

CAPPARACEAE

NOTES ON BOSCIA

Boscia is an African genus except for one species, *B. arabica* Pest., which occurs in southern Arabia. Most of the species occur in drier parts, but no representatives are found in north-western Africa. *Boscia* is very similar to the genus *Maerua* as also pointed out by De Wolf in Kew Bull. 16: 80 (1962). The flowers of the two genera are very similar, but in *Boscia* petals are usually absent, the receptacle tube is very short and the androgynophore practically non-existent. All these characters are not found in the genus *Capparis* and it is thus surprising that a few South African species of *Boscia* have remained included in *Capparis* for such a long time. Burchell, Trav. 1 (1822) described them and Sonder in Fl. Cap. 1: 60 (1860) did not recognize how different these species were from the rest of *Capparis* and, instead, placed a few species of *Maerua* with apetalous flowers in the genus *Boscia*. At the time the latter genus was not well defined, but soon afterwards Oliver, Fl. Trop. Afr. 1: 92 (1868), gave the genus full recognition and a few South African species such as *B. foetida* Schinz were correctly identified and described in the genus *Boscia*. Pestalozzi in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 6, Appl. 3: 1-152 (1898) undertook the first general investigation of the genus, particularly its anatomy. His study was, however, greatly limited by the small amount of material used. Gilg & Benedict in Bot. Jahrb. (1915) revised all the African Capparaceae. They transferred *Capparis albitrunca* Burch. to the genus *Boscia*, but not the very similar species *C. oleoides* Burch. ex DC. merely because of the presence of petals. With recent revisions of the tropical species available, viz. Hutchinson & Dalziel, Fl. Trop. West Afr. 1: 89 (1927); Wild in Fl. Zamb. 1: 229-35 (1960) and Elffers *et al.* in Fl. Trop. East Afr. (Capparidaceae) 50-58 (1964), and with the wide range of South African material at my disposal, I was prompted to make the following innovations for my treatment of the genus in the Flora of Southern Africa, Vol. 13.

B. oleoides (Burch. ex DC.) Toelken, comb. nov.

Capparis oleoides Burch. ex DC., Prodr. 1: 248 (1824); Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 62 (1860). Type: Cape, Bushmans River, near Rautenbach's Drift, Burchell 4200 (K, holo.; PRE!). *C. coriacea* Burch. ex DC., Prodr. 1: 248 (1824). Type: Cape mountains on the south-west side of Graaff-Reinet, Burchell 2898 (K, holo.!). *C. chutiaefolia* Burch. ex DC., Prodr. 1: 248 (1824); Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 62 (1860). Type: Cape, near Blaauwkrans, Burchell 3881 (K, holo.!).

This species is incorrectly placed in the genus *Capparis*, because of the presence of a receptacle tube, valvate sepals and sclereids in the mesophyll. A receptacle tube with a corona on which the petals are inserted and valvate sepals are also found in the genus *Maerua*, but the sclereids in the mesophyll of *B. oleoides* are typical of those found in the genus *Boscia*. No sclereids have been found in the leaves of several species of *Maerua* investigated. In fact, *B. oleoides* is so similar to *B. albitrunca* that the two species have often been confused. However, *B. oleoides* can be distinguished from the latter by its ridged branches with alternate leaves, usually terminal inflorescence and the presence of petals. It occurs in dry vegetation in the eastern Cape as far inland as Graaff-Reinet and the nearest locality of *B. albitrunca* to this is near Hope Town or Victoria West.

