

ASTERACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *OEDERA* FROM WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Oedera epaleacea Beyers, sp. nov. *Oederæ foveolatae* affinis sed receptaculo epaleaceo floribus disci femineo-sterilibus stylo modo breviter fissio differt.

TYPE.—Western Cape, 3219 (Wuppertal): Swartruggens, on Farm Zeekoe-gat, southwest of the farm road about 500 m from the turnoff on the road to Katbakkies Pass, 1 030 m, (–DC), 5-09-2000, *Beyers* 272 (NBG, holo.; K, PRE, UPS, iso.).

Erect, moderately to densely branched, rounded shrub, up to 0.6 m tall, with a stout trunk up to 50 mm diam. *Branches* ascending-erect, glabrous, leafy, becoming nude and marked with leaf scars. *Leaves* alternate, spreading, sessile, entire, midribbed, narrowly oblong, 4–12 × 0.8–1.5 mm, glabrous, densely and distinctly glandular-punctate and foveolate, mucronulate; semiterete in cross section. *Capitula* solitary, sessile, terminal, heterogamous, radiate. *Involucre* campanulate, 4–5 mm wide. *Involucral bracts* 5- or 6-seriate, 36–47, imbricate, firm and hard basally, scarious apically, midribbed, glabrous; outer ovate, inner gradually longer, narrowly elliptic and apically brown, innermost narrowly obovate or narrowly oblong with a spreading, brown apical limb, up to 10.3 × 1.7 mm, acute. *Receptacle* slightly convex, shortly squamose, epaleate. *Ray florets* female, fertile, 13–18; tube cylindrical, 2–3 mm long, with ± stalked glands; lamina spreading, narrowly obovate, 6–10 × 1.3–2.2 mm, yellow with a dorsal, brown stripe, 4-veined, apically minutely 3-lobed; style terete, bifid, 2.5–4.0 mm long; style branches erect-spreading, linear, 0.7–1.5 mm long, glabrous, stylopodium not distinct; cypselas almost terete or angular, narrowly elliptic, 1.8–2.6 × 0.5–0.7 mm, densely pilose; pappus crown-like, of ± connate scales, up to 0.6 mm long. *Disc florets* 38–42, female sterile; corolla 3.7–5.5 × 0.6–0.9 mm, divided into a lower cylindrical tube with scattered, ± stalked glands on the outside and upper narrowly cyathiform, glabrous limb; corolla lobes 5, spreading, ovate-triangular, 0.3–0.7 mm long, dorsally gland-dotted; style terete, 2.5–5.3 mm long, shallowly cleft, style branches up to 0.3 mm long, apically rounded and papillate; stylopodium distinct; anthers linear, 1.4–2.2 mm long, with sterile, flat, ovate apical appendage and sterile, flat, subulate, entire tails, 0.2–0.4 mm long; cypselas almost terete, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong, 1.5–2.7 ×

0.3–0.6 mm, glabrous or sparsely pilose, may be scattered with ± stalked glands; pappus crown-like, of ± connate scales, up to 0.6 mm long. Figure 9.

Diagnostic characters and relationships

Oedera foveolata (Bremer) Anderb. & Bremer and *O. sedifolia* (DC.) Anderb. & Bremer are among those species, treated in the taxonomic revision of *Relbania* L'Hér. by Bremer (1976), which were transferred to *Oedera* by Anderberg & Bremer (1991). *O. epaleacea* is related to the above two species, which are recognized by their glandular-punctate leaves. As in *O. epaleacea*, *O. foveolata*, a species only known from Karoo Poort, the leaves are distinctly glandular-punctate and foveolate, and the cypselas of the ray florets are densely pilose. However, in *O. epaleacea* the receptacle is epaleate and the disc florets are female sterile. *O. epaleacea* grows intermingled with *O. sedifolia*, one of the more common species in the genus, but can easily be distinguished from it by the glabrous branches and leaves and the female sterile disc florets. The leaves of *O. epaleacea*, when crushed have a sulphury odour. In *O. sedifolia* the branches and leaves are tomentose becoming glabrous later, the disc florets are perfect and leaves when crushed give off a resinous odour.

Distribution and ecology

Oedera epaleacea is known only from the Farm Zeekoe-gat in the Swartruggens area (Figure 10). It occurs in arid fynbos where it grows in crevices between rock sheets, in sandstone-derived sandy soils, in full or partial sun. Flowering specimens seen from June to September.

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the epaleate receptacle.

Other specimens examined

WESTERN CAPE.—3219 (Wuppertal): Zeekoe-gat 137, west of Riet River, in ravine, 16-06-2000, *Stobie* 2 (NBG); *ibid.*, on hill slope, 22-07-2000, *Stobie* sub NBG170457 (NBG).

