

CAPPARIDACEAE

A NOTE ON CAPPARIS TRANSVAALENSIS SCHINZ

Recently a few specimens of *Capparis* were sent from the National Herbarium for checking. In order to name them I had to get some type specimens on loan from Berlin. After comparing the material in Kew Herbarium with the types, I came to the conclusion that six of the species recognized by Gilg and Benedict in their monograph of the family were conspecific. There seemed to be three recognizable varieties apart from some intermediate specimens. Dr. Codd, after studying the material in Pretoria, came to the conclusion that only two varieties are worth upholding, one of them rather variable.

***Capparis transvaalensis* Schinz** in Vjschr. Naturf. Ges. Zurich 57: 556 (1912).
Type: Transvaal Mailaskop, *Schlechter* 4510 (B, iso.!).

var. ***transvaalensis***.

Branches shortly grey-tomentose; leaves elliptic-lanceolate to ovate, mostly dark-green; sepals 5–7 mm long; stamens 18–21.

Recorded from the northern and eastern Transvaal, Swaziland, and Portuguese East Africa.

var. ***calvescens* (Gilg & Bened.) Marais**, stat. nov.

Capparis calvescens Gilg & Bened. in Bot. Jahrb. 53: 195 (1915). Type: Natal, Tugela, Wood 8472 (B, holo.!). *C. schlechteri* Schinz, op. cit.: 555 (1912). Type: Cape, Tsitsa River, *Schlechter* 6385 (B, iso.!). *C. flanaganii* Gilg & Bened., op. cit.: 197 (1915). Type: Cape, Komga, *Flanagan* 809 (B, holo.!). *C. rudatisii* Gilg & Bened., op. cit.: 198 (1915). Types: Natal, Port Shepstone, *Friedenau*, *Rudatis* 1388 (K, iso.!). Weenen, *Wood* 4438 (K, iso.!).

Branches soon becoming glabrous, often yellow-green; leaves narrowly elliptic to broadly ovate, often drying yellow-green; sepals 4-5 mm long; stamens 5-14.

Recorded from the eastern Cape, Transkei and Natal.

From northern Natal, Zululand and Swaziland there are some specimens which agree well with var. *transvaalensis* except for the number of stamens which varies from 8-15.

C. solanoides Gilg & Bened., op. cit.: 197 (1915), based on a Medley Wood specimen from Little Noodsberg, belongs to this species, but the holotype is too poor to assign to either variety.

The specimens from Portuguese East Africa, which are given as *C. rudatisii* in Flora Zambesiaca, have more than 20 stamens per flower, not c.8 as stated in the description, and belong to var. *transvaalensis*.

W. MARAIS