B. tomentosa Toelken, sp. nov. ab speciebus omnibus Bosciae in Africa australi tomento stellato-piloso differt.

B. polyantha sensu Suesseng., Heine & Roessler in Prodr. Fl. S.W. Afr. 47: 4 (1966).

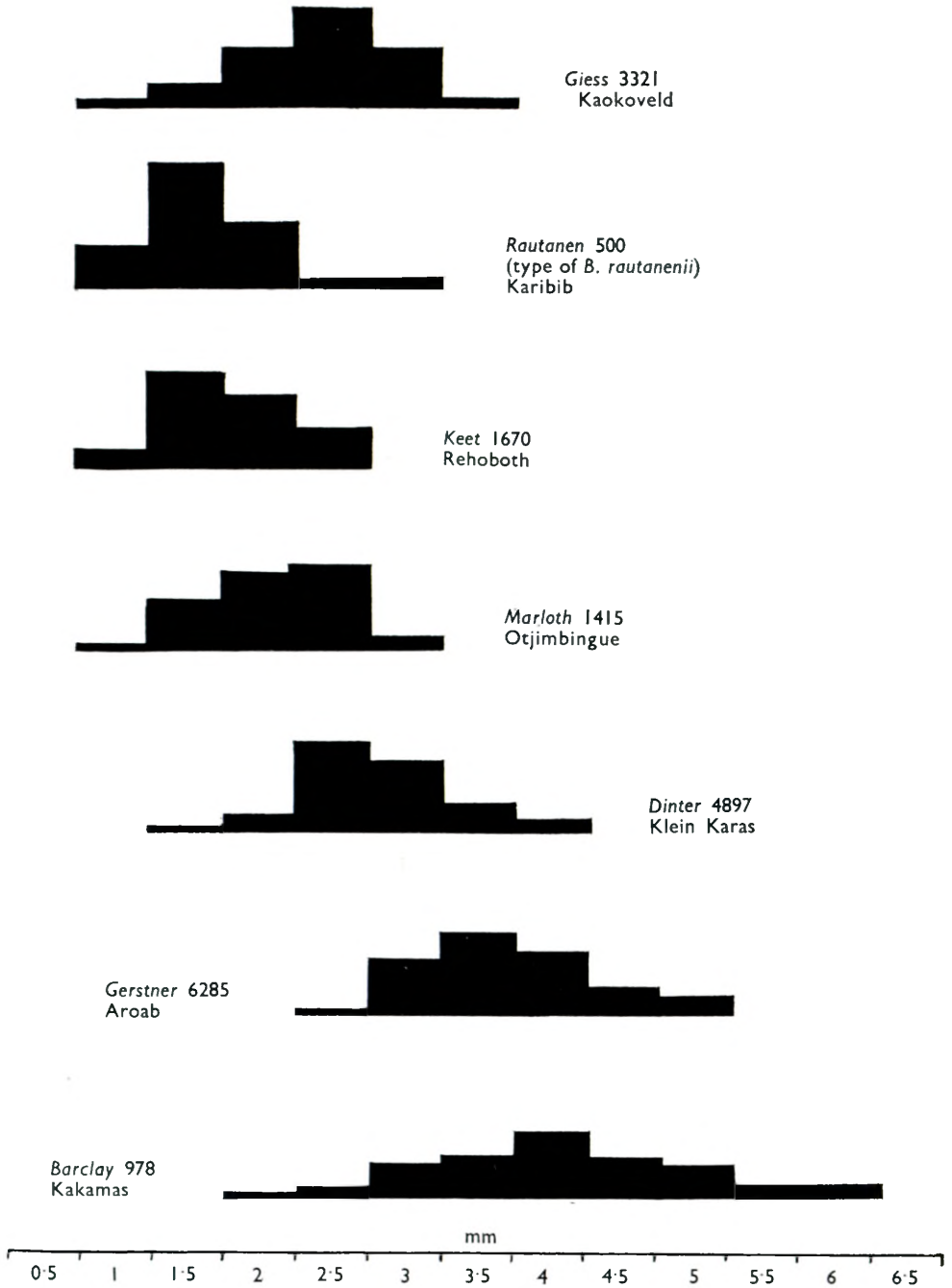


FIG. 1.—Histograms showing the variation of the width of the leaves in *B. foetida* subsp. *foetida*. Fifty leaves of each specimen were measured accurately to 0.5 mm. The specimens were arranged to illustrate the increase in the width of the leaves as the subspecies radiates out towards the north, east and south of the area of distribution of the narrow-leaved form.

