Steinkopf and Springbok (–BD), Verdoorn & Dyer 1817, 8 km S of Springbok, on farm Voelklip (–DB), Eliovson 13. 2918 (Gamoep): summit of Kopperberg (–CA), Pillans 5666. 3018 (Kamiesberg): 26 km NNE of Garies (–AC), Acocks 16469.

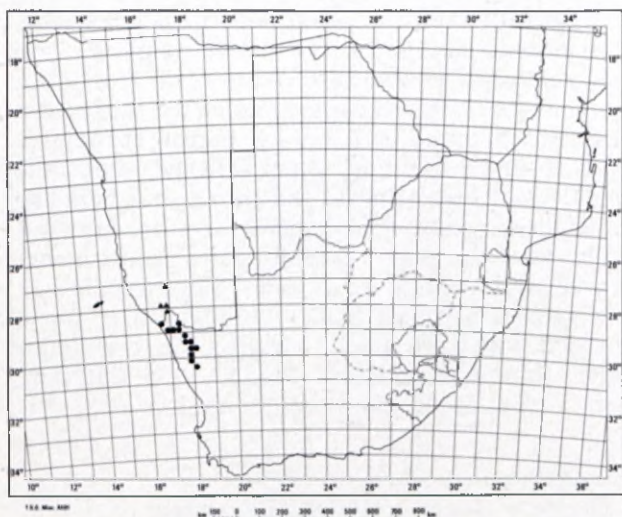


FIG. 7.—The geographical distribution of *Melianthus pectinatus* subsp. *pectinatus* (●) and *Melianthus pectinatus* subsp. *gariepinus* (▲).

The most satisfactory key character for distinguishing the two subspecies is the number of ovules per carpel. In subsp. *pectinatus* there are 4 ovules per carpel, whereas there are only 2 per carpel in subsp. *gariepinus*.

The leaflet margins and numbers can be used to distinguish the subspecies but this is not as clearcut. In subsp. *gariepinus* the leaflets are dentate and there are 7–9 leaflets. In subsp. *pectinatus* the leaflets are sinuate to serrate and there are 11–27

leaflets. With respect to distribution, subsp. *pectinatus* occurs south of the Orange River, whereas subsp. *gariepinus* occurs north of the Orange River.

b. subsp. *gariepinus* (Merxm. & Roessler) Tansley, comb. nov. et stat. nov. Type: Namibia, Lüderitz-Süd, Numais-Bänk, farm Spitskop, Merxmüller & Giess 3402 (M, holo.; K; PRE!; WIND., iso.).

Melianthus gariepinus Merxm. & Roessler in Mitt. bot. StSamml., Münch. 7: 1 (1968); Merxm. in F.S.W.A. 76: 2 (1968). Type: as for subsp. *gariepinus*.

Leaflets 7–9, lanceolate to oblanceolate, dentate; 50–60 mm long, 5–30 mm wide, stellate hairs on upper surface not obviously restricted to veins; inflorescence usually pendulous; ovules 2 per carpel; capsule membranous.

Found in Namibia, Luderitz District (Fig. 7).

S.W.A.—2716 (Witpütz): Udabib Mountains (–BB), Müller 809; Lüderitz — Süd on farm Spitskop III (–DC), Merxmüller & Giess 2874; farm Namuskluft (–DD), Giess 12942.

Merxmüller & Roessler (1968) distinguished *M. pectinatus* from their new species, *M. gariepinus*, on the strength of *M. pectinatus* having an erect raceme, entire leaflets, and more leaflets than *M. gariepinus*. It has been seen that *M. pectinatus* does not have entire leaflets, the raceme is not always erect, and the number of leaflets in *M. gariepinus* merely continued the range of leaflet numbers in *M. pectinatus* from 27–11 (*M. pectinatus* subsp. *pectinatus*) to 9–7 (*M. pectinatus* subsp. *gariepinus*). There is a geographical discontinuity between the subspecies.

Melianthus dregeanus Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: (1860) Phillips & Hofmeyer in Bothalia 2: 352 (1927). Type: Eastern Cape Province, grassy place between Kachu, Geelhout River and Zandplaat, 300–700 m, Drège 4437 (Herb. Sond., holo.).

Shrub. Leaves up to 180 mm long; stipules paired, cordate, acute, 7–35 mm long, 1.3 mm wide; rachis unwinged to slightly winged; leaflets 5–15, elliptic, 30–80 mm long, 9–30 wide, serrate to dentate, dorsal surface with sparse to dense covering stellate hairs, ventral surface a mat of small stellate hairs with few large stellate hairs. Inflorescence subterminal raceme, usually pendulous, 40–130 mm long. Flowers alternate; bracts cordate at base, apex acute, 10–35 mm long, 3–15 mm wide; pedicels elongate up to 35 mm. Sepals green with dark red spot in region of petals, posterior lateral sepal 20–35 mm long, odd sepal linear acute, 15–25 mm long. Petals reddish, 10–15 mm long. Nectary elongated anteriorly. Ovary with 2 ovules per carpel. Fruit 4 rounded lobes, woody, pubescent, wider than it is long, 5–20 mm long.

Found in the eastern Cape between 30° and 33° S and the Natal Drakensberg between 27° and 29° S, occurring between 900 and 1 800 m above sea level, on forest margins.

Although Sonder (1860) named this species *M. dregeana*, because of the masculine ending of

Melianthus, the specific name should read *M. dregeanus* (Stearn, 1966).

a. subsp. *dregeanus*

Leaves up to 130 mm long; stipules 7–14 mm long, 1–2 mm wide; leaflets 30–55 mm long, 9–16 mm wide, dorsal surface with sparse covering of hairs, ventral surface with dense mat of short stellate hairs. Inflorescence 40–70 mm long. Flowers bracts 10–18 mm long; pedicels up to 25 mm long. Sepals posterior lateral sepals 20 mm long, odd sepal 15 mm long. Petals 10 mm long. Fruit up to 10 mm long.

