



FIG. 2.—*Maerua brevipetiolata*. 1, flowering twig, natural size; 2, flower, $\times 2$; 3, portion of receptacle showing disposition of disc, $\times 2$; 4, disc, $\times 5$; 5, fruit, natural size. 1-4, *Compton* 30088; 5, *Killick* 3936.

COMPOSITAE

A NEW SPECIES OF SCHISTOSTEPHIUM FROM THE NATAL DRAKENSBERG

Schistostephium radicale Killick & Claassen, sp. nov. *S. griseo* (Harv.) Hutch. affine, sed plantis herbaceis parvioribus, foliis radicalibus subpectinatis, capitulis heterogamis differt.

Herba perennis, 5–6 cm alta, rhizomate ramoso subterraneo. *Caules* 1 vel plures, basi ramosi, conferti, cano-villosi. *Folia* alternalia, radicalia, subpectinata, petiolata; rhachis 1.6–6 cm longus; pinnae numerosae, lobis 1–5 secundis linearibus 1–2 mm longis; petioli 1.3–5 cm longi, basi amplexicaules. *Pedunculi* solitarii, elongati, filiformes, 12–15 cm longi, sparse foliosi. *Capitula* heterogama, disciformia, floribus marginis femineis, discique bisexualibus. *Involucrum* subhemisphaericum, 7–15 mm diam.; bracteae 3-seriatae; extimae subulatae, 4 mm longae, basi 1 mm latae, longociliatae; interiores spathulatae, marginibus apicibusque late scariosis, 5 mm longae, 1.5 mm late, ciliatae. *Receptaculum* planum vel nonnihil convexum, nudum. *Flores marginis*: dimidium inferiore tubulosum, 1.3 mm longum; superiore campanulatum, aequilongum; lobi 4, triangulares 1 mm longi, glandulosi; ovarium obovatum, 3 mm longum, compressum, anguste carinatum; stylus teretus, 1.5 mm longus, ramis oblongis truncatis 1 mm longis. *Pappus* 0. *Flores disci* floribus marginis similes, sed bisexuales; antherae lineari-oblongae, 1.8 mm longae, basi cuneatae, apice appendicibus ovatis. FIG. 3.

Type: Natal, Underberg, Sani Pass, locally common on rock outcrops in alpine grassland just below summit of Drakensberg, 8,900 feet, 25 January, 1966, Killick & Vahrmeijer 3760 (PRE, holo.).

Perennial herb, 5–6 cm high with branched underground rootstock giving rise to 1 or more basally branched tufted stems, grey villous. *Leaves* alternate, radical, compound, subpectinate, petiolate; rhachis 1.6–6 cm long; pinnae numerous; individual pinnae of 1–5 (from base and apex to middle) linear, second lobes 1–2 mm long; petioles 1.3–5 cm long, amplexicaul at base. *Peduncles* solitary, elongate, filiform, 12–15 cm long, sparsely and minutely leafy. *Heads* heterogamous, many flowered, with marginal female florets and bisexual disc florets. *Involucre* hemispherical, flattish, 7–15 mm diam.; bracts in 3 rows; outermost bracts subulate, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide at base, long ciliate; inner bracts spathulate, margins and apex broadly scariosae, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, ciliate. *Receptacle* flat to somewhat convex, nude. *Marginal florets*: lower half tubular, 1.3 mm long; upper half campanulate, 1.3 mm long; lobes 4, triangular, 1 mm long, glandular; ovary obovate, 3 mm long, compressed, narrowly winged; style terete, 1.5 mm long, with oblong, truncate branches, 1 mm long. *Pappus* 0. *Disc florets*: identical with marginal florets but bisexual; anthers linear-oblong, 1.8 mm long, cuneate at base, with ovate apical appendage.

Known from only two localities in the Natal Drakensberg, namely Sani Pass and Giant's Castle Pass.

NATAL.—Estcourt: rare in alpine grassveld in Giant's Castle Pass, alt. 9,000 feet, 23.1.1968, Killick 3907. Underberg: Sani Pass, Killick & Vahrmeijer 3760 (PRE, holo.).

The nearest affinity of *S. radicale* is *S. griseum* (Harv.) Hutch. These two species can be distinguished from all other species of *Schistostephium* by possessing solitary capitula borne on elongated peduncles. *S. radicale* differs from *S. griseum* in the following respects: the plant is a low-growing radical herb instead of a virgate suffrutex; the leaves are subpectinate with minute pinnae not more than 2 mm long, instead of pinnatipartite with pinnae up to 20 cm long and the capitula are heterogamous and not homogamous. The authors are indebted to Mr. E. G. H. Oliver, the Institute's liaison officer at Kew, for confirming that the plant is a new species.

D. J. B. KILLICK and C. G. T. CLAASSEN



FIG. 3.—*Schistostephium radicale*. 1, habit, natural size; 2, portion of leaf; 3, 1-5-lobed pinnae; 4, inner involucre bract; 5, disc floret; 6, anther; 7, style. 2-7, $\times 6$. All from *Killick & Vahrmeijer 3760*.