Arbusculae rare arbores ad 5 m altae. *Rami* tomentosi, glabrescentes, fere albi. *Folia* non fasciculata; lamina late ovata vel elliptica, obtusa ad emarginatam in apicem, mucronulata, in basem breve angustata vel truncata 2-4 (-5.5) cm longa, (1-) 1.5-2.5 cm lata, rigide succulenta, tomentosa praecipue stellatopilosa; petiolus (0.4-) 0.6-1 cm longus, tomentosus. *Inflorescentia* terminalis, paniculata; pedunculus 2-5 cm longus, tomentosus; pedicellus 0.3-0.6 cm longus, tomentosus. *Bractea* setacea, 2-4 mm longa, tomentosa. *Sepala* ovata ad oblonga, 2-3 mm longa, extus tomentosa, intra glabra. *Corona* crassa, succulenta, annularis, denticulata. *Stamina* (5) 6-8; filamentum 3-4 mm longum, glabrum. *Gynophorum* 2-4 mm longum, glabrum. *Ovarium* ovoideum, ovulis 12; stigma capitatum, sessile vel paene sessile. *Fructus* non visus.

Type: S.W. Africa, Kaokoveld, Otjinunga, *De Winter & Leistner* 5749 (PRE, holo.).

Shrubs or rarely trees up to 5 m high. *Branches* tomentose becoming glabrous, almost white. *Leaves* alternate not fascicled; lamina broadly ovate or elliptic, obtuse to emarginate at the apex, mucronulate, shortly tapering or truncate at the base, 2-4 (-5.5) cm long, (1-) 1.5-2.5 cm broad, stiff fleshy, tomentose with mainly stellate hairs; petiole (0.4-) 0.6-1 cm long, tomentose. *Sclereids* in the mesophyll without foot, not branched, hardly reaching the centre of the leaf, in clusters, similar on both sides of the leaf. *Inflorescence* terminal, paniculate; peduncle 2-5 cm long, tomentose; pedicel 0.3-0.6 cm long, tomentose. *Bracts* setaceous, 2-4 mm long, tomentose. *Sepals* obovate to oblong, 2-3 cm long, tomentose outside, glabrous within. *Corona* a thick ring, denticulate. *Stamens* (5-) 6-8; filaments 3-4 mm long, glabrous. *Gynophore* 2-4 mm long, glabrous. *Ovary* ovoid, with 12 ovules; stigma capitate, sessile or nearly so. *Fruit* unknown.

In dry bushveld on the north-western border of South West Africa and also in Angola.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA.—Kaokoveld: near Otjinunga, *De Winter & Leistner* 5749; 5785.

Süssenguth, Heine & Roessler (1966) interpreted the species as *B. polyantha* Gilg but, on investigating the type specimen, *Antunes* A100 (B), it was found that its branches and leaves are pubescent with unicellular hairs, the flowers are densely clustered in an axillary inflorescence, the flowers are not fleshy and the sepals are lanceate-elliptic. In all these characters it differs from *B. tomentosa*. This latter species does not seem to have any direct affinity with any South African species of *Boscia*. The stellate hairs are multicellular and are formed by the fusion of the lower part of several adjoining unicellular, epidermal hairs.

B. foetida Schinz in Verh. Bot. Ver. Prov. Brandenb. 29: 49 (1886). Type: S.W. Africa, Keetmanshoop, *Schinz* 326 (Z, holo.!).

This complex species is distinguished from other species, except *B. microphylla*, by its tomentose fruits and the sclereids in the mesophyll of the leaf with a well developed foot. *B. microphylla*, which is obviously very closely related but kept as a separate species at the moment, may have to be incorporated in this complex when a wider range of material becomes available, particularly as it appears from the present study that the *B. foetida* complex is split into a number of geographically separated taxa. Four subspecies can be recognized mainly on the number of stamens.

Trees or shrubs always branching from the base; pedicels with spreading hairs:

- Shrubs or trees with main branches ascending, up to 3 m high; peduncle 0.3-1.5 cm long; stamens 11-15..... (a) subsp. *foetida*
 Shrublets decumbent, not higher than 30 cm; peduncle absent; stamens 11-12 (-14) (b) subsp. *minima*
 Trees with one trunk at least 1 m high; pedicels glabrous:
 Stamens 11-15; pedicels 1-2 cm long..... (c) subsp. *longipedicellata*
 Stamens 5-7 (8); pedicels 0.5-0.8 cm long..... (d) subsp. *rehmanniana*

(a) subsp. **foetida**

B. foetida Schinz in Verh. Bot. Ver. Prov. Brandenb. 29: 49 (1886); Pest. in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 6, Appl. 3: 136, t.2, fig. 1 (1898); Süsseng., Heine & Roessler in Prodr. Fl. S.W. Afr. 47: 3 (1966). *B. rautanenii* Schinz in Viert. Naturf. Ges. Zürich 51: 193 (1906); Süsseng., Heine & Roessler in Prodr. Fl. S.W. Afr. 47: 4 (1966). Type: S.W. Africa, Karibib, *Rautanen* 500 (Z, holo.!). *B. kalachariensis* sensu Dinter in Fedde Rep. 15: 352 (1918).

