

In a recent revision of the genus *Amphithalea* Eckl. & Zeyh., Granby (1985) recognized twenty species and four subspecies. A distinct new species has been discovered since.

Amphithalea rostrata A.L. Schutte & B-E. van Wyk, species insignis carina rostrata, vexillo cucullato, alis squarrosis, flore vinoso et foliis revolutis pilosis, a speciebus nobis notis bene distincta.

TYPE. — Cape, 3419 (Caledon): Carruthers Hill, SE of Pearly Beach (–DA), 10.06.1985, *Oliver 8752* (STE, holo.; PRE, iso.).

A diffuse shrublet, up to 0.6 m tall. *Branches* sparsely leafy with scars left from fallen leaves, \pm glabrous; young twigs thin and slender, densely leafy, pilose. *Leaves* alternate, simple, ovate to broadly ovate with strongly revolute margins; blade (4.5–)7.0–10.0 \times (2.0–)3.5–5.0 mm; petiole very short, less than 0.5 mm long; apex acute; base rounded or somewhat cordate; densely pilose abaxially, sparsely so adaxially. *Stipules* absent. *Inflorescences* single-flowered, axillary, condensed to 1–2(–4)-flowered terminal nodding capitula. *Bracts* linear, 2.5–3.0 mm long. *Bracteoles* absent. *Flowers* subsessile, 7–8 mm long, dark maroon-red. *Calyx* 5.5 mm long, purplish, with the upper two lobes fused much higher up; lateral and lower sinuses nearly of equal depth, the lateral ones slightly deeper; lobes triangular, acuminate to somewhat caudate; densely pilose. *Standard* 8.0–8.5 \times 4.0–4.5 mm, ovate with the upper part cucullate; apex mucronate; base cordate; claw very short, less than 0.5 mm long. *Wing petals* shorter than the keel, 6.0–6.5 mm long, oblong to narrowly oblong, auriculate, distinctly pocketed, apical part of the lamina curved downwards; sculpturing upper basal, 3 rows of transcostal lamellae; claw 1.5–2.0 mm long. *Keel petals* 7.0–7.5 mm long, semicircular, with the distal part hidden in the upper part of the standard, auriculate, pocketed; apex distinctly rostrate; claw 1.0–1.5 mm long. *Stamens* 8.0–8.5 mm long; diadelphous, vexillary stamen free, the others fused for \pm half the length; anthers uniform in size. *Pistil* 5.5 mm long, sessile; style strongly curved upwards, glabrous; ovary with a single ovule, densely sericeous. *Fruit* and *seed* unknown. Figure 4.

The flower structure of *A. rostrata* is comparable only to that of *A. tomentosa*. These two species are the only ones with a rostrate keel, a mucronate standard and oblong wing petals. *A. rostrata* differs in the strongly revolute leaf margins (leaves flat in *A. tomentosa*), the pilose vestiture

(silky-canescens in *A. tomentosa*), the maroon-coloured flowers (yellow in *A. tomentosa*), the cordate standard (oblong in *A. tomentosa*) and the absence of protuberances at the apices of the keel and wing petals (see Figure 4). Unlike all other species of *Amphithalea*, the upper part of the standard petal is cucullate (not recurved or straight) and the wing petals are distinctly squarrose (not straight) and shorter than the keel (not as long or longer than the keel).

A. rostrata was discovered by Mr E.G.H. Oliver of the Stellenbosch Herbarium. We thank him for directing us to the only known locality, which is at Carruthers Hill, south-east of Pearly Beach (Figure 5). The population occurs amongst fynbos on a sandy and stony south-facing slope, at 120 m above sea level.

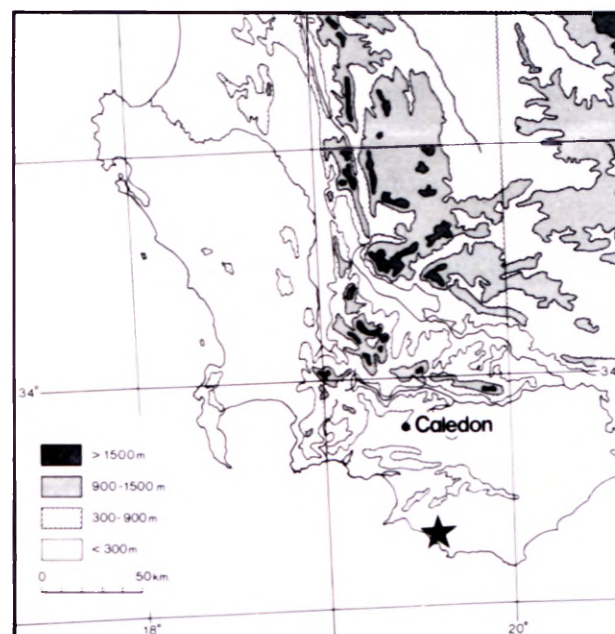


FIGURE 5.—The known geographical distribution of *Amphithalea rostrata*.

CAPE. — 3419 (Caledon): Carruthers Hill, SE of Pearly Beach (–DA), 10.06.1985, *Oliver 8752* (STE, holo., PRE, iso.), 13.11.1989, *van Wyk 2896* (JRAU).

REFERENCE

GRANBY, R. 1985. Revision of the genus *Amphithalea* (Liparieae – Fabaceae). *Opera Botanica* 80: 1–34.

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