RUBIACEAE

A New Species of Canthium

Canthium suberosum *Codd*, sp. nov., a *C. ventoso* (L.) S. Moore foliis ellipticis vel oblanceolatis, inflorescentiis subsessilibus differt.

Frutex vel arbuscula 3–6 m alta omnino glaber, inermis; ramuli ad nodos incrassati; cortex demum suberosus. *Folia* opposita, 2–4 mm longe petiolata, glauca, coriacea, elliptica vel oblanceolata, 3·5–7 cm longa, 1·4–3·5 cm lata, integra, basi

cuneata, apice obtusa vel rotundata. *Cymae* axillares, subfasciculatae, 1–4-florae, pedunculo 0–2 mm longo, pedicellis 2–4 mm longis. *Calyx* breviter 5-denticulatus. *Corolla* parvula, tubo 2 mm longo, lobis 5, oblongo-ovatis, 3 mm longis, reflexis, margine papilloso. *Antherae* 5, breviter exsertae. *Ovarium* ovoideum, 3-loculare, loculis uniovulatis; stylus exsertus, 4 mm longus; stigma capitatum, 3-lobatum. *Fructus* drupaceus, circa 1 cm longus, plerumque lobatus, nigrescens, seminibus 1–3.

Type: Transvaal, Heidelberg Kloof, *Mogg* 20473 (PRE, holo.).

Shrub or small tree 3–6 m high, entirely glabrous, unarmed; branchlets conspicuously swollen at the nodes; bark grey, powdery on young branchlets, becoming corky on older trunks. *Leaves* opposite, with petioles 2–4 mm long, glaucous, leathery, elliptic to oblanceolate, 3·5–7 cm long, 1·4–3·5 cm broad, entire, cuneate at the base, apex obtuse to rounded. *Inflorescence* axillary, subfasciculate, consisting of 1–4-flowered cymes; peduncle 0–2 mm long, hidden by the stipules; pedicels 2–4 mm long. *Calyx* shortly 5-toothed, teeth about 0·5 mm long. *Corolla* small; tube 2 mm long; lobes 5, oblong-ovate, 3 mm long, margin papillate, especially at the tip which is thickened and curved inwards, ultimately reflexed. *Anthers* 5, shortly exserted, oblong, apex acute; filaments short and broad, inserted just below the throat of the corolla. *Ovary* ovoid, 3-locular, with one descending ovule in each locule; style exserted, 4 mm long, glabrous, broadest at the base; stigma capitate, 3-lobed; disc slightly raised, sticky. *Fruit* drupaceous, about 1 cm long, more or less oblong, usually lobed when 2 or 3 seeds develop, black when mature, 1–3-seeded.

Found on wooded, rocky hillsides, usually in kloofs or along dry water-courses, associated with quartzite or granite formations on the central Transvaal plateau region, with outliers in western Swaziland.

TRANSVAAL.—Brits: Jacksonstuin, *Codd* 6804; *Van Wyk* 267; *Mogg* 23538; *Van Vuuren* 275. Heidelberg: Kloof, *Mogg* 20473. Krugersdurp: Hekpoort, *Phillips* 456. Pietersburg: Molepo Reserve, 30 miles E. of Pietersburg, *Gerstner* 5346; 5565; Wolkberg, 12 miles S.E. of Boyne, *Codd* 10399. Rustenburg: Castle Gorge, *Meeuse* 9257. Waterberg: Geelhoutkop, *Mogg* 24495.

SWAZILAND.—Hlatikulu, *Compton* 28157.

C. suberosum is allied to *C. ventosum* (L.) S. Moore, of which *C. inerme* (L.f.) Kuntze is regarded as a synonym, but differs in several respects. *C. ventosum* shows a tendency to be scandent with longish internodes and spine-like branchlets, and the bark on the older twigs is smooth and longitudinally wrinkled, somewhat waxy and not powdery or corky, while the bark on the main trunk never becomes thickly corky; the leaves are more or less ovate, in outline, obtuse at the base and acute to acuminate at the apex and are relatively thin in texture; and the inflorescence is usually branched and many-flowered.

C. suberosum, on the other hand, is never scandent, but has thickish, brittle branches with shorter internodes and more conspicuously thickened nodes; the bark on the older twigs is scurfy, cracking into a more or less rectangular network while on the main trunk the bark often becomes conspicuously corky with age; the leaves are elliptic to oblanceolate-obovate in shape, cuneate at the base and obtuse to rounded at the apex, greyish and relatively thick in texture; and the inflorescences are few-flowered and subsessile.