This subspecies is usually found in rocky outcrops in the dry southern and north-western South West Africa and the adjoining northern Cape Province.

B. rautanenii is only a narrow-leaved form of subsp. *foetida*, occurring in the districts of Swakopmund and Karibib. The histogram (see Fig. 1) illustrates the gradual increase in width of the leaves as the subspecies radiates out towards the north, east and south of the area of distribution of this form.

(b) subsp. **minima** *Toelken*, subsp. nov.

Haec subspecies ab aliis habitibus fruticulis ad 30 cm alta ramis decumbentibus; ab subsp. *foetida* absentia pedunculi et sclerenchymate dissimili; ab subsp. *longipedicellata* pedicello brevior, piloso; ab subsp. *rehmanniana* pedicello piloso et numero staminum differt.

Type: Transvaal, Warmbad, near Makapanstad, *Codd* 8013 (PRE, holo.).

Shrublet not higher than 30 cm, cushion-like with decumbent branches. *Leaves* with lamina oblanceate to elliptic, 0.5–1.3 cm long, 0.2–0.4 cm broad, isobilateral. *Scleroids* in the mesophyll pointed, not branched at the apex, only well developed on the adaxial side. *Inflorescence* racemose, usually fascicled with 2–5 flowers; peduncle absent; pedicel 0.3–0.6 cm long, hairy. *Stamens* 11–12 (–14).

Found on limestone outcrops often near pans, or on clay soils near rivers in the north-eastern Cape, western Transvaal and eastern Botswana.

CAPE.—Mafeking: 50 miles west of Mafeking, *Acocks* 18772; near Mosita, *Brueckner* 529; 14 miles east of Sedilamolamo, *Leistner* 565.

TRANSVAAL.—Thabazimbi: 2–3 miles west of Makoppa, *Theron & Marsh* 253. Warmbad: near Makapanstad, *Codd* 8013.

This subspecies is very similar to subsp. *foetida*. However, it usually grows in areas that are temporarily swamped and even when it is found outside such marshy habitats it does not change its decumbent habit. Although this subspecies shows a slight overlap with the subsp. *rehmanniana*, the two were never found in the same area and appear to be ecologically separated.

(c) subsp. **longipedicellata** (*Gilg*) *Toelken*, comb. nov.

B. longipedicellata Gilg in Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Mus. Berl. 14: 188 (1940). Type: Natal, Weenen, *Peniston* in PRE 24195 (PRE, iso.!).

This subspecies occurs in dry bushveld in central Natal. It has often been confused with *B. albitrunca*, but can be distinguished by its hairy fruits and discoloured leaves. The leaves of subsp. *rehmanniana* in the Lebombo Mountains in northern Natal and Swaziland often attain similar sizes, but no intermediate stamen number has yet been recorded.

(d) subsp. **rehmanniana** (*Pest.*) *Toelken*, comb. nov.

B. rehmanniana Pest. in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 6, Appl. 3: 95 (1898); Burtt Davy, Fl. Transv. 1: 123 (1926); Wild in Fl. Zamb. 1: 235 (1960). Type: Transvaal, Klippan, *Rehmann* 5134 (Z, lecto.!). *B. microphylla* Oliv., Fl. Trop. Afr. 1: 93 (1868), partly,

as to specimen *Baines & Chapman*. *B. kalachariensis* Pest. in Bull. Herb. Boiss. 6, Appl. 3: 98 (1898). Type: Botswana, Lake Ngami, *Fleck* 247 (Z, holo.!). *B. filipes* Gilg in Bot. Jahrb. 33: 221 (1903); Wild in Fl. Zamb. 1: 234 (1960). Type: Mozambique, Lourenço Marques, *Schlechter* 11707 (B, holo.!, BOL!; NH!; PRE!). *B. seineri* Gilg & Engl. in Engl., Pflanzenw. Afr. 3, 1: 242, fig. 158D-F (1915), nomen nudum.

