

## MYRTACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *EUGENIA* FROM PONDOLAND AND SOUTHERN NATAL

*Eugenia erythrophylla* Strey, sp. nov., ab speciebus africanis australibus omnibus distincta.

Arbor vel arbuscula, 3–10 m alta; rami brunnei, adultis griseis, ramis et foliis juvenilibus roseis albo-pilosis glandulosis. *Folia* opposita, usque 12 cm longa, viridia, coriacea, obovata vel obovato-lanceolata, glandulosa, basi cuneata, margine revoluta, apice acuminata vel obtusa vel rotundata, nervis superne prominentibus, lateralibus 6–8 prope marginem conjunctis, nervis subtus leviter prominentibus; petioli 2–6 mm longi, melano-rugulosi. *Flores masculi* sessiles vel subsessiles; inflorescentia albo-pilosa, pauciflora vel pseudo-racemosa abbreviata vel congesta; bracteae 2–4 mm longae, ciliatae, caducae, receptaculum turbinatum, 2 mm longum, tomentosum; sepala 4, late rotundata, 3–5,5 mm longa, superne pauci-pilosa, subtus subglabra; petala 4, obovata, 6–7 mm longa, glabra, margine ciliata; discus subcupulatus, dense pilosus; stamina numerosa, filamentis 4–5 mm longis libris omnibus antheriferis; antherae 2-thecae, 1–1,3 mm longae, versatiles, loculis longitudinaliter dehiscentibus; ovarium abortivum; stylus 1 mm longus; stigma abortivum. *Flores hermaphroditae* subsessiles vel breviter pedicellatae, solitariae, axillares, valde ramis abbreviatis; bracteae 2,5 mm longae, caducae; bracteolae 2, glabrae; receptaculum adnatum; sepala et petala ut in floribus masculis vel aliquid majora; receptaculum obconicum, 4 mm longum; gynoeceum in receptaculum profunde immersum; discus planus, carnosus, papillosus vel pilosus; stamina numerosa; filamenta 3–5 mm longa, filiformia, glabra, libera, omnibus antheriferis; antherae 2-thecae, 1 mm longae, versatiles, loculis longitudinaliter dehiscentibus; ovarium 2-loculare, ovulis in quoque loculo 2 evolventibus 1 vel 2; stylus filiformis, 8 mm longus, glaber; stigma discoideum minutum; baccae subglobosae, apice calycum lobis 4 persistentibus, 2–2,5 cm longae, 1,8–2,5 cm diam., juvenilibus pilosis vel puberulis, adultis glabrescentibus; semina globosa, 1–1,5 cm diam., brunnea.

Type: Cape, 3129 (Port St. Johns): Goss Point (–BD), *Strey & Nicholson* 10100♂ (NH, holo.). Fig. 1.

Tree 3–10 m tall; branches brown, becoming grey when mature; young shoots and leaves pinkish, densely whitish pilose, becoming glabrous with age. *Leaves* opposite, petiolate, coriaceous, green at maturity, gland-dotted, obovate to obovate-oblancoate or elliptic, 6–12 cm long; 3–7 cm broad, cuneate at the base, apex abruptly acute or obtuse to rounded, margin revolute, midrib conspicuous, lateral nerves in 6–8 pairs, spreading, slightly prominent below, joined near the margin; petiole 2–6 mm long, blackish, rugulose. *Male flowers* sessile or subsessile, congested on abbreviated shoots which occasionally develop as leafy shoots; bracts 2–4 mm long, ciliate, caducous. *Calyx* united at base; tube broad, more or less saucer-shaped, 2 mm long, densely pubescent; lobes 4, subrotund, 3–3,5 mm long, sparingly pubescent below, subglabrous above. *Petals* 4, obovate, 6–7 mm long, glabrous, margin ciliate. *Disc* saucer-shaped, densely pubescent. *Stamens* numerous, arising from the disc; filaments of various lengths, 4–5 mm long, free to the base; anthers 2-thealous, versatile, 1–1,3 mm long, all fertile. *Ovary* abortive; style rudimentary, 1 mm long; stigma absent. *Hermaphrodite flowers* subsessile to shortly pedicellate (pedicels up to 8 mm long), usually solitary, axillary, occasionally on short abbreviated shoots; bracts 2,5 mm long, caducous; bracteoles 2, attached at the base of receptacle, 2,5 mm long, glabrous. *Calyx and petals* as in male flowers, but somewhat larger; calyx tube obconical, 4 mm long. *Disc* flat, fleshy, densely pubescent. *Stamens* numerous, arising from the disc; filaments of various lengths, 3–5 mm long, free to the base; anthers 2-thealous, 1 mm long, with white membranous fringe, broadly rectangular. *Ovary* immersed in the disc, 2-celled; ovules 2 per cell, 1 or 2 developing; style filiform,



FIG. 1.—*Eugenia erythrophylla*. 1, longitudinal section of hermaphrodite flower, x 3; 2, longitudinal section of male flower, x 3; 3, bracts, calyx and style of hermaphrodite flower, x 3; 4, longitudinal section of fruit, x 2.

glabrous, 8 mm long; stigma small, discoid. *Fruit* obovoid to subglobose, 2–2.5 cm long, 1.8–2.5 cm diam., glabrescent, with persistent calyx lobes at the apex. *Seeds* globose, 1–1.5 cm diam., brown.

This new species of *Eugenia* was discovered only recently in coastal montane forest at several localities in Pondoland and southern Natal. The plant is usually found in rocky situations near streams or along the upper edge of Table Mountain Sandstone cliffs.

NATAL.—3130 (Port Edward): Farm Beacon Hill (–AA), *Strey* 7225; *Ross* 1850; Umtamvuna Forest Reserve (–AA), *Nicholson s.n.* 3030 (Port Shepstone): Izotsha (–CD), *Strey & Nicholson* 7171; Mgongono (–CD), *Strey & Nicholson* 7611; 80.6; 9295; *Cooper* 27; Uvongo Nature Reserve (–CB), *Strey & Nicholson* 10348♂.

CAPE.—3129 (Port St. Johns): Goss Point (–CB), *Strey & Nicholson* 10100♀; Lupatana (–BD), *Strey & Nicholson* 10240♂; Mkambati Waterfall (–BD), *Strey* 8575; Magwa Falls (–BD), *Jenkins s.n.*

*E. erythrophylla* is an erect, medium-sized tree, 3–10 m high, with a straight bole which, in older trees, is sometimes fluted and twisted. The branches are rather widely spaced. The bark is thick, light grey, scaling irregularly and very finely striate. On older branchlets the bark is ash-grey, exfoliating in thin strips. The young shoots are very distinctly reddish-velvety at the growing tips. The slash is rich dark brown.

The species appears to have no close affinity in South Africa.

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