

CRASSULACEAE

CRASSULA STREYI RECORDED FROM THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

The most recent checklist of the Crassulaceae in South Africa (Burgoyne 2006) delimits, as have earlier accounts (Hunt 1979; Dreyer 1993; Burgoyne 2003), *Crassula streyi* Toelken as a KwaZulu-Natal endemic. However, recent field work in the Transkei region of the Eastern Cape Province and subsequent consideration of herbarium materials has revealed that this species has been known from the Eastern Cape for over 20 years. It was first collected there by Mr Tony Abbott in 1985, in forest adjacent to the Msikaba River Mouth, near where the Sao Bento was wrecked in 1554. It has more recently been collected to the north of the Mkambati Game Reserve, alongside the Mtentu River (Figure 16). It was considered a highly restricted endemic, occurring at a few localities within the Mtamvuna Nature Reserve (Toelken 1973, 1985); its range now extends southwards by approximately 25 km. This species evidently occurs in suitable rocky forest habitat in the intervening Mzamba Gorge system, and will likely be found along the lower Mnyameni Gorge. The Eastern Cape collections confirm *C. streyi* sight records, and its status as endemic to the Msikaba sandstone-defined Pondoland Centre (Scott-Shaw 1999; Van Wyk & Smith 2001;

Abbott 2006). Furthermore, the Izotsha Falls (within 5 km of Oribi Gorge) voucher extends its range north-eastwards by 40 km. It is restricted to altitudes ranging from 2–280 m and is therefore always found close to the coast.

Previously uncited KwaZulu-Natal vouchers extend substantially the documented phenology of *C. streyi* (Toelken 1985): plants flower from spring to late summer as well as in mid-winter.

Specimens examined

KWAZULU-NATAL.—3030 (Port Shepstone): Izotsha Falls view site, ex hort., (–CB), 25-03-1974, *Hilliard 5493* (NU); Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, forest walk, rock face in forest, (–CC), 24-12-1983, *A. Abbott 1586* (NH). 3130 (Port Edward): Umtamvuna Nature Reserve. Clearwater River Trail, (–AA), 04-02-1983, *A. Abbott 766* (NH); Umtamvuna Nature Reserve, (–AA), 08-03-2001, *P.M. Gavhi, P.J.H. Hurter & E. Van Wyk 61* (PRE).

EASTERN CAPE.—3129 (Port St Johns): Mkambati, Sao Bento crossing, rock in forest, (–BD), 24-03-1985, *A. Abbott 2553* (KEI; NH). 3130 (Port Edward): Ikubu River Gorge, tributary of the Mzamba River, riverine forest in shade on forest floor, (–AA), 22-06-1986, *A.E. van Wyk 7305* (KEI); Transkei, Mzamba District, Sikuba River, in forest, (–AA), 22-06-1986, *A. Abbott 3176* (KEI); rocky ledge alongside northern bank of Mtentu River, 1 km inland from mouth, opposite Mkambati Game Reserve, ex hort., (–AA), 10-06-2007, *N. Crouch, T. Edwards & D. Bellstedt 1129* (NH); Mkambati Reserve, Kebengeni River (tributary of Mtentu River), riverine scrub, growing on a rock on sandy soil on streambank, in sun on a level area, undisturbed, Msikaba formation sandstone, (–AA), 15-09-1998, *E. Cloete 5236* (GRA); common in cliffs of estuary of Mtentu River, (–AA), 06-2006, *Edwards, Crouch & Bellstedt 3275* (NU).

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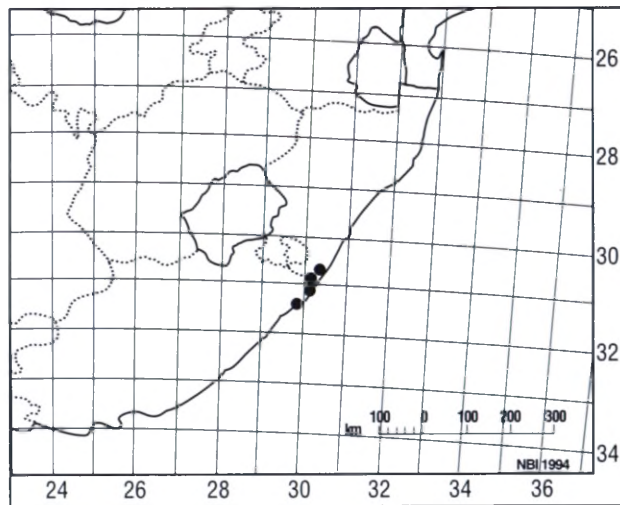


FIGURE 16.—Known distribution of *Crassula streyi* based on specimens at GRA, KEI, NH, NU and PRE.

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