Capparis albitrunca var. *parvifolia* Sim, For. Fl. Port. E. Afr. 2, t.3, fig. 4 (1909). Type: Mozambique, Lourenço Marques, *Sim* 5157 (PRE, holo.!).

This subspecies is found in the dry bushveld of the central and northern Transvaal, Swaziland and north-eastern Natal, extending its distribution into Mozambique, Rhodesia and northern Botswana. The subsp. *rehmanniana* differs from all the other subspecies by its fewer stamens. In the Transvaal a pattern of variation, probably not entirely due to a difference in rainfall, can be observed from the east to the west, varying from big leaves, 1-3 in a fascicle and with no or few sclereids to much smaller leaves, often more than five per fascicle and numerous sclereids. Similarly, in the east the gynophore is hairy becoming gradually glabrous towards the west. Consequently *B. filipes*, as distinguished by Wild (1960), cannot be upheld.

B. microphylla Oliv., Fl. Trop. Afr. 1: 93 (1868), partly, excl. specimen *Baines & Chapman*; Exell & Mendonca, Consp. Fl. Ang. 1: 65 (1937); Süsseng., Heine & Roessler in Prodr. Fl. S.W. Afr. 47: 3 (1966); emended. Type: Bumbo, *Welwitsch* 983 (K, lecto.!).

The species is based on two specimens: *Welwitsch* 983 and *Baines & Chapman* s.n., which are now considered to belong to two different species. The latter specimen has been identified as belonging to *B. foetida* subsp. *rehmanniana*. So, in order to retain the species name in its generally accepted sense, *Welwitsch* 983 was chosen as the lectotype and the description slightly emended to exclude the *Baines & Chapman* specimen.

H. R. TÖLKEN

NOTES ON CAPPARIS

Recent revisions such as those of De Wolf in Fl. Trop. E. Afr. (Capparidaceae) 58 (1964) and Jacobs in Blumea 12: 385 (1965) have contributed much to a clearer delimitation of the genus *Capparis*. Typical characters such as the stipulate spines, the convex receptacle, imbricate sepals and often the presence of more than two carpels have been particularly emphasized.

In Africa comparatively few species of *Capparis* occur, but most of them are widely distributed. A re-evaluation of the many taxa described from Southern Africa, in the light of the revisions mentioned, has necessitated the following name changes:—

C. sepiaria L., Syst. Nat. ed. 10: 1071 (1759); De Wolf in Fl. Trop. E. Afr. (Capparidaceae) 63 (1964). Type: two specimens in LINN, viz. 664·4, "Ind. hab. ad sepes" *Anonymous*; 664·5, India, Madras, Sandras, *Koenig*.

var. *citrifolia* (Lam.) *Toelken*, comb. nov.

C. citrifolia Lam., Encycl. Bot. 1: 606 (1785); Eckl. & Zeyh., Enum. 14 (1835); Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 62 (1860); Wild in Fl. Zamb. 1: 237 (1960). Type: Cape, without precise locality, in Herb. Lamarck (P, holo.; PRE, photo.!). —var. *longifolia* Hochst. in Flora 27: 290 (1844). Type: Cape, Uitenhage, Winterhoek, *Krauss* s.n. (TUB, holo.!). —var. *sylvatica* Eckl. & Zeyh. ex Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 612 (1860); Eckl. & Zeyh., Enum. 14 (1835), nomen nudum. Syntypes: Cape, Uitenhage, *Ecklon*

& Zeyher (BOL!; PRE!; SAM!); Drege (PRE!); Krauss; Gamtoos River, Thunberg (UPS; PRE, photo.). *C. capensis* Thunb., Prodr. 92 (1800); Fl. Cap. 430 (1823). Type: Cape, Gamtoos River, Thunberg (UPS, holo.; PRE, photo.). *C. volkameriae* DC., Prodr. 1: 247 (1824); Gilg & Ben. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 199 (1915). Type: based on *Volkameria capensis* Burm.f. *C. laurifolia* Gilg & Ben. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 193 (1915). Syntypes: Cape, Kaimansgat, Mund & Maire s.n. (B; PRE, photo.); Cape, Drege 7595 (B!); Knysna, Pappe s.n. (B!; SAM!). *C. woodii* Gilg & Ben. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 194 (1915). Type: Natal, Durban, Wood 546 (B, holo.; BOL!; SAM!).

