

THELYPTERIDACEAE

THELYPTERIS MICROBASIS, NEW TO THE FLORA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The publication of Holttum's treatment of the African Thelypteridaceae in *Jl S. Afr. Bot.* 40: 123–168 (1974) has made it possible to name specimens from the Magaliesberg in the Transvaal, which up to that time could not be identified. With the aid of Holttum's key these specimens were determined as *Christella microbasis* (Bak.) Holtt. [called *Thelypteris microbasis* (Bak.) Tard. at PRE—see Vorster in *Bothalia* 12: 260 (1977)]. One of the specimens, *Vorster* 2728, was sent to Holttum via the Institute's liaison officer at Kew, who wrote: "The specimen. . . has been seen by Prof. Holttum who is in agreement that it is *Christella microbasis* (Bak.) Holtt. . . . This is the first known record of this species from South Africa. Professor Holttum informs me that this group of plants often presents difficulties, however, your specimen is a good match of the type of this taxon. . . ."

Holttum cites this species as widespread in Central Africa to as far south as Angola. Examination of material in PRE reveals that it also extends to the south-western Cape.

T. microbasis may be distinguished as follows:

Rhizome short decumbent. *Fronde* simply pinnate with 2–3 pairs of lower pinnae gradually but not

greatly reduced in size; stipe 50–60 cm long; lamina 50–60 cm long; largest pinnae 12 × 1,8 cm, lobed to a depth equalling $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the lobes; pinna-veins free or rarely conniving in the sinus between 2 pinna-lobes, pinnae covered abaxially with long hairs and copious amounts of yellow, short-stalked capitate hairs which also occur on the indusia, adaxially with long hairs only.

The following material in PRE was found under the various species of *Thelypteris*:

TRANSVAAL.—2527 (Rustenburg): Bokfontein (–DB), *Jenkins* 722. Jacksonstun (–DB), *Mogg s.n.* in PRE (Pteridophyta) 4752, 5754, 7210; *Obermeyer s.n.* in TRV 1928; *Van Vuuren* 104, 179; *Vorster* 2728. 2530 (Lydenburg): Nelspruit (–BD), *Bosman s.n.* in PRE (Pteridophyta) 4795. Waterval Boven (–CB), *Rogers* 1006. 2627 (Potchefstroom): Magaliesburg (–BA), *Putterill s.n.* in PRE (Pteridophyta) 528.

NATAL.—2930 (Pietermaritzburg): Zwartkop (–CB), *Sim s.n.* in PRE 11015.

CAPE.—3227 (Stutterheim): Amabele (–DA), collector not stated in PRE (Pteridophyta) 5492. Komga (–DB), *Flanagan* 154. 3318 (Cape Town): Jonkershoek (–DD), *Marloth* 4733.