

Erica krugeri E. G. H. Oliver, sp. nov., *E. obtusatae* Klotzsch ex Benth. et *E. oliveri* H. A. Baker affinis sed bracteolis grandibus, sepalis pilis glanduliferis marginibus et supra interstitia corollarum incurvatis, corolla valde quadrangulosa distinguitur.

Frutex diffusus repens, interdum nodis radicans. Rami longi et graciles ad 1 m longi glabri longitudine porcati. *Folia* ternata ad 20 mm longa et 2 mm lata, late disposita patentes vel interdum recurvata lineari-lanceolata longe acuminata minute scabrida ad apice aliter glabra. *Flores* ternati terminales in extremis ramulorum lateralium pendentes parum involucriati, pedicellis brevibus glabris, bracteolis 3 grandibus ovatis acuminatis ciliatomarginatis aliter glabris vel sparsim pubescentibus ad apicem in superficiebus ambabus albis rubrescentibus. *Sepala* corollam aequantia supra interstitia corollarum incurvata glabra margine pilis glanduliferis alba interdum rubrescentia. *Corolla* ad 2,5 mm longa et 4 mm lata initia oblato-globosa sed mox valde quadrangulosa et late cyathiformis, lobis crenatis tubum aequantibus. *Stamina* 3 mm longa exserta, filamentis planis glabris, antheris ad 1 mm longis terminalibus muticis poro $\frac{1}{2}$ cellula aequante. *Ovarium* ad 0,75 mm longum, 1 mm latum oblato-globosum glabrum, stylo stamina longe superante, stigma simpliciter.

TYPE: Cape.—3418 (Simonstown): Somerset Sneeuwkop, south-east slopes, 1 280 m, (—BB), Nov. 1969, *Oliver 3024* (STE, holo., PRE, NBG, BOL, K, S, W, MO).

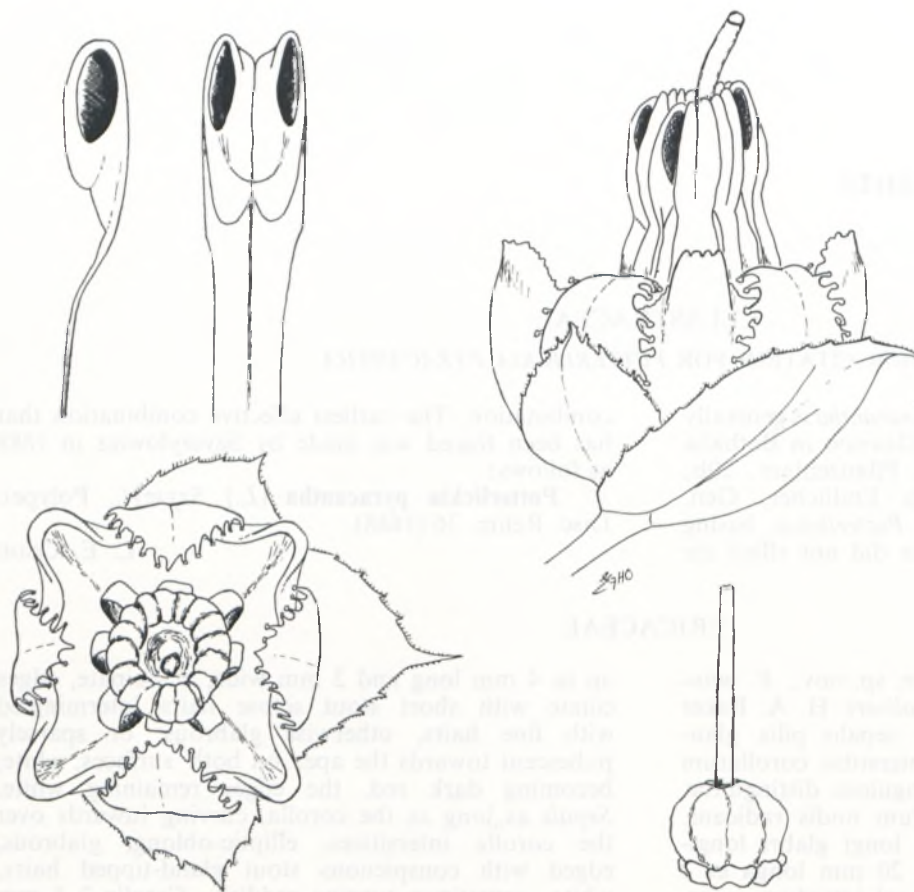
Diffuse shrublet creeping along the ground and among surrounding vegetation, sometimes rooting at the nodes. *Branches* long and slender, up to 1 m long, glabrous, brown, longitudinally ridged. *Leaves* 3-nate, up to 20 mm long and 2 mm broad, widely spaced, spreading or occasionally recurved, often spreading in the plane of the branches, linear-lanceolate, long acuminate with a brown seta up to 2 mm long, minutely scabrid towards the apex otherwise glabrous, dark green; petiole up to 2 mm long adpressed glabrous. *Flowers* 3-nate, terminal on ends of lateral branches, slightly involucriate, pendent; pedicels short, glabrous; bracteoles large,