Found in the eastern Cape between 300 and 1 400 m above sea level (Fig. 8).

CAPE.—3126 (Queenstown): Bongola Neck (–DD), Galpin 7967. 3226 (Fort Beaufort): Katberg (–BC), Sole 2737. 3227 (Stutterheim): Stutterheim (–CB), Rogers 12741; Prospect Farm, Komga, 700 m (–DB), Flanagan 288.

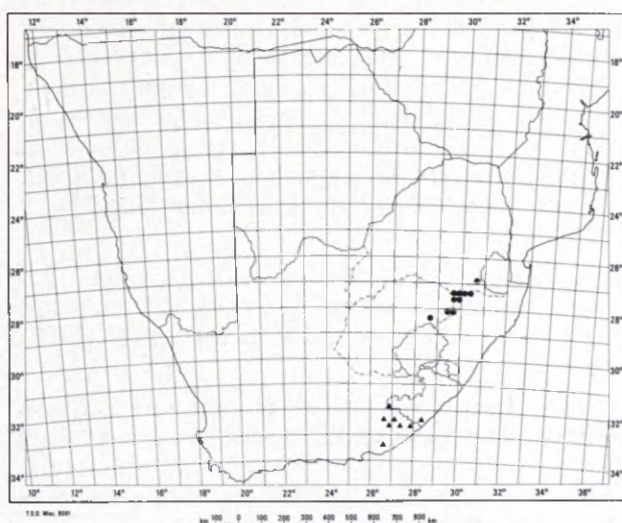


FIG. 8.—The geographical distribution of *Melianthus dregeanus* subsp. *dregeanus* (▲) and *Melianthus dregeanus* subsp. *insignis* (●).

The best character to distinguish the two subspecies is size. The subsp. *insignis* is much larger in all respects. The fact that subsp. *insignis* has large emergent stellate hairs on the ventral surface of the leaflets, whereas subsp. *dregeanus* does not, can be used to distinguish the two sub-species. The distribution also shows a spatial separation.

b. subsp. *insignis* (Kuntze) Tansley, stat. nov. Type: Natal, Charlestown, 1 800 m, Kuntze s.n. (NYBG.; holo.; PRE, photo!).

Melianthus insignis Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 3, 2: 43 (1898); Dyer in Flower. Pl. Afr. 33: 1310 (1959). Type: as for subsp. *insignis*.

Melianthus dregeanus var. *insignis* (Kuntze) Phill. & Hofmeyer in Bothalia 2: 351 (1927). Type: as for subsp. *insignis*.

Leaves up to 180 mm long; stipules 20–35 mm long, 2–3 mm wide; leaflets 40–80 mm long, 15–30 mm wide, dorsal surface with dense mat of hairs, ventral surface with dense mat of short stellate hairs and some large scattered stellate hairs. Inflorescence 60–130 mm long. Flowers bracts 35 mm long; pedicels up to 35 mm long. Sepals posterior lateral sepals 35 mm long, odd sepal 25 mm long. Petals 15 mm long. Fruit up to 20 mm long.

Found in the Northern Natal Escarpment between 27° and 29° S, occurring between 900 and 1 800 m above sea level, usually with *Leucosida sericea* on forest margins (Fig. 8).

TRANSSVAAL.—2630 (Carolina): Goede Hoop Ermelo (–DC), Pott 4938. 2730 (Vryheid): Honeymoon Kloof, Wakkerstroom (–AC), Galpin 9883.

O.F.S.—2828 (Bethlehem): Golden Gate (–BC), Jacobs 8554.

NATAL.—2729 (Volksrust): Ingolo, Newcastle (–DB), Schweickerdt 981. 2830 (Vryheid): 27 km N of Utrecht (–AD), Codd & Dyer 6260.

Apart from the larger size, this subspecies is no different from subsp. *dregeanus* and therefore has been included. The distribution is disjunct from the distribution of subsp. *dregeanus*.

AN EXCLUDED SPECIES IN MELIANTHUS

Melianthus sibiricus Pall. ex Georgi, J.G. 1775. Bemerkungen einer Reise in Russischen in Jahre 1772 3 (4): 1114. St Petersburg. This is an error, cited in Daydon Jackson, Index Kewensis 3: 197 (1894). According to E. Launert (pers. comm.), it should have read *Melianthemum* not *Melianthus*.

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POACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *EHRHARTA*

Ehrharta eburnea Gibbs Russell, sp. nov. *E. capensi* Thunb. affinis habitu, sed statura minore, parvioribus fusiformis eburneis bulbis et vaginis foliorum basilarium atropurpureis. *E. barbinodi* Nees ex Trin. affinis structura spiculae, sed glumis lemmatibus tantum triplo brevior, et sterilibus lemmatibus in lateribus sparsim puberulis.

Gramen caespitosum perenne 200–500 mm altum, interdum rhizomatibus longis gracilibus. Culmi aggregati non ramosi, internodis imis 1 vel 2

uterque bulbum fusiformem valde costatum politum eburneum formantis. Folia laminis planis vel involutis ad 100 × 5 mm, marginibus interdum undulatis leviter incrassatis; ligulae membranaceae pilis fimbriatae; vaginae foliorum basilarium atropurpureae tenues saepe scissae ita bulbum vel bulbos praebentes. Inflorescentia panícula angusta secunda ad 130 × 25 mm, 12–32 patentibus spiculis. Spiculae 9–13 mm longae; glumis lemmatibus triplo brevior, plerumque atropurpureis. Flosculi lemmatibus sterilibus similaribus sed inaequalibus, primis