



***Rhynchosia bolusii* (Phaseoleae, Fabaceae), a new species from the Western Cape Province of South Africa**

JAMES STEPHEN BOATWRIGHT¹ & ANNAH NTSAMAEENG MOTEETEE²

¹Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape, Private bag x17, Bellville, 7535, Cape Town, South Africa. E-mail: jboatwright@uwc.ac.za

²Department of Botany and Plant Biotechnology, University of Johannesburg, P.O. Box 524, Auckland Park 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa. E-mail: amoteetee@uj.ac.za

Abstract

A new species, *Rhynchosia bolusii*, is described. It is closely similar to *R. capensis* in the details of its leaves and long, slender peduncles, but differs mainly in its shrubby, non-twining habit and few-flowered inflorescences. It is known only from the summit of the Great Swartberg Mountains in the Western Cape Province.

Key words: Cajaninae, Cape Floristic Region, Leguminosae, new species, *Rhynchosia*, taxonomy

Introduction

The pantropical genus *Rhynchosia* Lour. (1790: 425) comprises some 230 species (Schrire 2005), of which about 58 occur in South Africa (Germishuizen 2006). *Rhynchosia* is closely related to *Eriosema* (DC. 1825: 388) Rchb. (1828: 150) and is placed within the subtribe Cajaninae of the tribe Phaseoleae (Schrire 2005). The South African species were last studied by Baker (1923) who recognized 59 species, arranged into 5 sections, although several species have been synonymised in the recent checklist of South African plants (Germishuizen 2006). Several new species have also been described since Baker's revision (e.g. Stirton 1981; Germishuizen 1998, 2011) and the genus is currently the subject of ongoing taxonomic studies (Moteetee et al. 2012; Moteetee et al. submitted). While studying the collections of *Rhynchosia* at the Compton Herbarium, Cape Town, an as yet unnamed species of the section *Rhynchosia* (section *Eurhynchosia sensu* Baker 1923) was discovered among the indeterminatae and is described herein.

Materials and methods

Morphological data on the new species were obtained through examination of herbarium material from BOL and NBG (abbreviations from Thiers 2011). Data on the distribution of the species were gathered from herbarium material and Leistner and Morris (1976). The distribution data were recorded using the Quarter Degree Reference System (Edwards and Leistner 1971; also outlined in Leistner and Morris 1976). The basic unit in this system is the one-degree square of latitude and longitude, which is designated by a degree reference number (i.e. degrees of latitude and longitude of the north-west corner) and the district name of that square.

Rhynchosia bolusii Boatwr. & Moteetee, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Resembling *Rhynchosia capensis* in its leaves and few-flowered inflorescences that are longer than the leaves, but differs in the non-twining branches and shrubby habit, smaller, oblong leaflets and fewer (1 or 2) flowered inflorescences.

Type:—SOUTH AFRICA. Western Cape, Oudtshoorn (3322): stony places, summit Zwartberg [Swartberg], district Prince Albert (–AC), Dec. 1905, *Bolus 11841* (holotype BOL).

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