up to 4 mm long and 2 mm wide, acuminate, edges ciliate with short stout setose hairs intermingled with fine hairs, otherwise glabrous, or sparsely pubescent towards the apex on both surfaces, white, becoming dark red, the edges remaining white. *Sepals* as long as the corolla, curving inwards over the corolla intersitices, elliptic-oblong, glabrous, edged with conspicuous stout gland-tipped hairs, white, sometimes turning reddish. *Corolla* 2,5 mm long and 4 mm broad, at first oblate-globose, but soon becoming distinctly 4-angled and broad cyathiform; lobes as long as the tube, crenate. *Stamens* 3 mm long, exserted; filaments very slightly narrowed at the apex, glabrous; anthers 1 mm long, terminal, muticous, dark brown, relatively smooth; pore $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the cell. *Ovary* 0,75 mm long, 1 mm broad, oblate-globose, glabrous, pale green; style 2,5 mm long, glabrous, exserted beyond the stamens; stigma simple.

CAPE.—3418 (Simonstown): Somerset Sneeuwkop, south-east slopes, 1 280 m (—BB), Nov. 1969, *Oliver 3024* (STE, PRE, BOL, NBG, K, S, W, MO); Dec. 1971, *Vogelpoel sub Williams 1608* (STE, NBG, PRE, K); Landrostkop and Somerset Sneeuwkop, Nov. 1934, *Stokoe 4027* (BOL, NBG); *Stokoe in SAM 5133* (SAM); Nov. 1938, *Stokoe 8553* (BOL, NBG); Nov. 1939, *Stokoe in SAM 55264* (SAM, NBG); Dec. 1939, *Esterhuysen 3618* (BOL, NBG); Moordenaars Kop (—BB), Nov. 1946, *Stokoe in SAM 62447* (SAM). 3419 (Caledon): Lebanon Forest Reserve, Groenlandberge, south slopes, 1 066 m (—AA), Oct. 1967, *Kruger 522* (BOL); Oct. 1969, *Kruger in STE 30321* (STE); Oct. 1969, *Oliver 3011* (STE, PRE, NBG, BOL, K, S).

The section *Desmia* to which this species belongs is characterised by shrublets with terminal flowers, the corolla being urceolate and viscid and the stamens subexserted, terminal and muticous. It contains four species, *E. obtusata* Klotzsch ex Benth., *E. polifolia* Salisb. ex Benth., *E. conferta* Andr. and *E. oliveri* H. A. Baker, all occurring on mountains from the Caledon district in the west to Uniondale in the east.

Under the "incertae" of this section in the Bolus Herbarium there has remained for many years some material collected by Stokoe and by Esterhuysen from the Hottentots-Holland Mountains. During an ecological survey of an area on the Groenlandberg in



Erica krugeri E. G. H. Oliver.—1, flower, side view, x 12; 2, flower, viewed from above, x 12; 3, anther, side and front view, x 25; 4, gynoecium, x 14 (from Oliver 3024).

the Lebanon Forest Reserve, Mr F. J. Kruger recorded similar material which required identification. This material shows affinities to *E. obtusata* which occurs in the area and to *E. oliveri* which occurs in the mountains near Bredasdorp. However, it possesses certain characteristics which distinguish it very clearly from these and all other species. The first notable feature is the semi-involucrate nature of the 3-nate terminal inflorescences. This is produced by the asymmetrical development of the bracteoles. As the flowers are pendent the "involucre" hides the flowers and becomes distinctly dark red in colour.

The characteristics of the flower are remarkable in the genus. The sepals are distinctly arched inwards over the interstices between the corolla lobes and possess conspicuous gland-bearing hairs on their margins. The corolla is unusually shaped being at first oblate-globose changing to cyathiform and

4-angled and becoming almost 4-lobed. Basically, however, the species has its affinities in the section *Desmia*.

There is one slight difference between the two populations of this species: in the Hottentots-Holland plants the surface of the bracteoles is glabrous whereas in the Lebanon plants both surfaces are sparsely pubescent towards the apex.

In habit, *E. krugeri* is remarkable in being almost invisible to the passer-by. It grows twining amongst the thick short fynbos so characteristic of moist south-facing slopes. Some of the branches measured were growing as much as 1 m from the main stem and were extremely difficult to extricate from the surrounding vegetation. The pendulous flowers and dark colour of the "involucres" added to the inconspicuousness of the species.

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