

A NEW SPECIES OF *OXYGONUM* FROM NATAL

Oxygonum robustum Germishuizen, sp. nov., *O. dregeano* Meisn. affinis, sed ocrea setis longis rigidis, habitu robusto decumbenti, foliisque nunquam pinnatisectis differt.

TYPE.—Natal, 2732 (Ubombo): east of Vazi Swamp, Manzengwenya (-BB), Moll 4722 (PRE, holo.; NH, iso.). Figure 15.

Robust, spreading, decumbent herb much branched

from the base; arising from a long thick vertical woody rootstock. Old stems reddish brown, sparsely pilose; young stems glabrous, longitudinally ridged, brown-punctate. *Ocrea* membranous, reddish brown, 8–10 mm long, fringed with rigid bristles 8–10 mm long, pilose, brown-punctate, adnate to the base of the leaves. *Leaves* simple, sessile, alternately arranged, glabrous, brown-punctate, lamina obovate to elliptic to spatulate, (37–) 45–75 (–94) × (8–) 10–21 (–23) mm, acuminate, mar-

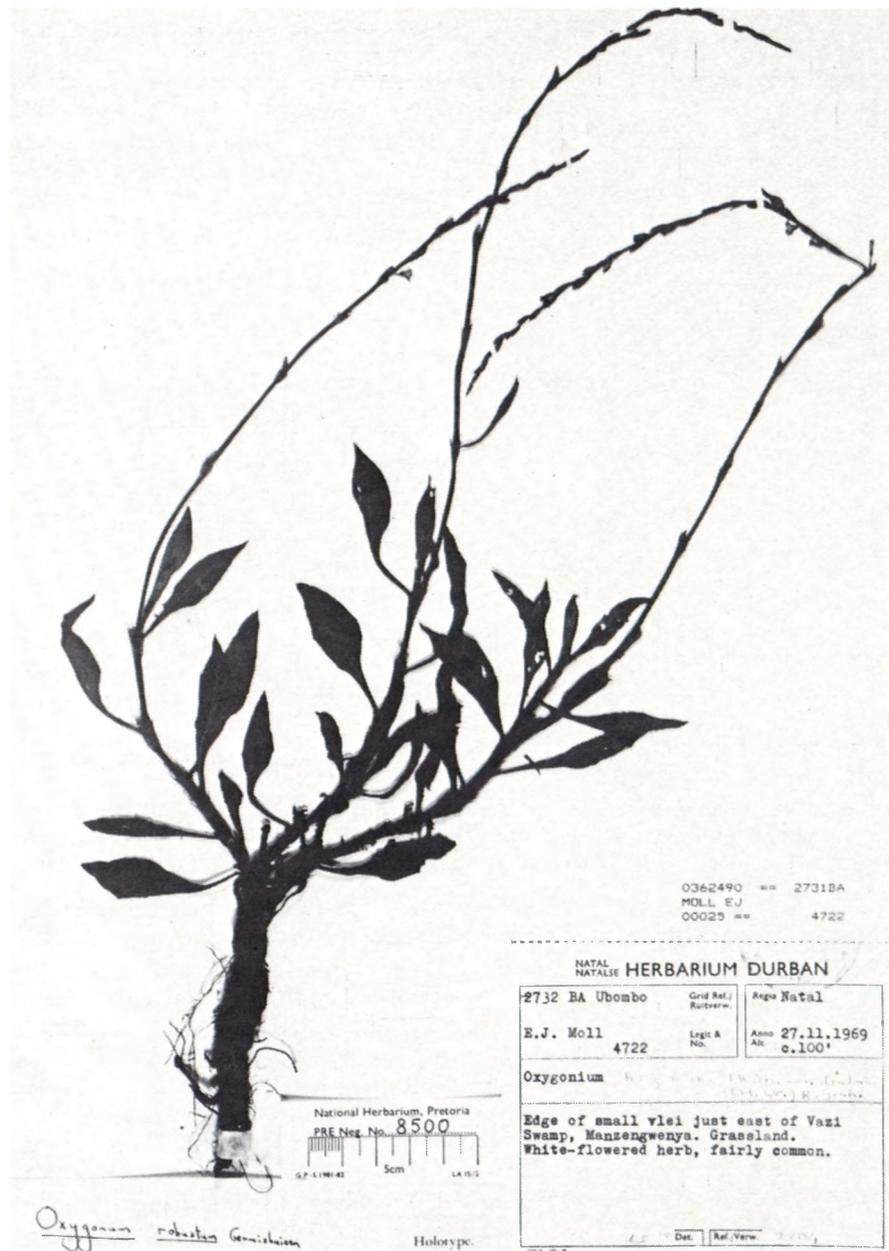


FIGURE 15.—Holotype of *Oxygonum robustum* Germishuizen.

