

APOCYNACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *HUERNIA* (ASCLEPIADOIDEAE–CEROPEGIEAE) FROM ANGOLA

The genus *Huernia* R.Br. consists of 50 species (Bruyns 2007), so that the present new species brings this number to 51. *Huernia* is widely distributed in sub-Saharan Africa and six species also occur in the Arabian Peninsula, as far east as the former Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen). In Angola, *Huernia* is represented by *H. calosticta* Bruyns, *H. lapanthera* Bruyns, *H. oculata* N.E.Br., *H. similis* N.E.Br., *H. urceolata* L.C.Leach, *H. verekeri* Stent and *H. volkartii* Peitsch. ex Werderm. & Peitsch. Of these, *H. calosticta*, *H. lapanthera* and *H. similis* are endemic to Angola, whereas *H. oculata* and *H. urceolata* are found in both Angola and Namibia and *H. verekeri* and *H. volkartii* are more widely distributed in southern Africa, from Angola to Mozambique (Bruyns 2005). The new species described here is from the central coastal parts between Lucira and Benguela, beyond the limits of the Namib Desert.

With seven species, *Huernia* is the largest genus among the stapeliads in Angola. So far, apart from the

seven species of *Huernia*, *Australluma peschii*, *Duvalia polita*, *Hoodia currorii*, *H. mossamedensis*, *H. parviflora*, *H. pedicellata*, *Orbea huillensis*, *O. lutea*, *O. maculata*, *Stapelia kwebensis*, *S. parvula*, *S. schinzii*, *Tavaresia angolensis*, *T. barklyi* and *T. thompsoniorum* are the other 15 stapeliads that are known in Angola (Bruyns 2005 and more recent new records).

***Huernia calosticta* Bruyns**, sp. nov., *H. oculata* similissima sed cum corolla latiora, maculata marronina et papillis longioribus, corona interiore latiore et praesentia tuberculi nectarei differt.

TYPE.—Angola, north of Lucira, 600 m, *Bruyns 10733* (BOL, holo.; E, iso.).

Dwarf succulent, forming clumps up to 200 mm diam. *Stems* 20–200 × 8–20 mm (excluding teeth), erect to spreading, grey-green; tubercles 6–10 mm long, spreading, deltoid, slightly laterally flattened and joined into 5 angles along stem, tapering into slender caducous tooth.

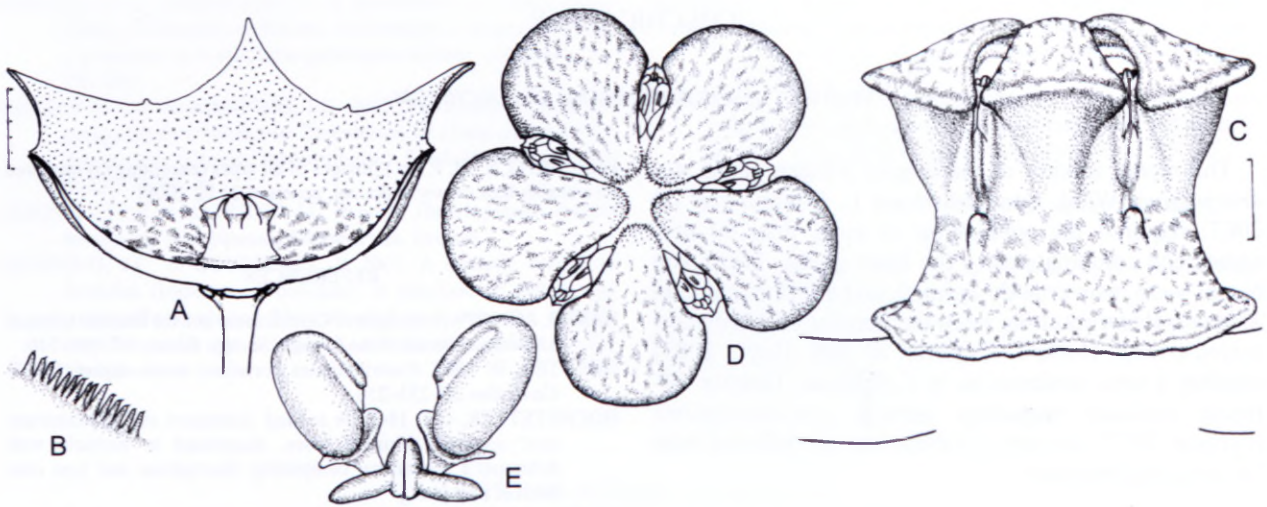


FIGURE 15.—*Huernia calosticta*, Bruyns 10733. A, side view of dissected flower; B, papillae inside corolla from near mouth of tube; C, side view of gynostegium; D, face view of gynostegium; E, pollinarium. Scale bars: A, 5 mm; B, 0.5 mm (at A); C, D, 1 mm (at C); E, 0.25 mm (at C). Artist: P.V. Bruyns.

