

## STERCULIACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *HERMANNIA*

***Hermannia helicoidea*** Verdoorn, sp. nov., ab aliis speciebus pariter foliis cuneatis et infra albotomentosis, cymis gracilissimis helicoideis differt.

Fruticulus ramosus, ramis gracilibus inconspicuis stellato-pubescentibus. *Stipulae* basi latae, amplexicaules, decurrentes, apice mucronatae vel attenuatae caudatae, 1,5–5 mm longae, basi 2–6 mm latae. *Folia* petiolata; lamina anguste vel late oblongo-cuneata, 3–10 mm longa, 2–6,5 mm lata, tenuiter stellato-tomentosa, discolor, marginibus crenatis atque undulatis; petioli 1;5–3,5 mm longi. *Inflorescentiae* axillares ac terminales cymas helicoideas ac gracilissimas formantes. *Calyx* campanulatus tenuiter stellato-pubescent, c. 4 mm longus, 5-lobatus in dimidio superiore sinibus latis. *Petala* c. 6,5 mm longa. *Stamina* c. 4 mm longa filamentis obovato-oblongis hyalinis. *Capsula* c. 4 mm longa stellato-pubescent.

TYPE: Clanwilliam District, Hex River Valley, Pillans 9063 (PRE, holo.)

Shrublet, branched; branches slender, at first minutely stellate pubescent, glabrescent. *Stipules* broad-based, amplexicaul, decurrent, mucronate at the apex or attenuate and caudate, 1,5–5 mm long, 2–6,5 mm broad. *Leaves* petioled; blade narrowly or broadly oblong-cuneate, 3–10 mm long, 2–6,5 mm broad, finely stellate-tomentose, discolorous with margins crenate and undulate; petiole 1,5–3,5 mm long. *Inflorescence* of axillary and terminal, very

slender, helicoid cymes. *Calyx* campanulate, finely stellate-pubescent, about 4 mm long, 5-lobed in the upper half, with wide sinuses. *Petals* about 6,5 mm long, more or less orbicular in the upper half, narrowed below into a claw with infolded margins. *Stamens* about 4 mm long, with obovate-oblong hyaline filaments. *Capsule* about 4 mm long, stellate-pubescent.

Recorded from the Clanwilliam district in the Hex and Olifants River Valleys.

To date this species is represented by very few specimens in herbaria, and all of the specimens are from a restricted area. It appears to be a distinct species, readily distinguishable from its allies with similarly cuneate, dorsally albo-tomentose leaves (e.g. *H. repetenda*, *H. rigida* and *H. multiflora*), by the slender, recurved cymes which are both axillary and terminal. It differs from two other species, *H. muricata* and *H. aspera* which it resembles superficially, not only by its characteristic inflorescence, but also by the fact that the leaves of *H. muricata* are more oblong in shape and more coarsely crenate, and that *H. aspera* has sessile leaves and is roughly pubescent.

CAPE.—3218 (Clanwilliam): without precise locality *Stokoe s.n.*; hills in the Hex River Valley (–BD), Pillans 9063; Olifants River Valley (–B?), Schlechter 5092.

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