

SOLANACEAE

THREE NEW RECORDS OF *SOLANUM* SECTION *OLIGANTHES* IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

During the investigation of the specimens of *Solanum* L. in PRE for a revision of the genus in southern Africa, it became clear that three species of subgenus *Leptostemonum* (Dunal) Bitter (1919) growing in the eastern parts of southern Africa, were not recorded for the region by Welman (1993). These are *S. litoraneum* A.E.Gonç., *S. torreanum* A.E.Gonç. and *S. usaramense* Dammer of section *Oliganthes* (Dunal) Bitter (1923), all described from tropical Africa.

Solanum litoraneum A.E.Gonç. in Kew Bulletin 52: 703, fig. 1 (1997). Type: Mozambique, Maputo Province, Inhaca Island, Mogg 27597 (K, holo.; J!, PRE!, SRGH, iso.).

Distribution and ecology

S. litoraneum seems to be restricted to the coastal areas of southern Mozambique and northern KwaZulu-Natal; from the Massinga District south to Black Rock between Kosi Bay and Lake Sibayi, from where only one specimen is represented in PRE. It is near-endemic to the Maputaland Centre of Endemism of Van Wyk (1996).

It grows from sea level to ± 50 m in the littoral vegetation of dunes, in thickets or the margins of dense bushland or dune scrub forests, always on sandy soils. From the few specimens available, it seems to flower from September to April and fruit from September to July.

Taxonomy and diagnostic characters

S. litoraneum is closely related to *S. rubetorum* Dunal and may eventually prove to be part of it. In the southern African context, *S. litoraneum* can be distinguished by the large inflorescences with up to 14 flowers, the fairly large flowers with corollas 8–15 mm diam., the mostly recurved spines and the orange-red fruit as well as the coastal habitat.

Specimen examined

KWAZULU-NATAL.—2632 (Bela Vista): Black Rock, (–DD), Venter 6264 (PRE).

Solanum torreanum A.E.Gonç. in Kew Bulletin 52: 706, fig. 2 (1997). Type: Mozambique, Maputo Province, Boane, Matola District, *Balsinhas 1466* (LISC, holo.; LMA, iso.).

Distribution and ecology

S. torreanum occurs in the Maputo province in southern Mozambique, in Swaziland and also in the southern Mpumalanga and northern KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa. It is endemic to the Maputaland Centre of Endemism of Van Wyk (1996), and is mainly associated with the Lebombo Range and its foothills.

S. torreanum grows from ± 15–300 m altitude on flats and on slopes, on black turf or sandy to sandy-clay and stony soils, also soils rich in lime. It is found in dry *Acacia* bushveld, in mixed scrub with *Combretum/Sclerocarya* and *Themeda*, also in scrub forest margins and in ruderal places. *Flowering and fruiting times*: October to July.

Taxonomy and diagnostic characters

Gonçalves (1997) regards this species as close to *S. capense* L. It can be distinguished from that species by the 2–8-flowered inflorescences with corollas 15–25 mm diam., and also the tendency of *S. torreanum* to dry dark brownish. This is the species which Ross (1972) listed as *Solanum* sp. no. 29 from Zululand with the cited specimen *Strey 4611*.

Specimens examined

MPUMALANGA.—2531 (Komatiport): Figtree, (–DD), Nel 68 (PRE).

SWAZILAND.—2531 (Komatiport): Tshaneni, (–DC), Barrett 246 (PRE). 2631 (Mbabane): Lubulla Ranch, (–AD), Corbett s.n. (PRE); Lubuku Ranch, (–BD), Phillips s.n. (PRE). 2731 (Louwsburg): Ingwavuma Poort, (–BB), Compton 28584 (PRE).

KWAZULU-NATAL.—2632 (Bela Vista): Nkonjane/Aberkorn Drift, (–CC), Moll & Pooley 4224 (NH, PRE); Ndumu Hill, (–CD), Pooley 1672 (NU, PRE). 2731 (Louwsburg): Pongola Poort, (–BC), Strey 4611 (NH, PRE); Nkonkoma, (–DC), Wells 2155 (PRE). 2732 (Ubombo): Ingwavuma foothills, (–AA), Strey 10258 (NH, PRE); False Bay Park, (–CD), Taylor 730 (NH, PRE). 2831 (Nkandla): Zondela, Mahlabatini, (–AD), Gerstner 4309 (PRE).

Solanum usaramense Dammer in Engl., Die Pflanzenwelt Ost-Afrikas und der Nachbargebiete, Theil

C: 353 (1895). Type: Tanzania, Usaramo, *Stuhlmann 7066* (B, holo.†).

Distribution and ecology

Recorded from coastal Tanzania and Mozambique southwards to the northern KwaZulu-Natal coast in the Ingwavuma, Ubombo and Hlabisa Districts.

S. usaramense grows just above sea level in shady areas along the margins of dune forests; also found in coastal swamp forests. *Flowering time*: November to March. *Fruiting time*: February to April.

Taxonomy and diagnostic characters

S. usaramense is closely related to *S. filicaule* Dammer and may be part of *S. cordatum* Forssk. This is the species which Ross (1972) and Vahrmeijer (1966) listed as *S. zanzibarensis* Vatke var. *vagans* (C.H.Wright) Bitter from Maputaland (Tongaland), without a cited specimen. Van Wyk (1996) listed this as *Solanum* sp. nov. A (*Vahrmeijer 739*). Material of this species has also been filed under *S. cf. monotanthum* Dammer in South African herbaria.

In South Africa it can be distinguished by its climbing habit, greyish green stems and lower leaf surfaces, its fairly large flowers with blue-purple corollas which are 15 mm diam., its recurved spines and also its coastal habitat.

Specimens examined

KWAZULU-NATAL.—2732 (Ubombo): Lake Sibayi, (–BC), Vahrmeijer 739 (PRE); Lalanek Dune Forest, (–BD), Venter 4377 (PRE); Sordwana Bay, (–DA), Vahrmeijer 613 (PRE). 2832 (Mtubatuba): Futululu Forest, (–AC), Strey 10411 (NH, PRE).

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W.G. WELMAN*

* National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X101, 0001 Pretoria. MS received: 1998-05-21.