C. sepiaria is a very widespread species being recorded from northern Australia, East Indies, Malaysia, India and most parts of Africa particularly the eastern areas. De Wolf (1964) recognizes three varieties in tropical east Africa, but this does not include the typical variety which is said to be very similar to the var. *subglabra*. Var. *subglabra* also occurs in the northern Transvaal. The second South African taxon, var. *citrifolia*, which occurs mainly in Natal and the eastern Cape Province, is not so similar to var. *subglabra* as De Wolf infers, but is rather like var. *stuhmannii* (Gilg) De Wolf in its stouter appearance and coriaceous leaves. Var. *citrifolia* differs from var. *stuhmannii* in that it produces spreading hairs (rarely absent), the margins of the sepals are ciliate and there are up to 15 ovules per ovary. In itself var. *citrifolia* is very variable and extreme forms are very different. In forests usually west of Port Alfred the plants are glabrous, often without spines on the branches and produce long lanceate leaves up to 8 cm long. In dry bushveld, on the other hand, densely pubescent plants with leaves rarely longer than 4 cm and well-developed spines are found. Although even the flowering times are often different, intermediate forms between all these characters have been observed. From Estcourt a form is recorded with unusually long and narrow leaves rather resembling the coppice growth of var. *citrifolia* in the eastern Cape.

Volkameria capensis Burm.f. might be the oldest name for this taxon, but under present circumstances it is regarded as a *nomen dubium*. The diagnosis does not give any clue as to the identity of the plant and the type specimen cannot be found. However, the description of *C. volkameriae* DC. which is based on Burman's species, mentions recurved stipulate spines, ovate leaves and c.30 stamens. This obviously refers to var. *citrifolia*, but contradicts Burman's diagnosis which states that the plant is without spines. In var. *citrifolia* spineless specimens have often been observed particularly in the western part of the variety's distribution, a part which had probably been explored before the time of Burman's description. However, the difference of such a conspicuous character indicates that the two authors must have been working on different specimens. Consequently, it is considered that the identity of *Volkameria capensis* Burm.f. cannot be evaluated unless the type specimen can be traced. *C. capensis* Thunb., though possessing the same specific epithet as *V. capensis*, does not refer to Burman's species. This was pointed out by Dandy in *Bothalia* 7: 427-8 (1961).

C. fascicularis DC., Prodr. 1: 248 (1824); De Wolf in Fl. Trop. E. Afr. (Capparidaceae) 65 (1964). Type: Ghana, Brass (BM, holo.; PRE, photo.).

Two varieties are recognized in South Africa and can be distinguished as follows:—

Leaves oblong, oblong-elliptic to elliptic-lanceate, usually emarginate; inflorescence with 1-3 flowers in the axils of the leaves towards the end of branches, rarely on short lateral branches
 (a) var. *fascicularis*
 Leaves lanceate, acuminate; inflorescence axillary racemose..... (b) var. *zeyheri*

(a) var. *fascicularis*. De Wolf in Fl. Trop. E. Afr. (Capparidaceae) 65 (1964).

C. transvaalensis Schinz in Vjschr. Naturf. Ges. Zürich 57: 556 (1912); Marais in *Bothalia* 8: 165 (1964). Type: Transvaal, Mahilaskop, Schlechter 4510 (Z, holo.; BOL!). —var. *calvescens* (Gilg & Ben.) Marais in *Bothalia* 8: 165 (1964). *C. schlechteri* Schinz, l.c. 555 (1912). Type: Cape, Tsitsa River, Schlechter 6385 (Z,

