

Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

AMARYLLIDACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *CYRTANTHUS* FROM BAVIAANSKLOOF, SOUTH-EASTERN CAPE

Cyrtanthus labiatus R. A. Dyer sp. nov., *C. inaequali* O'Brien affinis, foliis latoribus, pedicellis longioribus, perianthii tubo angustiore, lobis minoribus differt.

Bulbus subglobosus plusminusve 35 mm diam. Folia 3-4, synantha, usque 300 mm longa et 20 mm lata basin et apicem versus gradatim contracta, glabra. Pedunculus ± 300 mm longus, cylindricus, ± 10 mm diam. fistulosus, ± 8 -florus, floribus patentibus; spathae 2, ± 40 mm longae, ± 5 mm latae; pedicelli, plusminusve erecti, usque 22 mm longi. Perianthium zygomorphum labiatum, corallinum, 55-60 mm longum; tubus ± 35 -40 mm longus, e basi 2,5 mm diam. sensim 6 mm diam. ampliatus; lobi 4 supra, 2 infra, ± 20 mm longi, exteriores 6 mm interiores 7 mm lati. Filamenta biseriata, ± 15 mm longa. Stylus cum staminibus 4 arcuatus, ad apicem perianthii fere attingens.

TYPE.—Cape, 3324 (Steytlerville), 19 km from Patensie on Cambria Rd (-DA), in Baviaanskloof, fl. 24/1/1979 in cult. Roy Bayliss 5660 (PRE, holo.).

Bulb subglobose, about 35 mm diam., contracted into a short neck, covered with dry membranous brown scales. Leaves 3-4, contemporary with the inflorescence, up to about 300 mm long and 20 mm broad, gradually contracted to apex and base, slightly concave on upper surface, glabrous, slightly glaucous. Peduncle about 300 mm long, cylindric, ± 10 mm diam., hollow, about 8-flowered, with the flowers more or less spreading (in cult.); spathes 2, ± 40 mm long, ± 5 mm broad; pedicels more or less erect, of different lengths, up to about 22 mm long. Ovary cylindric 6-7 mm long. Perianth zygomorphic, labiate, 55-60 mm long, light coral-red; tube about 35 mm long, 2,5 mm at base and evenly expanded to mouth 6 mm diam., very slightly fluted from mouth; lobes 4+2, four upper ones (2 outer, 2 inner) overlapping and forming a hood, 20 mm long, outer 6 mm broad, inner 7 mm broad; two lower ones (1 outer 1 inner), spreading decurved; filaments (4+2) attached more or less in perianth throat, biseriate, somewhat shorter than the perianth; anthers ± 3 mm long when dehiscent. Style becoming slightly longer than the stamens under the hood and decurved from slightly below stigma; stigma subcapitate very slightly 3-grooved (Figs 1 & 2).

As regards the distribution, only the type colony is recorded. The collector, Roy Bayliss, states that the plants grow in complete shade on the vertical face of a road cutting. The face of the rocks of Table Mountain Sandstone conglomerate were covered with *Coccinia quinqueloba* and the *Cyrtanthus* leaves were growing through this. There were many offsets in the clumps, but no flowers at the time of collection. He goes on to say that permanent shade is given by *Ficus capensis* and *Celtis africana*.

The type specimen flowered in a pot in Barbara Jeppe's greenhouse in Johannesburg in January 1979. These conditions would be far different from

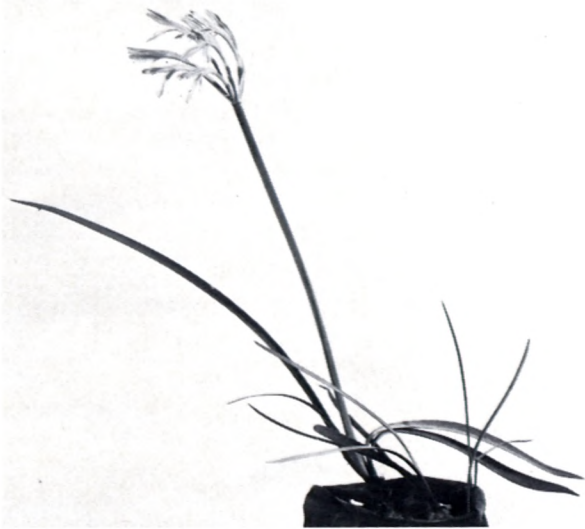


FIG. 1.—*Cyrtanthus labiatus*, depicting the holotype from the Baviaanskloof in the south-eastern Cape, cultivated by B. Jeppe in Johannesburg.



FIG. 2.—*Cyrtanthus labiatus* showing the 8-flowered umbel of the holotype; the perianth-lobes have an unusual labiate spread, 4 lobes comprising the upper hood-like portion and 2 lobes comprising the lower lip.

those of plants flowering in the wild and this one must bear in mind when interpreting and comparing *C. labiatus* with related species. The epithet *labiatus* seemed an obvious choice because of the 4 and 2 spread of the perianth lobes simulating the 2-lobed corolla of the Lamiaceae (Labiatae).

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