

TILIACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *CORCHORUS*

Corchorus psammophilus Codd, sp. nov., *C. asplenifolio* Burch. et *C. confuso* Wild affinis, sed foliis ovato-oblongis, margine minute crenulato differt.

Herba perennis, radice lignosa; caules prostrati, tenues, simplices vel parce ramosi, 300–600 mm longi, villosi. *Folia* petiolata; lamina ovato-oblonga vel late elliptica, griseo-viridis, strigosa, 30–45 × 15–20 mm, nervis subtus valde prominentibus, apice rotundato, basi rotundata vel truncata, margine minute crenulato; petiolus 3–6 mm longus, hispidus; stipulae setaceae, 5–6 mm longae, pilosae. *Cymae* suboppositifoliae, subsessiles vel breviter pedunculatae, 1–3-florae; pedicelli 6–8 mm longi, recurvi; bracteae setaceae, 4–5 mm longae. *Sepala* anguste lanceolata, acuminata, 7–9 × 1,5 mm, extus villosa. *Petala* flava, oblanceolata vel obovata, 6–8 × 3–5 mm, breviter unguiculata. *Androgynophorum* 0,5 mm altum. *Stamina* numerosa, filamentis ca 4 mm longis, antheris 0,5 mm longis. *Ovarium* 3-loculare, anguste ellipticum, dense strigosum; stylus 7 mm longus, glaber; stigma fimbriatum. *Capsula* trivalvis, cylindrica, subarcuata, strigosa, 18–25 × 2 mm, multisperma. *Semina* oblonga, 1,75 × 1 mm, nigrescentia.

TYPE.—Transvaal, 2327 (Ellisras): 5 km N. of P. O. Ons Hoop (–DA), *Codd 8460* (PRE, holo.)

Perennial herb with several prostrate, slender, simple or sparingly branched, villous stems 300–600 mm long, radiating from a slender woody tap-root. *Leaves* petiolate; blade ovate-oblong to broadly elliptic, grey-green, 30–45 × 15–20 mm, strigose on both surfaces, nerves prominent below, apex rounded, base rounded to truncate, margin minutely crenulate; petiole 3–6 mm long, hispid; stipules setaceous, 5–6 mm long, pilose. *Cymes* subopposed

P. O. 8460—1962—14/10/62 U.A.D. 722
 NATIONAL HERBARIUM
 PRETORIA.
 DISTRICT: Waterberg
 Collector: L. B. Codd, N. J. ...
 Altitude: 2327
 Date: 2/12/62
 Name: *Corchorus* sp. nov.
 Vern. Name:
 Locality: 5 km N. of P. O. Ons Hoop
 Habitat: *plate*
 Description, etc.: *Corchorus* sp. nov.
 Economic uses:



FIG. 2.—Holotype of *Corchorus psammophilus*, Codd 8460.

to the leaves, subsessile to shortly pedunculate, 1–3-flowered; pedicels 6–8 mm long, recurved; bracts setaceous, 4–5 mm long. *Sepals* narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, 7–9 × 1,5 mm, villous without. *Petals* yellow, oblanceolate–obovate, 6–8 × 3–5 mm, shortly clawed. *Androgynophore* 0,5 mm long. *Stamens* numerous, filaments about 4 mm long, anthers 0,5 mm long. *Ovary* 3-locular, narrowly ellipsoid, densely strigose; style 7 mm long, glabrous; stigma fimbriate. *Capsule* 3-valved, cylindrical, somewhat arcuate, strigose, 18–25 × 2 mm, many-seeded. *Seeds* oblong, 1,75 × 1 mm, blackish (Fig. 2).

This species is related to *C. asplenifolius* Burch. and *C. confusus* Wild, but differs from both in the

ovate-oblong to broadly elliptic leaves with finely crenulate margins and very prominent nerves on the undersides. It was first collected in February 1954 on the farm Zonderwater No. 1377, 5 km N. of Ons Hoop, in the Ellisras area and again recently, somewhat further west, associated with sandy *Terminalia* veld.

TRANSVAAL.—2327 (Ellisras): Van der Waltspan, between Ellisras and Stockpoort (–CB), Smook 4320a.

The following key to the Southern African species of *Corchorus* is based on a revision of the genus (unpublished) undertaken for the Flora of Southern Africa by Prof. H. Wild some years ago.

1. Leaves variously pubescent or glabrous but not tomentose:
 2. Capsule 10-ribbed, 5-valved 1. *C. olitorius*
 2. Capsule 3–4-valved:
 3. Capsule with 3 spreading horns at the apex 3. *C. tridens*
 3. Capsule rostrate or blunt at the apex, without diverging horns:
 4. Leaves pinnatipartite, lobed 4/5 of the way to the midrib 9. *C. pinnatipartitus*
 4. Leaves serrate or crenate but not lobed:
 5. Annual herbs:
 6. Peduncles obsolete or up to 2 mm long, not filiform; leaves not linear:
 7. Capsules up to 70 mm long, held erect; valves minutely scabrous 2. *C. trilocularis*
 7. Capsules up to 25 mm long, usually curved, not held erect, angles muricate or sharply toothed 7. *C. schimperii*
 6. Peduncles filiform, up to 20 mm long; leaves linear 10. *C. longipedunculatus*
 5. Perennial herbs with annual, often prostrate stems from a woody rootstock, or a bushy perennial about 600 mm tall:
 8. Fruiting pedicel straight or more or less straight:
 9. Fruit valves hispidulous, rarely glabrescent; lateral nerves of leaves (excluding basal nerves) in 7– about 20 pairs; perennial herb with annual or little-branched stems from a woody rootstock 4. *C. confusus*
 9. Fruit valves glabrous or sparsely stellate-puberulous when young; lateral nerves of leaves (excluding basal nerves) in 5 (–7) pairs; much-branched shrublet about 600 mm tall 11. *C. angolensis*
 8. Fruiting pedicel curved:
 10. Leaves glabrous or hispid to strigose, often with bulbous-based hairs:
 11. Leaves usually linear to narrowly oblong-lanceolate, if ovate then margin coarsely crenate-dentate 5. *C. asplenifolius*
 11. Leaves ovate-oblong to broadly elliptic, strigose, margin finely crenulate .. 6. *C. psammophilus*
 10. Leaves densely sericeo-villous on the lower surface, ovate to narrowly ovate-oblong, margin coarsely crenate-dentate 8. *C. sulcatus*
 1. Leaves yellowish or greyish tomentose, at least below:
 12. Capsule cylindric or, if narrowly ellipsoid, with softish plumose bristles less than 2 mm long:
 13. Leaves ovate, grey-green; nerves in about 4 pairs 12. *C. merxmülleri*
 13. Leaves narrowly oblong or narrowly elliptic to oblong or oblong-lanceolate, drying yellowish or brownish; nerves in 6–15 pairs:
 14. Indumentum very shortly and smoothly velvety; nerves rather inconspicuous, in 13–15 pairs; bracts up to 2 mm long 13. *C. velutinus*
 14. Indumentum often rather tufted and coarse or thick and felted; nerves conspicuously raised below, in 6–10 pairs; bracts up to 8 mm long 14. *C. kirkii*
 12. Capsule broadly ovoid and glabrous or ellipsoid with stiff plumose bristles about 5 mm long 15. *C. junodii*

L.E. CODD