

ANACARDIACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *OZOROA* FROM THE TRANSVAAL

***Ozoroa barbertonensis* Retief, sp. nov.**, *O. albicanti* affinis, sed foliis linearibus vel anguste oblongis, non oblongis vel late ovato-oblongis, in rupibus serpentinis in parte orientali terrae vulgo Transvaal dictae, non dolomiticis, in parte boreali eiusdem terrae differt.

TYPE.—Transvaal, 2531 (Komatipoort): Barberton, mountain slopes above the Agnes Gold Mine (—CC), *Balsinhas* 3129 (PRE, holo.; K; MO). Figure 9.

A dioecious shrublet, 0,4–1,5 m high, with several erect stems from a woody rootstock. *Stems* brown, hairy, with a milky latex. *Leaves* simple, spirally or subverticillately arranged, much longer than internodes, crowded; petiolate; blade linear to narrowly oblong, (23–)55–80 (–90) × (2–)4–7(–8,5) mm, coriaceous, discolorous, upper surface shiny green, lower surface greyish green,

both surfaces with a hairy indumentum, hairs on upper surface not as dense as on lower surface, those on lower surface orientated towards the margin, apex acute, with a mucro \pm 1 mm long, base cuneate, margin revolute, lateral veins numerous, parallel, unbranched or branched near margin, less hairy; petiole 1,5–3,0 mm long. *Flowers* white, 5-merous, in axillary and terminal panicles, pedicels articulated near apex. *Male flowers*: sepals 5-segmented, 1–1,5 mm long; petals 5, oblong, 2–2,5 mm long, apices curved inwards; disc annular; stamens 5, filaments 0,5 mm long, anthers 0,75 mm long. *Female flowers*: sepals 1 mm long, petals 2 mm long, otherwise as in male flowers; disc annular, staminodes \pm 5 mm long; ovary symmetrical, 1-locular with a single basal ovule, styles 3, free, stigmas somewhat capitate. *Fruit* a fleshy drupe, subglobose, 4,5–5 × 6–6,5 mm, irregularly rugulose. *Seed* pendulous from the basal funicle.

TRANSVAAL.—2530 (Lydenburg): Agnes Mine (—DD), *Balkwill & Cadmar* 3604 (PRE, E, J, NU), *Strey* 4052 (PRE); Thorncroft Nature Reserve (—DD), *Muller* 2321 (PRE). 2531 (Komatipoort): Barberton, mountain slopes above Agnes Gold Mine (—CC), *Balsinhas* 3129 (PRE,K, MO), Barberton, Brommers (—CC), *Onderstal* 1228, 1229 (PRE).



FIGURE 9.—Holotype of *Ozoroa barbertonensis* Retief, *Balsinhas* 3129.

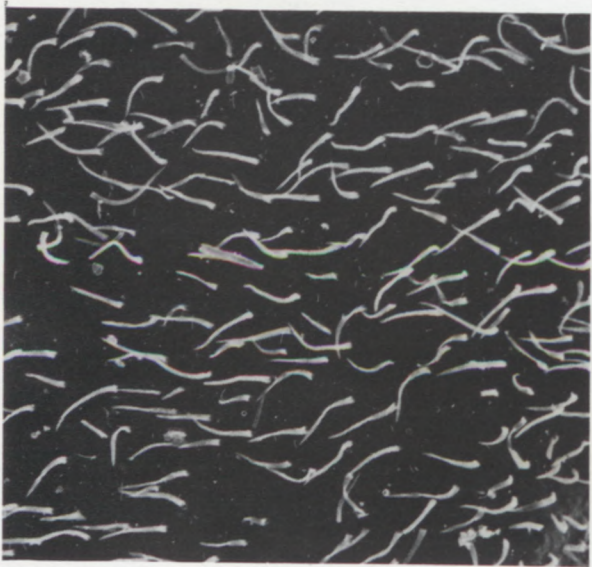


FIGURE 10.—*Ozoroa barbertonensis*, *Balsinhas* 3129. SEM micrograph of upper surface of leaf blade, $\times 66$.



FIGURE 11.—*Ozoroa barbertonensis*, *Balsinhas* 3129. SEM micrograph of lower surface of leaf blade, $\times 66$.

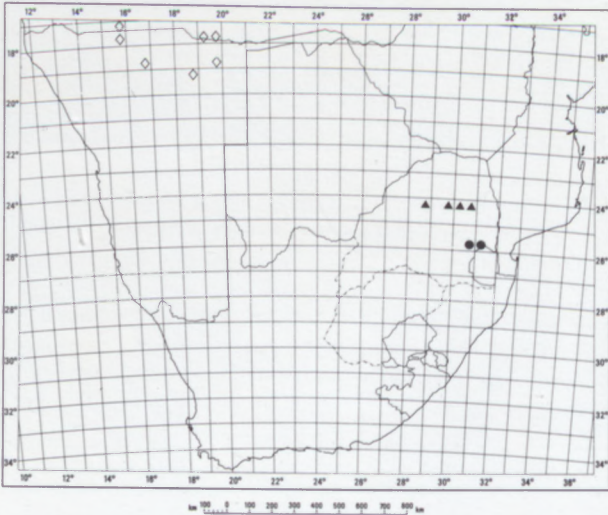


FIGURE 12.—Distribution of *Ozoroa barbertonensis*, ●; *O. albicans*, ▲; *O. schinzii*, ◇.

Ozoroa barbertonensis is apparently restricted to the Barberton area of the Transvaal Lowveld, hence the specific epithet. It occurs in Lowveld Sour Bushveld on rocky slopes in grassland. Flowering time has been recorded from January to March. An unusual feature of the species is its association with serpentine soils (Balkwill & Balkwill 1988), a characteristic shared with taxa such as *Berkheya coddii* Roessler, *Aloe thorncroftii* Pole Evans and *Brachystelma dyeri* K. & M-J. Balkwill (1988).

Ozoroa barbertonensis differs from all other southern African species of *Ozoroa* by its linear to narrowly oblong leaves with the upper surface shiny green and the lower surface greyish green, caused by the dense indumentum of hairs. A SEM study of the indumentum of the blade revealed that the hairs on the upper surface (Figure 10) are not as dense as those on the lower surface (Figure 11). The leaves are also much longer than the internodes and crowded. The habit of the species, a shrublet with several

stems from a woody rootstock, is also a useful aid in its identification as only two other described species of *Ozoroa* in southern Africa share the same habit (other members are trees or shrubs).

The nearest relatives of *Ozoroa barbertonensis* are *O. albicans* R. & A. Fernandes and *O. schinzii* (Engl.) R. & A. Fernandes. The three species are all many-stemmed shrubs, sometimes up to 2 m high, but usually 0,4–1 m in height. However, the shape and size of their leaf blades differ markedly from one another. *O. albicans* has large greyish green leaves with blades oblong to broadly ovate-oblong, 75–155 × 30–70 mm. The leaf blades of

O. schinzii are oblong to elliptic, 25–50 × 10–20 mm with prominent lateral veins on the lower surface. Characteristic of *O. barbertonensis* are its linear to narrowly oblong leaf blades, 55–80 × 4–7 mm. The geographical distribution of these species is also different and does not overlap, Figure 12.

REFERENCE

- BALKWILL, K. & BALKWILL, M-J. 1988. Studies on serpentine flora: a new species of *Brachystelma* (Asclepiadaceae). *South African Journal of Botany* 54: 60–62.

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