Inflorescence with several flowers developing in gradual succession from short, stout peduncle, with narrowly attenuate bracts 4–8 mm long at base; pedicel 8–10 × 1.5 mm, spreading and holding flower facing outwards and slightly upwards; sepals 11–12 mm long, 1 mm broad at base, narrowly ovate-attenuate, slightly papillate on exterior. *Corolla* shallowly bowl-shaped, 8–12 × 20–25 mm; outside cream-coloured becoming faintly greenish towards tips of lobes, with small irregular maroon spots becoming smaller towards tips of lobes, covered with low conical and rough papillae, with 4 or 5 raised longitudinal veins

running down from lobes; inside cream-coloured with round dark maroon spots radially elongated around corona and nearly circular further out, spots very fine on lobes and on steep part of tube, larger in flatter part for 5–6 mm around corona, covered with minute, slender, bristly papillae usually tipped with small bristle, papillae usually same colour as background; tube bowl-shaped, ± 7 mm deep, widening from base to mouth; lobes 6 mm long, 12 mm broad at base, broadly deltate, somewhat acuminate, spreading. *Corona* 4 × 5 mm, pale yellow speckled finely with maroon, sessile; outer lobes ± 0.5 mm long, descending to surface of corolla so that apex adpressed to it, ± semicircular-emarginate in outline; inner lobes ± 1.5 mm long, adpressed to backs of anthers, dorsiventrally flattened, with broad transverse dorsal gibbosity ± 2 mm wide at base, beyond anthers descending slightly towards yellow broadly obtuse tips with white bristles. Figure 15.

Huernia calosticta is known from near the coast north of Lucira and from near Catengue, southeast of Benguela (Figure 16). Both of these localities are to the north of and outside the arid Namib region.

Plants occur in bushland dominated by *Acacia*, *Commiphora* and *Adansonia digitata*, often with a few other succulents such as *Ceraria carissoana*, *Pachypodium lealii*, *Stapelia kwebensis*, various species of *Kalanchoe*, *Euphorbia subsalsa* and *Sansevieria cylindrica*. In the vicinity, *Huernia urceolata*, *Stapelia kwebensis* and *Tavaresia angolensis* were observed.

Huernia calosticta is closely allied to *H. oculata* and is vegetatively indistinguishable from it. In *H. calosticta* the corolla faces outwards but slightly upwards, rather than horizontally as in *H. oculata*. Inside, the corolla has dark maroon spots on a cream-coloured background, unlike the alternating pale and dark bands of *H. oculata*. These spots are very fine on the lobes and on the steep part of the tube, becoming abruptly broader on the flat-tened base of the tube for a radius of 5–6 mm around the corona. The inside of



FIGURE 16.—Known distribution of *Huernia calosticta*.

the corolla is covered with fine papillae which are \pm twice the length of those in *H. oculata*.

The corona is broader in *Huernia calosticta* than in *H. oculata* and lacks the very slight stipe found at the base in *H. oculata*. While the outer corona lobes are similar in both, the two differ in the inner corona lobes. In *H. calosticta* the inner lobes are broader, rising slightly over the anthers and then descending towards their apices, rather than rising up well above the style apex as in *H. oculata*. The inner corona lobes have especially broad dorsal gibbositities, that are \pm twice as broad as those in *H. oculata*. Another difference is the presence here of a fairly conspicuous, erect tubercle beneath each guide-rail, a feature absent in *H. oculata*.

Other material examined

ANGOLA.—Near Catengue, SE of Benguela, 780 m, Bruyns 10756 (BOL).

REFERENCES

- BRUYNS, P.V. 2005. *Stapeliads of southern Africa*, 2 vols. Umdaus Press, Hatfield, Pretoria.
- BRUYNS, P.V. 2007. A new species of *Huernia* (Asclepiadoideae-Ceropegieae) from Angola. *Bothalia* 37: 15–17.

P.V. BRUYNS*

*Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, 7701 Rondebosch.
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