

Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

APOCYNACEAE

NEW RECORDS OF *ADENIUM BOEHMIANUM* IN THE FSA REGION

Currently four species of *Adenium* Roem. & Schult. are recognized for the *Flora of southern Africa* (FSA) region, namely *A. boehmianum* Schinz, *A. multiflorum* Klotzsch, *A. oleifolium* Stapf and *A. swazicum* Stapf (Codd 1963; Victor *et al.* 2003). In the region, *A. boehmianum* has a northwestern distribution and the other species a central to eastern distribution (Figure 1). *A. boehmianum* was previously only known from the northern parts of Namibia and extending just over the border into Angola. In May 2005, Mr J.H. Vahrmeijer gave a specimen to PRE (Vahrmeijer HV00702), collected at the 'Sonop Koppies' near the northwestern border of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana on 15 April 2005. At the time, it was thought to be the first collection of this taxon from Botswana.

On further investigation, Ms Q. Turner from the Botswana National Herbarium (GAB) informed me of another collection of *Adenium boehmianum* from Botswana (M. Kabelo 2), collected on 17 February 2005, at the base of the Pimple hill in the vicinity of the Tsau Hills. This locality is near to that of the Vahrmeijer specimen.

Setshogo (2005) listed this taxon for Botswana, and indicated that the voucher specimen was housed in the National Herbarium in Zimbabwe (SRGH). When requesting the precise locality for this specimen (no collector or number was cited) from SRGH, the curator informed me that the specimen could not be traced. Apart from the listing, *Adenium boehmianum* has not been reported from Botswana in the literature.

All known Botswana records come from the northwestern borders of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, in central Botswana. These records extend the known distribution range of the species by at least 650 km to the east (Figure 1). The distribution map was compiled from information obtained from the National Herbarium of Namibia (WIND) database: SPMNDB and Flora DB; records from the Namibian Tree Atlas project; and the National Herbarium Pretoria Computerised Information System (PRECIS) database. Information on one of the new records was obtained from GAB.

Vahrmeijer indicated on the collecting label that plants were found locally, frequently growing on rocky hillsides. Kabelo (Q. Turner pers. comm.) indicated that the species was rare and grew only at the base of hills. Succulents are generally sought after and sometimes threatened by plant collectors and because of this and the limited distribution in Botswana, the species was listed as rare and a possible candidate for Red Data listing by Setshogo (2005). *Adenium boehmianum* is an exceptional, attractive plant when in full flower, and with its glossy foliage, it has great horticultural potential (Figure 2).

The disjunct distribution may indicate that Botswana as a whole is undercollected, or at least that the flora of that country is inadequately covered in PRECIS. Only 9.8% of the quarter-degree grids in Botswana have more than 50 specimens at PRE, according to PRECIS records in 2005, and almost a third of all Botswana quarter-degree grids do not have any specimens in PRE.

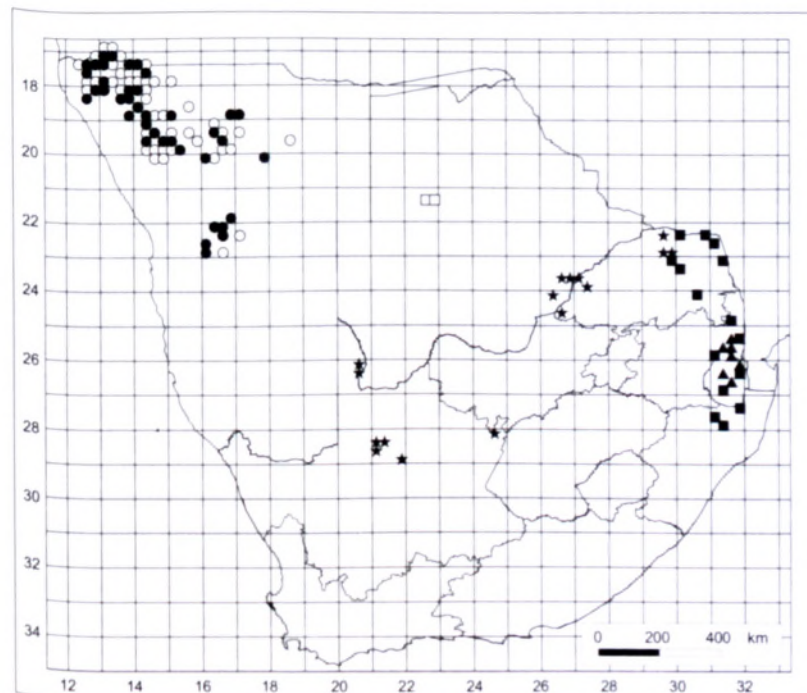


FIGURE 1.—Distribution in the FSA region of *Adenium boehmianum*: from WIND and PRE, ●; from Namibia Tree Atlas Project, ○; new records, □; *A. oleifolium*, from GAB and PRE, ★; *A. multiflorum*, from PRE, ■; and *A. swazicum*, from PRE, ▲.



FIGURE 2.—Flowering *Adenium boehmianum* photographed in the nursery of the Pretoria National Botanical Garden, $\times 0.5$. Plant grown from a cutting collected in 1976 by Leistner *et al.* PNBG294.

Further investigation may prove whether the occurrence of *Adenium boehmianum* in Botswana indicates a disjunct distribution or not. It is probably an indication that Botswana is still undercollected, or not well represented at PRE.

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