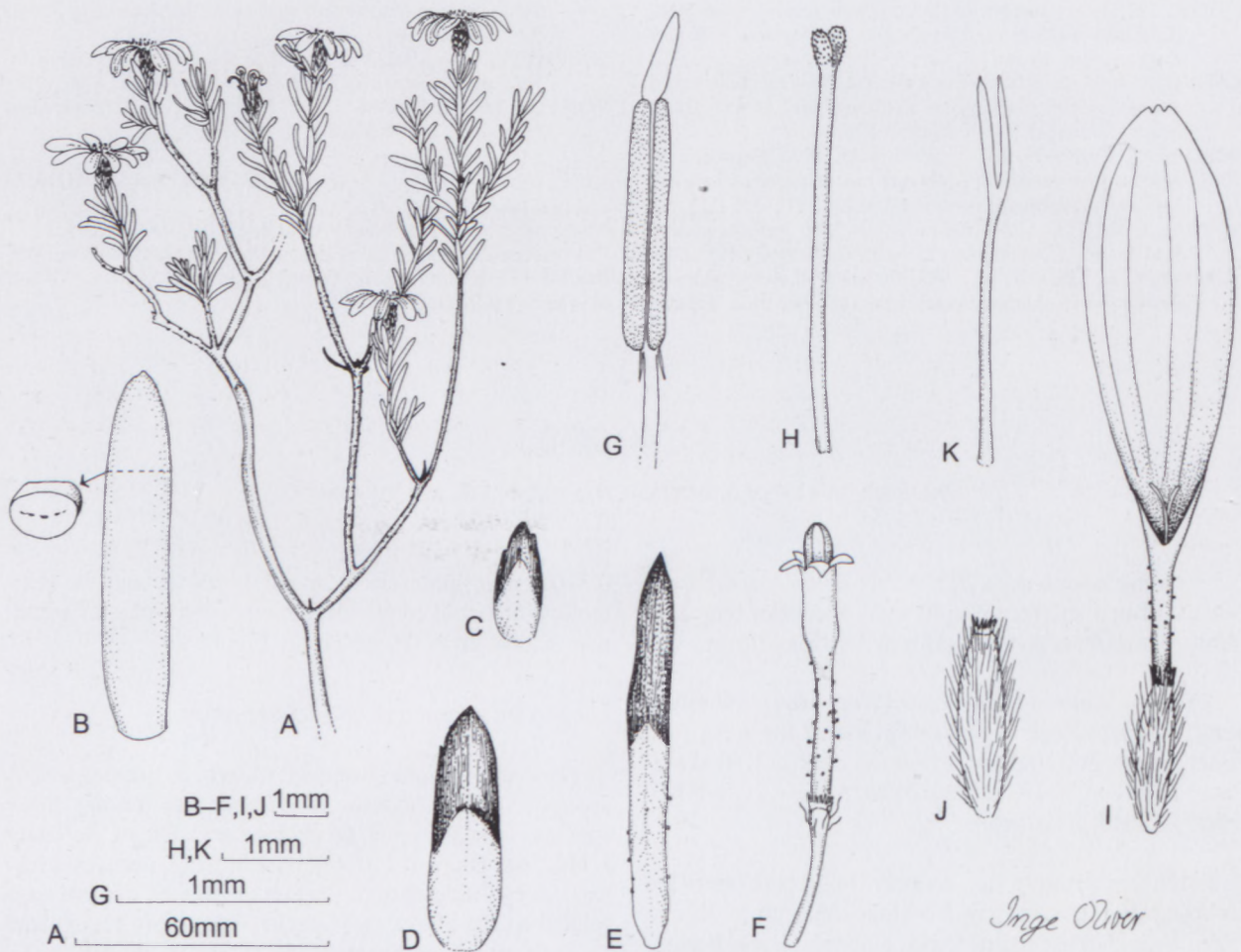


FIGURE 9.—*Oedera epaleacea*, Beyers 272 (NBG). A, portion of plant; B, leaf (abaxial view and cross section). C–E, involucral bracts: C, outer; D, middle; E, innermost. F, disc floret; G, stamen of disc floret; H, style of disc floret; I, ray floret; J, cypselum of ray floret; K, style of ray floret.

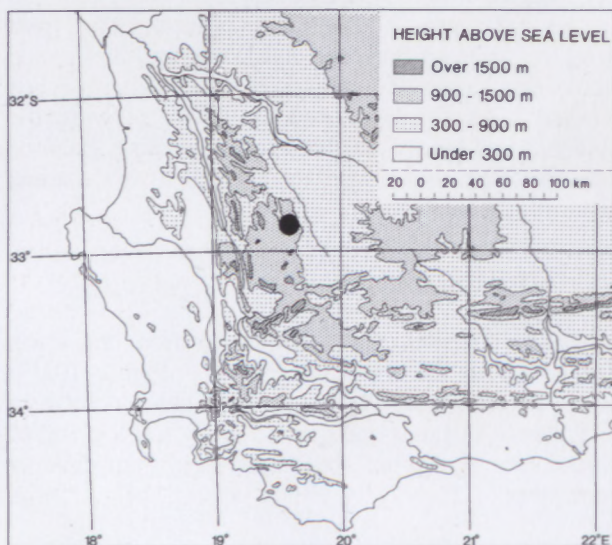


FIGURE 10.—Geographical distribution of *Oedera epaleacea*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Mrs Mary Stobie, a keen amateur botanist, for bringing the material in for naming and also for accompanying me to their farm to collect the type material, Prof. Kåre Bremer for his expert advice, Dr Ted Oliver for the Latin diagnosis, and Mrs Inge Oliver for the line drawings.

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MS. received: 2000-10-04.