

## LAMIACEAE

### A NEW SUBSPECIES IN *OCIMUM*

***Ocimum urticifolium* Roth** subsp. ***caryophyllum* Codd**, subsp. nov., a typo caulibus elatioribus lignosioribus, foliis parvioribus subintegris, inflorescentiis brevioribus differt.

TYPE.—Natal, 2832 (Mtubatuba): Mapelana Forest, south of St Lucia Estuary (—AD), *Cooper 119* (PRE, holo.).

Perennial soft shrub 1–2 m tall, branching mainly

in the upper part; stems woody below, herbaceous above. *Leaves* petiolate; blade ovate-elliptic to elliptic, 30–50 × 18–20 mm, freely gland-dotted, puberulous on the nerves on the upper surface, otherwise glabrous, apex acute, base cuneate, margin shallowly crenate-dentate to subentire; petiole 10–30 mm long. *Inflorescence* terminal, spikelike, solitary or several together due to the stems branching near the apex, 35–60 mm long;

verticils usually 6-flowered, about 5 mm apart; bracts broadly ovate, acuminate, 4–6 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long. *Calyx* 5–6 mm long at maturity; upper tooth broadly ovate, decurrent; lateral teeth small, subulate; lower lip oblong, shortly 2-toothed, eventually bending upwards closing the mouth of the calyx. *Corolla* white, 4 mm long, bilabiate. *Stamens* exerted by 3 mm.

Recorded from the margins of dune forest along the coast of northern Natal.

NATAL.—2831 (Nkandla): Twin Streams, Mtunzini (–DD), *Strey* 6450; *Jenkins* s.n. 2832 (Mtubatuba): Mapelana Forest, south of St Lucia Estuary (–AD), *Cooper* 119; *Palm Ridge farm*, *Harrison* 210.

*O. urticifolium* is a widespread and variable species extending from Asia to tropical Africa and into southern Africa as far south as Durban. In

southern Africa the typical form is a soft, branched shrub up to about 1 m tall with large dentate leaves 45–120 × 25–60 mm, and the inflorescences are normally 100–200 mm long. Subsp. *caryophyllatum* is a more woody shrub growing 1–2 m tall which branches mainly in the upper half of the plant; the leaves tend to be smaller, with inconspicuously toothed margins, and the inflorescences are consistently shorter. In floral characters, subsp. *caryophyllatum* cannot be distinguished from the typical plants, so infraspecific status is considered to be appropriate for it. Apparently living plants of the two forms may be distinguished by the scent of the leaves. Typical plants, at least in Natal, have leaves which are lemon-scented, whereas the leaves of subsp. *caryophyllatum* are reported to smell of cloves or nutmeg.

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