

FABACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *MUNDULEA*

***Mundulea pondoensis* Codd**, sp. nov., a *M. sericea* (Willd.) A. Chev. foliolis paucioribus, glabris vel parce pubescentibus, oblongis vel oblongo-oblanco-latis, apicibus rotundatis differt.

Frutex vel arbor parva, ad 3 m alta; ramuli parce appresso-pubescentes, glabrescentes, obscure 4-5-angulati. *Folia* imparipinnata, 5-8 cm longa; stipulae linearo-aristatae, 4 mm longae; petiolus 1-2 cm longus, glaber vel parce appresso-pubescent; foliola opposita, 3-4-jugata, oblonga vel oblongo-oblanco-lata, 20-30 × 6-8 mm, supra glabris, subtus glabris vel parce pubescentibus; apex rotundatus; petiolulus ad 2 mm longus. *Inflorescentia* terminalis, racemosa, 4-5 cm longa, compacta; pedicelli 5-10 mm longi, appressopubescentes; bracteae minutae. *Calyx* late campanulatus, parce appresso-pubescent, 4 mm longus, 5 mm latus, 5-dentatus; dentes breves, 2 superiores subconnati. *Corolla* extus dense appresso-pubescent, intus glabra; vexillum suborbicularis, 12 mm latum, unguiculatum, prope basin callosum; alae oblongo-obovatae, leviter falcatae, 10 mm longae, unguiculatae, apice rotundato; carina cymbiformis, unguiculata, 8 mm longa, apice acuto. *Stamina* 10, monadelphae. *Ovarium* lineare, 5 mm longum, multiovulatum; stylus incurvus, 3 mm longus; stigma capitatum. *Legumen* lineare, plano-compressum, 6-8 cm longum,

parce pubescens, dehiscens, suturis incrassatis; semina 4-6, fusca, oblongo-reniformia, 7 × 3, 5 × 2 mm, hilo medio albo.

TYPE: Cape, 2931 (Lusikisiki), near Dindini Store (-BD), fruiting March 1955, Codd 9318 (PRE, holo.).

Shrub or small tree, up to 3 m tall; branchlets sparingly appressed pubescent, becoming glabrous with age, obscurely 4-5-angled. *Leaves* imparipinnate, 5-8 cm long; stipules linear-aristate, 4 mm long; petiole 1-2 cm long, glabrous to sparsely appressed pubescent; leaflets opposite, in 3-4 pairs, oblong to oblong-oblanco-late, 20-30 × 6-8 mm, upper surface glabrous, lower surface glabrous to sparingly appressed pubescent, apex rounded; petiolule up to 2 mm long. *Inflorescence* terminal, racemose, 4-5 cm long, compact; pedicels 5-10 mm long, appressed pubescent; bracts minute. *Calyx* broadly campanulate, sparingly appressed pubescent, 4 mm long, 5 mm broad, 5-toothed; teeth short, the upper two subconnate, *Corolla* densely appressed pubescent without, glabrous within; vexillum suborbicular, 12 mm broad, clawed, calloused near the base; wings oblong-obovate, slightly falcate, 10 mm long, clawed, apex rounded; keel boat-shaped, clawed, 8 mm long, apex acute. *Stamens* 10, monadelphous. *Ovary* linear, 5 mm long, multiovulate; style incurved,

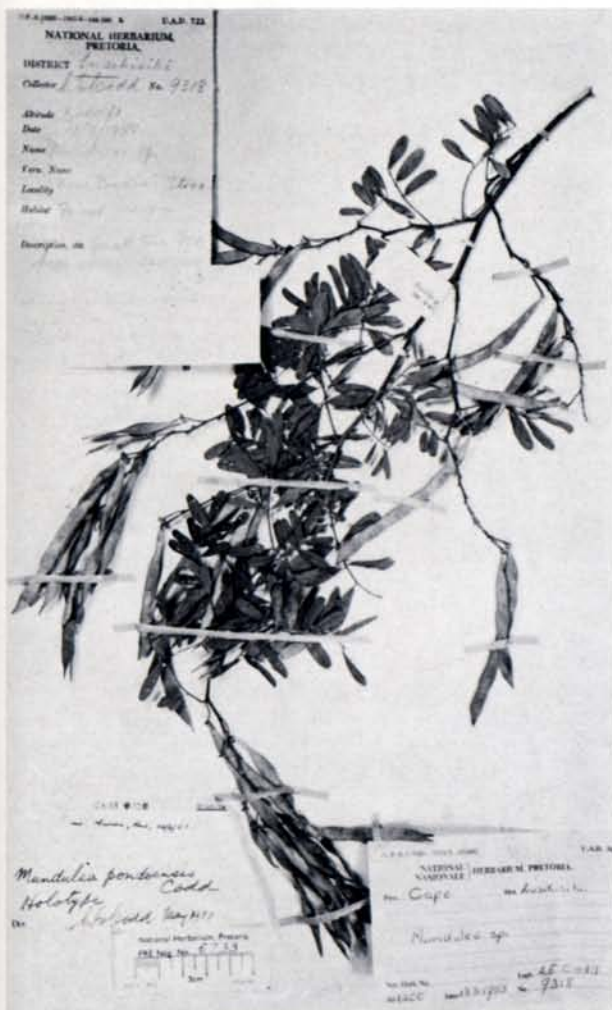


FIG. 11.—*Mundulea pondoensis*. Codd 9318, holotype, in PRE.

3 mm long; stigma capitate. *Pod* linear, compressed, 6–8 cm long, sparingly pubescent, dehiscent, thickened along the sutures; seeds 4–6, brownish, oblong-reniform, $7 \times 3, 5 \times 2$ mm, with a median white hilum.

Found at forest margins and among rocks in grassland in the Lusikisiki District at altitudes of 300–500m.

CAPE.—2931 (Lusikisiki): near Dindini Store (—BD), Codd 9318; Hili Forest, flowering Oct. 1922, O. B. Miller sub PRF 4408.

Flowering material of this species was collected as early as 1922 and was annotated by Miss H. M. L. Forbes, who revised the South African species of *Tephrosia* in 1948, as "*Mundulea* probably sp. nov., fruiting material required". In 1957 a fruiting specimen was collected which differs slightly in leaf shape and pubescence from the 1922 gathering, but is sufficiently close to be regarded as conspecific. Although it was hoped that more material would be collected in subsequent years, none has been forthcoming. The fruiting specimen was sent to Kew and was reported on by Dr D. J. B. Killick, our Liaison Officer at the time, as being unmatched in Kew.

This species is placed in *Mundulea* rather than in *Tephrosia*, because of its shrubby or arborescent habit and the shortly toothed calyx. The short dense inflorescence is also reminiscent of the widespread and variable *M. sericea* (Willd.) A. Chev., which extends from India through tropical Africa to the Transvaal and Zululand. *M. pondoensis* differs from *M. sericea* in having fewer leaflets, which are oblong to oblong-oblancoate and rounded at the apex, glabrous above and sparingly pubescent below, the pods are sparingly pubescent not densely velvety-tomentose, and the bark lacks the corky appearance characteristic of *M. sericea*.

Previously only one species of *Mundulea* has been recognized on the African continent, while about 20 have been described from Madagascar. The descriptions of these have been studied and they do not appear to be closely allied to *M. pondoensis*.

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