

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Ceropegia estelleana R. A. Dyer, sp. nov., *C. fimbriatae* E. Mey. affinis, sed floribus majoribus, corallae lobis supra medium margine pilis clavatis vibratilis pendulis indutis differt.

Herba perennis tenuis glabra sparse ramosa tortulosa radicibus fusiformibus. *Folia* minima lineari-lanceolata usque 5 mm longa, 1 mm lata. *Pedunculus* 1–2-florus, pedicellis circiter 1 cm longis. *Sepala* lineari-lanceolata 5–6 mm longa. *Corolla* curvata glabra 5–7 cm longa; tubus 4·5–5·5 cm longus, basi 1 cm diam. ovoideo-inflatus, intus papillosus deinde 3 mm diam. superne sensim in fauce 1·5 cm diam. ampliatius; lobi unguiculati 4 mm lati, 4–5 mm longi, superne in umbraculum 1·3–1·5 cm diam. connati marginibus pilis clavatis vibratilis pendulis ciliatis. *Coronae exterioris lobi* 3 mm longi ad basin versus anguste bilobulati; *coronae interioris lobi* incumbenti-erecti 3 mm longi.

CAPE.—Albany: Queens Pass in Fish River Valley, karroid scrub, Bayliss 1114, cult. PRE, holotype.

Perennial succulent herb with fusiform roots. *Stem* slender, up to about 3 ft. tall, somewhat twining and moderately branched. *Leaves* rudimentary, linear-lanceolate, up to 5 mm long and 1 mm broad. *Flowers* 1–2 from each rudimentary peduncle, developed successively on pedicels about 1 cm long. *Calyx* divided to base with sepals linear-lanceolate, 5–6 mm long. *Corolla* glabrous, about 6 cm long with light green inflated base 1·25–1·3 cm long, 1 cm diam.; tube green at first turning white with green veins, 3 mm diam. at base, gradually expanded to 1·5 cm diam., slightly incurved at mouth and with a minute lobe in the sinuses between the main lobes; lobes narrow in basal 4 mm with incurved margin, expanded in upper portion with long pendulous clavate-vibratile hairs, then united for apical 7 mm into a parachute-like canopy 1·7 cm diam. *Corona* purple arising about 1 mm above base of staminal column; outer lobes about 3 mm long, erect, divided almost to base into two slender lobes with only the tips slightly diverging; inner lobes about 3 mm long, incumbent-erect and diverging above.

This species is named after Mrs. Estelle Bayliss, an ardent and successful collector of *Ceropegia* plants, who kindly supplied field notes to the following effect: The plants were collected in xerophytic bush off the road from Grahamstown to Fort Beaufort in the Fish River Valley at an altitude of 2,400 ft. The area is rocky with outcrops of sandstone and shale and supports a predominately succulent or semi-succulent flora in which species of *Euphorbia* and *Aloe* are conspicuous. Three other species of *Ceropegia* have been collected in the same area; *C. ampliata* E. Mey., *C. carnosa* E. Mey. and *C. stapeliiformis* Haw. It seems likely that the present species has remained undetected for so long because of its close resemblance to *Cynanchum tetrapterum* (Turcz) R. A. Dyer (= *C. sarcostemmatoideis* K. Schum.) with which it was growing on the occasion of its discovery.

R. A. DYER.