

## VERBENACEAE

### STACHYTARPHETA SPECIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The genus *Stachytarpheta*, comprising some 70–100 species, is found mainly in tropical America. Some species have become widely dispersed as weeds in the tropics and a few are cultivated as ornamentals. Up till now, only two species have been recorded for the FSA region and both were presumably introduced. They have been variously, and often incorrectly referred to as *S. indica*, *S. jamaicensis* or *S. urticifolia* (Ross 1972; Wells *et al.* 1986; Welman in Gibbs Russell *et al.* 1987). Verdcourt is currently revising the genus for the FTEA (in press). Using an adapted version of his key, the species found in the FSA region can be distinguished as follows:

- Corolla-limb 10–20 mm wide; inflorescence-rachis coarse, over 5 mm wide when dry (up to 10 mm wide after flowering); leaves slightly discoloured, densely velvety pubescent on lower surface ..... *S. mutabilis*  
Corolla-limb usually under 10 mm wide; inflorescence-rachis more slender, about 3 mm wide (up to 7 mm wide after flowering); leaves glabrous ..... *S. urticifolia*

*S. mutabilis* (Jacq.) Vahl is cultivated and occurs as an escape from cultivation. It has so far only been recorded from the northern and eastern Transvaal.

TRANSVAAL.—2330 (Tzaneen): Westfalia (–CA). *Van Wyk 4301* (PRE). 2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (–AB). *Stalmans 754* (PRE). 2530 (Lydenburg): Nelspruit, Westacres suburb

(–BD). *Clarke s.n. PRE 733686* (PRE). 2531 (Komatipoort): Witrivier (–AC). *Stirton 7277* (PRE).

*S. urticifolia* (Salisb.) Sims occurs as a naturalized weed in the eastern Transvaal and Natal. This taxon was up till now referred to as *S. indica* (L.) Vahl (Ross 1972: 300; Welman 1987: 169) but that species does not seem to occur as far south.

TRANSVAAL.—2530 (Lydenburg): Nelspruit, Westacres suburb (–BD). *Clarke s.n.* (PRE); Mataffin (–BD). *Durant LN 1180* (PRE).

NATAL.—2931 (Stanger): lower Tugela District, Groutville (–AD). *Acocks 11823* (PRE). 3030 (Port Shepstone): Southbroom (–CB). *Marais 1149*.

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MS. received: 1990-08-27.