

## HIPPOCRATEACEAE

**Salacia wardii** *Verdoorn*, sp. nov., *S. gerrardii* Harv. ex Sprague affinis, sed habitu, foliis tenuioribus, gradatim acuminatis, costis lateralibus vix prominentibus, marginibus integris vel obscure denticulatis, floribus minoribus (alabastris ad 2 mm non 4 mm longis) differt.

Arbustula vel suffrutex, nonnunquam scandens. *Folia* opposita vel subopposita elliptica, basi cuneata, gradatim acuminata, 4–9 cm longa, 1·5–3·6 cm lata; costae laterales vix prominentes; margines integri vel obscure denticulati; petioli 3–7 mm longi. *Flores* pluri axillares fasciculati; alabastra ad 2 mm longa; pedicelli graciles, 2–9 mm longi. *Calyx* 4–5 lobatus; lobi ad 1 mm longi, c 1·5 mm lati, interiores latiores, nonnunquam minute ciliolatis. *Petala* 4–5–6, oblonga, ad 3 mm longa, 2·5 mm lata, imbricata, deinde patentia, marginibus revolutis apicibus rotundatis minute ciliolatis. *Discus* crassus, 1 mm altus. *Stamina* 3, c 1·5 mm longa; filamenta linearia primus erecta deinde valde reflexa; antherae thecis subdivergentibus confluentibus. *Ovarium* 3-loculatum, in disco partim immersum, apice in stylo breve attenuatum; ovula c 2 pro loculo. *Fructus* subglobosus c 1·5 cm diam.

NATAL.—Hlabisa: False Bay Park, *Ward* 3837 (PRE, holo.); 3855; False Bay area *Gerstner* 4957; 5239; *Ward* 3110. Ubombo: Mkuzi, *Guy* 84; Masinga, *Tinley* 602.

Mr. Ward writes as follows about this species: “ A small, slender tree or shrub up to approximately 9 ft. in height, often exhibiting a scandent habit; common in Sand Forest, sometimes occurring as the dominant in the shrub layer ”. According to his present observations he states further, that, where the forest is short and the soil very sandy, this plant occurs as a small tree or shrub with a single main stem; but where the forest is taller (25 to 55 ft.) the plant may develop a scandent habit and although common does not exhibit quite the same dominance as in the shorter forest.

Among the South African species of *Salacia*, *S. wardii* is nearest to *S. gerrardii* Harv. ex Sprague. In nature they are distinguished mainly by the habit and habitat. *S. gerrardii* is a robust climber found in forests at an altitude of about 1,500 ft. in Natal and the eastern Cape, bordering on Natal, while *S. wardii*, so far recorded only from Zululand, is usually a small tree and occurs in Sand Forest at lower altitudes (300 ft. or less).

Differences that can be seen on herbarium specimens are that the leaves in *S. wardii* are of a thinner texture, elliptic instead of oblong and gradually narrowing towards the apex; the margins are entire or obscurely dentate as opposed to the obtusely serrate-dentate margins of *S. gerrardii*; and the veins are not as conspicuous or prominent as those of *S. gerrardii*. The species is named in honour of Mr. C. J. Ward, Ecologist, Natal Parks Board. It is one of several novelties collected by him in northern Zululand.

Small tree or shrub, sometimes scandent. *Leaves* opposite or subopposite, more or less elliptic, cuneate at the base, sometimes broadly so, and gradually narrowing to the apex, 4–9 cm long, 1·5–3·6 cm broad, veins scarcely prominent, margins entire or obscurely dentate; petiole 3–7 mm long. *Flowers* several to many in axillary fascicles; buds up to about 2 mm long; pedicels slender, 2–9 mm long. *Calyx* 4–5-lobed; lobes up to 1 mm long, about 1·5 mm broad, the inner broader, sometimes minutely ciliate. *Petals* 4 or 5, rarely 6, oblong, up to 3 mm long and 2·5 mm broad, imbricate, ultimately spreading with the margins revolute, apex rounded, sometimes minutely ciliate. *Disc* thick about 1 mm high. *Stamens* 3, about 1·5 mm long; filaments linear, erect at first, becoming strongly reflexed; anthers with the cells sub-divergent, confluent. *Ovary* 5-celled, partly sunken in the disc, attenuated at the apex into a short style; ovules about 2 to a cell. *Fruit* subglobose, about 1·5 cm diam., reddish brown when ripe.