TABLE 1.—Comparison of *Siphonoglossa linifolia* with other *Siphonoglossa* spp. and *Justicia* spp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><em>Siphonoglossa</em></th>
<th><em>Justicia</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(all other spp.)</td>
<td>(all spp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. lower theca tailed</td>
<td>both thecae mucronate</td>
<td>lower theca tailed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. pollen with 2 – 3 rows areoles</td>
<td>pollen with 2 – 3 rows areoles</td>
<td>pollen with 1 – 2 rows areoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. corolla tube long and narrow</td>
<td>corolla tube usually long and narrow</td>
<td>corolla tube usually short and broad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. stamens not recurving with age</td>
<td>stamens not recurving with age</td>
<td>stamens recurving with age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five specimens of this species have been seen, two from the eastern Cape and three from Zululand (Figure 1). This distribution is similar to that of a species of the closely-related genus *Justicia L.*, *J. capensis* Thunb., which also occurs in Zululand and the eastern Cape, but has never been recorded in the intervening areas of southern Natal and the Transkei. *S. nkandlaensis* is found associated with forest, either on its margin or along forest paths.

Five specimens of this species have been seen, two from the eastern Cape and three from Zululand (Figure 1). This distribution is similar to that of a species of the closely-related genus *Justicia L.*, *J. capensis* Thunb., which also occurs in Zululand and the eastern Cape, but has never been recorded in the intervening areas of southern Natal and the Transkei. *S. nkandlaensis* is found associated with forest, either on its margin or along forest paths.

...noted in the pubescence of the corolla, in the stigma or in the pollen, all of which have at various times been used to distinguish the genera.

In some respects, e.g. leaves, habit, habitat and anthers, *Siphonoglossa linifolia* resembles *Justicia* rather than *Siphonoglossa*. However, the differences in leaves and habit are probably an adaptation to its more exposed habitat, and it was decided that *S. linifolia* would be better placed in *Siphonoglossa*. The similarities and differences considered significant are tabulated in Table 1.

This note is based on a thesis presented for the degree of Ph.D. at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

REFERENCES


MS. received: 1988.07.16

K.L. IMMELMAN

POLYGONACEAE

**OXYGONUM ALTISSIMUM, A NEW SPECIES FROM CENTRAL SOMALIA**

**Oxygonum altissimum** Germishuizen, sp. nov. *O. buchananii* et *O. tristachyo* affinis, sed folis ovatis valde minoribus, basi cuneatis, in petiolum longum decrescens-tibus, atque ocrea sine setis longis differt.

**TYPE.**—Central Somalia, 0346 (Aadan Yabaal District): 30 km S of Aadan Yabaal (–CA), *J. B. Gillett & J. J. Beckett* 23264 (K, holo.; EA, MOG). Figure 2.

Slender, erect, much branched shrub, up to 3 m tall. Branches glabrous, covered with bloom; older branches grey or red, with bark peeling off in longitudinal flakes, revealing reddish wood beneath. *Ocreae* truncate, up to 100 mm long, membranous, white, glabrous, entire or with a few, short, brown, rigid setae on edge. *Leaves* simple, alternate, grey-green, smooth, covered with bloom, narrowly to broadly ovate, cuneate at base, acuminate at
Bothalia 19,2 (1989)

Herb., hort. kew. apex, (13.0—)20.0—28.0 × 10.0—17.5 mm, entire or marginally pubescent with small, white scales, midrib ventrally visible, larger leaves towards stem base. Inflorescence a long lax thyrse with fascicles of up to 3 flowers in the axils of brown cuspidate membranous bracts; axis up to 110 mm long. Perianth 5-lobed, pinkish white; lobes oblong, up to 5 mm long. Stamens 8, included; filaments up to 5 mm long; anthers up to 1 mm long. Styles 3, up to 4 mm long, joined for two-thirds of the way; stigmas capitate. Fruit immature.

Central Somalia.—0346: 20 km WSW of Aadan Yabaal (-AC), Kuchar 17291 (K; PRE); 30 km S of Aadan Yabaal (-CA), Gillett & Beckett 23264 (EA; K; MOG).

Oxygonum altissimum is endemic to the sand plain area of Aadan Yabaal District of central Somalia. Found in soft yellowish orange, level sand in Acacia-Commiphora-Loewia glandulosa bushland.

The specific epithet altissimum is the Latin word meaning the tallest, and is used on recommendation of J.B. Gillett, an allusion to the tall habit these shrubs attain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the Director and staff (particularly J.B. Gillett) of Kew Herbarium for the loan of specimens and the opportunity to describe this new taxon. Dr H.F. Glen and A. Romanowski of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria are also thanked for their valuable assistance.

G. GERMISHUZEN

MS. received: 1989.02.27

POLYGONUM HYDROPIPER IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

During the course of a revision of the genera Polygonum L., Bilderdinia Dumort and Reynoutria Houtt. in southern Africa, it was found that numerous herbarium specimens filed under Polygonum salicifolium Willd. were wrongly identified.

In P. salicifolium the perianth is eglandular and pink to purple and the nut is always trigonous. In contrast, all the wrongly identified specimens under P. salicifolium had a green, glandular punctate perianth and a lenticular nut. Initially these specimens were thought to belong to a new taxon, but further studies showed that they belong to P. hydropiper L.

Studies were undertaken to establish whether other characters could be used to distinguish between the two taxa.

In all the investigated material it was found that P. hydropiper possesses a glandular perianth and lenticular fruit and P. salicifolium an eglandular perianth with a trigonous fruit (Figures 3 & 4). Only three other characteristics may be of some value in separating the two species. The fruit is no longer than 3 mm in P. salicifolium but always longer than 3 mm in P. hydropiper (Figures 3 & 4). The leaves of P. salicifolium are usually no wider than 2 mm whereas those of P. hydropiper are mostly broader than 2 mm (Figure 4). The width/length ratio of P. salicifolium is mostly less than 0.18 and that of P. hydropiper more than 0.19.

Polygonum hydropiper L., Species plantarum 1: 361 (1753); Meisn.: 109 (1856); Benth. & F. Muell.: 269 (1870); Steward: 58 (1930); Webb & Chater: 79 (1964); Ohwi: 411 (1965); Lai: 271 (1976). Type: from Europe (collector and herbarium unknown).

Persicaria hydropiper (L.) Schreb.: 536 (1841); Britton & Brown: 670 (1913), Schreb non Opiz.

Erect or basally decumbent slender annual, up to 1 m tall; stems simple or branched, glabrous. Ocreae tubular, membranous, brown, up to 20 mm long, thinly covered with close ascending, bristly hairs and terminally fringed with short erect-patent stiff bristles, 10.0—20.0 mm long (Figure 5B). Leaves subsessile; blade lanceolate, (50—)60—120(—150) × (5—)14—27(—32) mm, apically