

FABACEAE

CAESALPINIA BRACTEATA, A NEW SPECIES FROM THE ONSEEPKANS AREA OF THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Caesalpinia bracteata *Germishuizen*, sp. nov., *C. rostratae* N.E. Br. affinis, sed sepalo inferiori non rostrato, rhachidi sine stipellis subulatis differt.

Frutex vel arbor parva. *Caulis* aculeis dispersis armatus. *Folia* bipinnata; foliolis anguste oblongis vel oblongo-ellipticis, 3–11 × 2–5 mm. *Flores* rosei. *Petala* obovata, usque ad 12 × 8 mm. *Fructus* late oblongus, 15–22 × 10–15 mm.

TYPE. —2819 (Ariamsvlei): Kenhardt District, on farm Skroef, near hot spring (Warmbad Noord) on Orange River, (–DA), 1987-09-29, *Van Hoepen 1941* (PRE, holo.; iso.).

A striking, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree, usually 1,5–2,0 m, but occasionally up to 4 m tall. *Young stems* reddish brown, puberulous or densely appressed pubescent, becoming glabrous with age and peeling off in thin

flakes, armed with scattered, almost straight and spreading or slightly curved prickles up to 11 mm long. *Leaves* bipinnate; pinnae 2–4 pairs; leaflets 4–6 (8) pairs per pinna, opposite to subopposite, narrowly oblong or oblong-elliptic, 3–11 × 2–5 mm, rounded at apex and mucronate, asymmetric basally, olive green, glabrous or sparingly puberulous on both surfaces or only along the midrib, densely dark gland-dotted on both surfaces; petiole sparingly puberulous, 4–16 mm long; rachis sparingly puberulous, often prickly at intersection of pinnae pairs. *Inflorescence* a lateral simple raceme up to 60 mm long. *Bracts* conspicuous, purple pink, densely appressed pubescent, broadly suborbicular, aristate with a sharp brown arista, deciduous as flowers open. *Flowers* hermaphrodite, purple pink. *Sepals* 5, dark maroon, conspicuously veined on inside, densely grey appressed pubescent, gland-dotted outside, the lower sepal larger and cucullate, forming a hood over the other sepals. *Petals* 5, free to base, obovate, up to 12 mm long and 8 mm wide, glabrous or slightly puberulous on outside. *Stamens* 10, up to 10 mm long; filaments pink, white villous for two-thirds from base, glabrous in upper third; anthers brown, dorsifixed, up to 1,5 mm long. *Ovary* glabrous. *Pods* compressed, broadly oblong ovoid, beaked, 15–22 × 10–15 mm, maroon-brown, hard and woody, glabrous. *Seeds* more or less obovoid, maroon-brown. Figure 5.

CAPE.—2819 (Ariamsvlei): Kenhardt District, in hills between Yas and Warmbad Noord, (–DA), 1982-06-08, *Gubb s.n. KMG 10984* (KMG, PRE); on Farm Skroef, near hot spring (Warmbad Noord) on Orange River, 1987-09-29, *Van Hoepen 1941* (PRE); on Farm Skroef, small valleys near Orange River, 1990-07-10, *Van Hoepen 2018* (PRE). Figure 6.



FIGURE 5.—Holotype (*Van Hoepen 1941*) of *Caesalpinia bracteata* housed at PRE. Photograph by A. Romanowski.

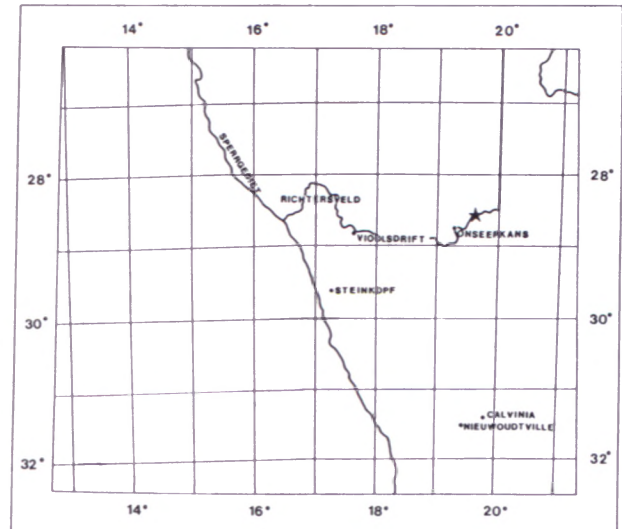


FIGURE 6.—Distribution of *Caesalpinia bracteata* in the northern Cape Province.

Caesalpinia bracteata is endemic to the Warmbad Noord area in the northern Cape Province. Found mainly on small sandy valley floors at sides of valley running down to the river, but also found on rocky ridges. At the beginning of September 1987, 40 mm of rain fell in this area and at the end of April 1990, 104 mm were recorded, followed by one or two smaller showers during May and June. The veld was therefore in good condition and *Caesalpinia bracteata* shrubs were common. At the end of September 1987, Mrs E. Van Hoepen found that most of the shrubs were in full flower while during July 1990 practically all bushes had dead branches but also showed vigorous new shoots. Many bushes had buds at the tips of branches, with an occasional open pink flower in the inflorescence. A few pods were found but most of the seeds were parasitized.

C. bracteata has so far been found only in the north-western part of the Farm Skroef (Figure 6). It is much more rugged and broken than the south-eastern half of the farm, and different from the adjoining Farms Raap-en-Skraap and Steyerkraal. Mr A. Gubb probably collected his specimen on the boundary between Skroef and Yas. These two farms are separated by two parallel ranges of hills running in a straight line along the farm boundary to the river. Skroef's river frontage is about 10 km long.

Mr Jaap Oosthuizen, who grew up on a farm below Aughrabies and now runs a nursery at Aughrabies, knows the plants and veld very well. He visited the farm when *C. bracteata* was in flower, and said that he had never seen it before.

The specific epithet *bracteata* is the Latin for 'having conspicuous bracts'. The bracts of *C. bracteata* are conspicuous but they are deciduous and fall off as soon as the flowers open.

Caesalpinia bracteata and *C. rostrata* closely resemble each other, but differ from one another in a number of morphological characters (see Table 1) and distribution: *C. rostrata* occurs in southern Mozambique and the north-eastern Transvaal, about 1 000 km from *C. bracteata*.

TABLE 1.—Comparison of morphological characters in *Caesalpinia bracteata* and *C. rostrata*

Morphological characters	<i>C. rostrata</i>	<i>C. bracteata</i>
pinnae pairs	3–7	2–4
leaflet pairs/pinna	6–11	4–6(8)
subulate stipellae on rhachis	present	absent
rostrate beak on lower sepal	present	absent
stamen length (mm)	12	10
fruit colour	brown	maroon-brown
fruit length (mm)	27–32	15–22
fruit width (mm)	16–21	10–15

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