holo!). *C. calvescens* Gilg & Ben. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 195 (1915). Type: Natal, Tugela, Wood 8472 (B, holo.; NH!). *C. rudatisii* Gilg & Ben., l.c. 198 (1915); Wild in Fl. Zamb. 1: 239 (1960). Syntypes: Natal, Port Shepstone, Friedenau, *Rudatis* 1388 (B, holo.; PRE!); Weenen, Wood 4438 (B, holo.; BOL!; NH!). *C. solanoides* Gilg & Ben., l.c. 197 (1915). Type: Natal, Little Noodsberg, Wood s.n. (B, holo.; SAM!). *C. flanaganii* Gilg & Ben., l.c. 197 (1915). Type: Cape, Komga, *Flanagan* 809 (B, holo.; BOL!; GRA!; PRE!; SAM!). *C. marlothii* Gilg & Ben., l.c. 198 (1915). Type: Cape, Hermanus?, *Marloth* 2599 (B, holo.!; PRE!).

(b) var. **zeyheri** (Turcz.) Toelken, comb. nov.

C. zeyheri Turcz. in Bull. Soc. Natur. Mosc. 27: 324 (1854); Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 63 (1860); Gilg & Ben. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 197 (1915). Type: Cape, Krakakama Forests, *Zeyher* (BOL!; PRE!). *C. volkameriae* sensu Eckl. & Zeyh., Enum. 14 (1835).

This species which is widespread in Africa can be recognized by its characteristic leaves and sessile inflorescence, i.e. several flowers in the axil of a leaf. In the leaf, the first and second pair of secondary veins are usually much longer and more pronounced and join the primary vein at a very acute angle. The flowers are slightly zygomorphic with the anterior sepal usually slightly saccate and the adjoining petals are usually broader with a pronounced villose base.

In South Africa the species occurs in a wide range of habitats and shows an interesting series of variation with distribution. A complete range of 8–23 stamens is found in a decreasing series from north to south. Thus the South African form could not be ascribed to either var. *elaegnoides* or var. *fascicularis* as interpreted by De Wolf (1964). Similarly, in northern Swaziland and around Barberton, 14–18 stamens are often produced and thus the critical difference between var. *transvaalensis* and var. *calvescens* as distinguished by Marais (1964) falls away. In central Natal the number of stamens is about ten decreasing gradually to eight in the vicinity of King William's Town. Concomitant with the change of stamen number, is a gradual decrease in flower size, which is particularly noticeable in the size of the sepals. Specimens from the vicinity of Bathurst and King William's Town show a marked tendency for the flowers to be borne on short lateral branches with usually one or two flowers at the node, but very often without a leaf subtending this axillary, sessile inflorescence. In var. *zeyheri* a delicate axillary "raceme" is found. However, occasionally two flowers per node are produced indicating that the inflorescence is a raceme-like panicle. Actual intermediates between var. *zeyheri* and var. *fascicularis* have not been seen, but their close contact in the area around King William's Town and Bathurst suggests that not even subspecific rank can be applied. Var. *zeyheri* differs from var. *fascicularis* in its lanceate, acuminate leaves. Also, var. *zeyheri* occurs usually in coastal forests, whereas var. *fascicularis* is found in inland forests or bushveld.

Var. *zeyheri* extends its distribution slightly more west than var. *fascicularis* and is found just west of Port Elizabeth. Var. *fascicularis*, however, has never been recorded west of this and the inscription on the holotype of *C. marlothii* (a synonym) in Marloth's hand as being collected at Hermanus must be an error; the isotype in PRE was collected near King William's Town, which seems highly feasible judging by the characteristic inflorescence exhibited by both these specimens.

H. R. TÖLKEN

A NEW SPECIES OF MAERUA

Maerua brevipetiolata Killick sp. nov., *M. rosmarinoidei* (Sond.) Gilg & Ben. affinis, sed plantis constanter semiscandentibus, foliis secundis, foliolis brevioribus latoribusque, petiolis multo brevioribus, receptaculo campanulato, petalis redactis, disco annulari fimbrillato non lobato inaequaliter laciniato differt.