gins entire or occasionally sharply toothed. *Inflorescence* a long lax thyrses with fascicles of up to 4 flowers in the axils of the bracts. *Flowers* bisexual. *Perianth* 5-lobed, up to 7 mm long, glabrous, white. *Stamens* 8, inserted on the inner perianth; anthers reddish brown, 1 mm long; filaments 4 mm long. *Styles* 3, connate at the base; stigmas capitate. *Fruit* a 3-angled nut.

NATAL.—2632 (Bella Vista): Maputa to Kosi Nature Reserve (–DD), *Edwards* 2586. 2732 (Ubombo): 16 km north of Lake Sibayi (–BA), *Vahrmeyer & Toelken* 259; Muzi Swamp \pm 2 km from Phelendaba turnoff on road to Mbazwana (–BA), *Germishuizen* 3546; Vazi Swamp (–BB), *Stephen, Van Graan & Schwabe* 1177; east of Vazi Swamp, Manzengwenya (–BB), *Moll* 4722; Mbazwana (–BC), *Gerstner* 704; Manzengwenya Forest Station (–BD), *Vorster* 2586; Bangazi Lake (–DA), *Strey* 4991. 2832 (Mtubatuba): 25 km north of Mtubatuba (–AB), *Codd* 2022; near Fanies Island Camp (–AB), *Ward* 1493; Dukuduku U176 (–AC), *Strey* 5522; St Lucia, Eastern Shore State Forest (–AB), *Nicholas* 1624; Nseleni Nature Reserve (–CA), *Bourquin & Ndlovu* 17; 80 km from Arboretum turnoff, on old main road to Empangeni (–CC) *Ngwenya* 240; Richards Bay (–CC), *Lawn* 1725 & 1726; *Rump* s.n. (NH 20120).

O. robustum is endemic to Natal, occurring in a restricted area (Figure 16) of coastal grassland and coastal dune forest. The first record of the species in the Natal Herbarium was collected by *W. G. Rump* s.n. (NH 20120) during July 1929 at Richards Bay. All the material cited above was incorrectly identified as *O. dregeanum*. Although these two taxa are sympatric, *O. robustum* can be distinguished from *O. dregeanum* by its robust and decumbent habit, by the ocrea fringe having

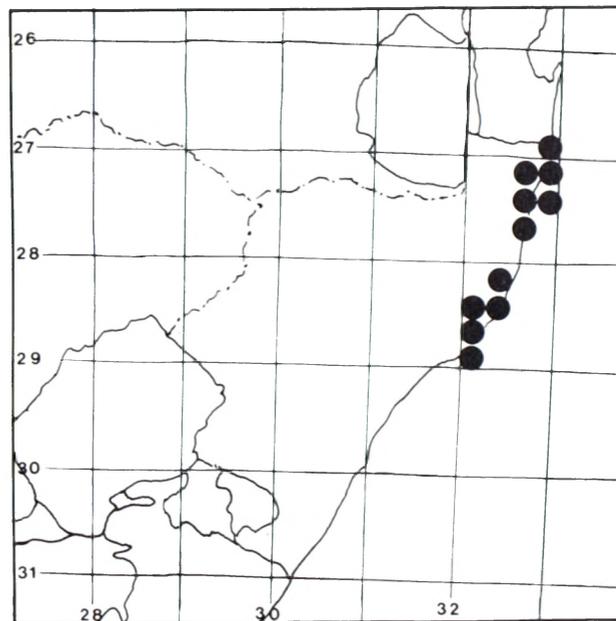


FIGURE 16.—Distribution of *Oxygonum robustum* Germishuizen.

long rigid bristles and by the leaves never being pinnatisect.

The specific epithet *robustum* refers to the robust habit of this species.