There is also a difference in distribution with *C. ventosum* scattered from the Cape Peninsula, through the eastern Cape Province, Natal, Swaziland and the eastern and northern Transvaal to Rhodesia and Mozambique, while *C. suberosum* is essentially a species of the wooded quartzite and granite formations of the central Transvaal plateau, with outliers in western Swaziland.

L. E. CODD



PLATE 1.—**Festuca costata** Nees var. **longiligulata** J. G. Anders. (*Killick* 3510, holotype, PRE).

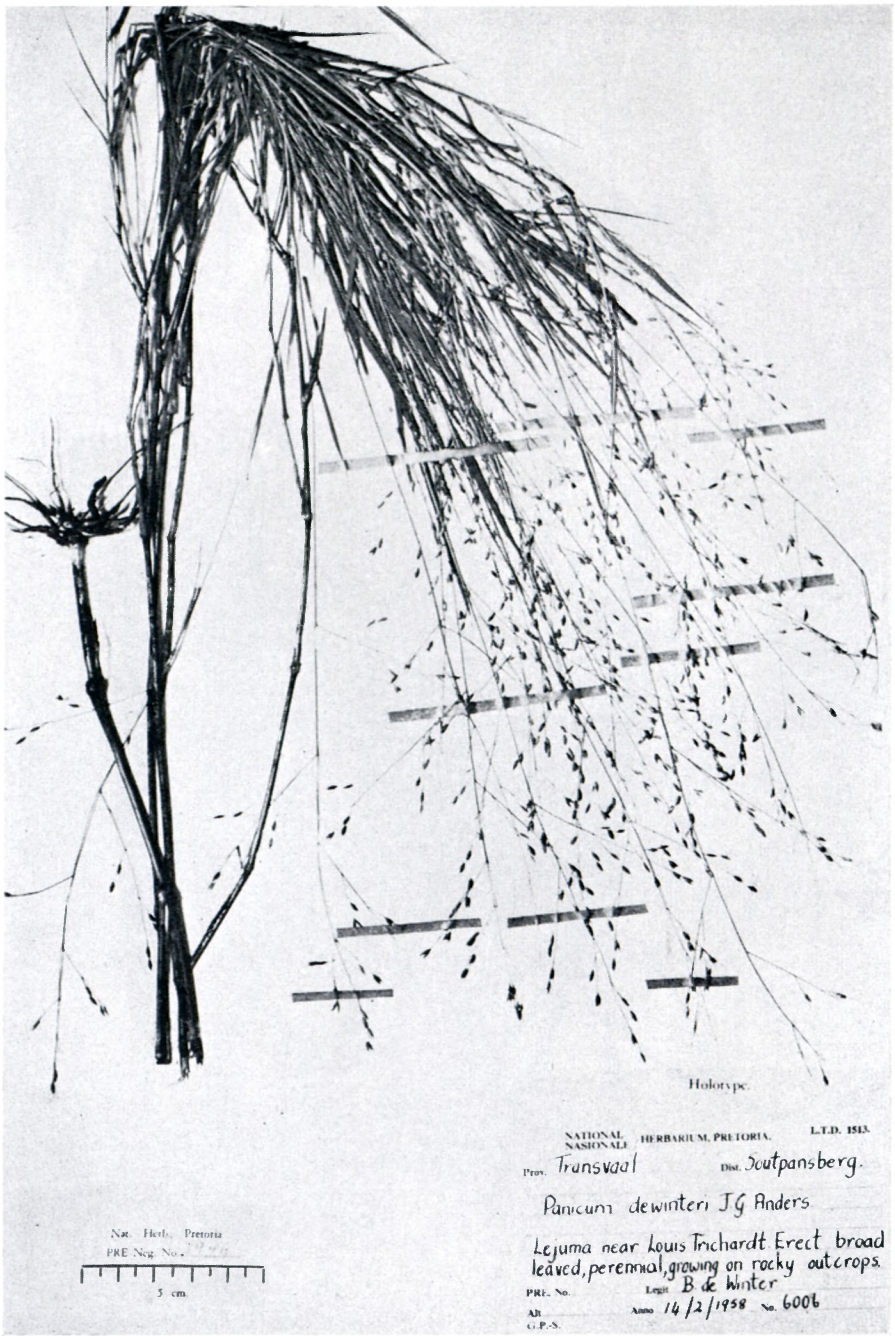


PLATE 2.—**Panicum dewinteri** J. G. Anders. (*De Winter* 6006, holotype, PRE).



PLATE 3.—**Bulbine inflata** Oberm. (*Adelaar* in PRE 30027).



PLATE 4.—**Eucomis nana** (Burm. f.) L'Hérit. (Without collector, holotype, in Herb. Delessert, G).