Plantae semiscandentes, ad 3 m altae. *Folia* (1) 3-foliolata, breviter petiolata, glabra; lamina linearis vel anguste elliptica, 1.2–3.2 cm longa, 2–4 mm lata, foliolo mediano lateralibus longiore, apice obtuso mucronulato, basi cuneata, margini nonnihil revoluto, costa supra depressa subtus prominenti; petiolus 0.5–7 mm longus; petiolulus 1–1.5 mm longus. *Inflorescentia* floribus terminalibus paucis racemosa; pedicelli 4–10 mm longi. *Receptaculum* campanulatum, 4 mm longum, 4 mm latum; discus annularis, fimbriatus, semicarnosus, 0.6–1 mm longus. *Sepali* nonnihil naviculares, late ovati, 7 mm longi, 5 mm lati, apice leviter uncinato, margine nonnihil revoluto ciliolato. *Petala* redacta, ovata, 1.4 mm longa, 0.5 mm lata, unguiculata. *Androphorum* 3 mm longum. *Stamina* c. 30, candida (teste *Compton* 30088); filamenta 1.2 cm longa; antherae oblongae, 1.3 mm longae basifixae. *Gynophorum* 1.4 cm longum; ovarium oblongum, 2 mm longum, stigmatate capitato. *Fructus* ellipsoideo-cylindricus, 1.8–2.5 cm longus, 0.9–1.1 cm diam., colliculatus. *Semina* subglobosa, c. 3 mm diam. FIG. 2.

Type: Natal, Ingwavuma Poort, c. 500 feet, 18 July, 1960, *Compton* 30088 (PRE, hol.).

Scrambler up to 3 m high. *Leaves* (1) 3-foliolate, shortly petiolate, glabrous; leaflets linear or narrowly elliptic, 1.2–3.2 cm long, 2–4 mm wide, the middle leaflet longer than the laterals, apex obtuse, mucronulate, base cuneate, margin somewhat revolute, midrib depressed above, prominent below; petiole 0.5–7 mm long; petiolule 1–1.5 mm long. *Inflorescence* of few-flowered terminal racemes; pedicels 4–10 mm long. *Receptacle* campanulate, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide at mouth; disc annular, fimbriate, with erect and some incurved fimbriate, semi-carnose, 0.6 mm long. *Sepals* broadly ovate, somewhat boat-shaped, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide, apex slightly uncinato, margin somewhat revolute, ciliolate. *Petals* reduced, ovate, 1.4 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, clawed. *Androphore* 3 mm long. *Stamens* about 30, white (teste *Compton* 30088); filaments 1.2 cm long; anthers oblong; stigma capitate. *Fruit* ellipsoid-cylindric, 1.8–2.5 cm long, 0.9–1.1 cm diam., colliculate. *Seeds* subglobose, c. 3 mm diam.

This species was first collected in 1956 by Murdoch near Big Bend in Swaziland. Several years later it was collected by Professor R. H. Compton at Ingwavuma Poort in Northern Zululand (not in Swaziland as indicated on the label of *Compton* 30088). Both these collectors found the plant in flower. In September 1968 the author paid a special visit to Ingwavuma Poort in order to obtain fruiting material of the species. The precise locality had been given to the author by Professor Compton. The plant was found (in fruit) growing in a mixed community of *Portulacaria afra*, *Acacia* spp., *Combretum* spp., *Euclea schimperi* var. *daphnoides*, *Cladostemon kirkii*, *Balanites maughamii*, *Maerua rosmarinoides* etc. occurring on the southern side of the road about half way between the Swaziland–Natal border gate and the picnic spot amid fine specimens of *Acacia xanthophloea* on the banks of the Ingwavuma River at the foot of Cecil Mack's Pass.

NATAL.—Ingwavuma: Ingwavuma Poort, *Compton* 30088; *Killick* 3936.

SWAZILAND.—Lubombo: 2 miles N.E. of Big Bend, *Murdoch* 71.

M. brevipetiolata differs from *M. rosmarinoides* in the following respects: it is always a thin-stemmed scrambler whereas *M. rosmarinoides* can be a tree, shrub or sometimes a scrambler or climber; the leaves are Cerro green (Ridgeway) and arranged in one plane instead of very dark green and pendulous, and the leaflets are shorter and broader; the petioles are much shorter (hence the epithet *brevipetiolata*); the receptacle is campanulate rather than cylindrical; the petals are reduced and the disc is annular and fimbriate instead of lobed and unequally lacinate.

D. J. B. KILLICK