


* C.E. Moss Herbarium, Botany Department, University of the Witwatersrand, PO. Wits 2050.  
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FABACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF AMPHITHALEA (LIPARIETEAE)

In a recent revision of the genus *Amphithalea* Eckl. & Zeyh., Granby (1985) recognized twenty species and four subspecies. A distinct new species has been discovered since.

**Amphithalea rostrata** A.L. Schutte & B-E. van Wyk, species insignis carina rostrata, vexillum cucullato, alitis squarrosois, flores vinoso et foliis revolutis pilosis, a speciebus nobis notis bene distincta.

TYPE.—Cape, 3419 (Caledon); Carruthers Hill, SE of Pearly Beach (−DA), 1006:1985, Oliver 8752 (STE, holo.; PRE, iso.).

A diffuse shrublet, up to 0.6 m tall. Branches sparsely leafy with scars left from fallen leaves, ± glabrous; young twigs thin and slender, densely leafy, pilose. Leaves alternate, simple, ovate to broadly ovate with strongly revolute margins: blade (4.5–)7.0–10.0 × (2.0–)3.5–5.0 mm; petiole very short, less than 0.5 mm long; apex acute; base rounded or somewhat cordate; densely pilose abaxially, sparsely so adaxially. Stipules absent. Inflorescences single-flowered, axillary, condensed to 1–2(–4)-flowered terminal nodding capitula. Bracts linear, 2.5–3.0 mm long. Bracteoles absent. Flowers subsessile, 7–8 mm long, dark maroon-red. Calyx 5.5 mm long, purplish, with the upper two lobes fused much higher up; lateral and lower sinusae nearly of equal depth, the lateral ones slightly deeper; lobes triangular, acuminate to somewhat caudate; densely pilose. Standard 8.0–8.5 × 4.0–4.5 mm, ovate with the upper part cucullate; apex mucronate; base cordate; claw very short, less than 0.5 mm long. Wing petals shorter than the keel, 6.0–6.5 mm long, oblong to narrowly oblong, auriculate, distinctly pocketed, apical part of the lamina curved downwards; sculpturing upper basal, 3 rows of transcostal lamellae; claw 1.5–2.0 mm long. Keel petals 7.0–7.5 mm long, semicircular, with the distal part hidden in the upper part of the standard, auriculate, pocketed; apex distinctly rostrate; claw 1.0–1.5 mm long. Stamens 8.0–8.5 mm long; diadelphous, vexillar stamen free, the others fused for ± half the length; anthers uniform in size. Pistil 5.5 mm long, sessile; style strongly curved upwards, glabrous; ovary with a single ovule, densely sericeous. Fruit and seed unknown. Figure 4.

The flower structure of *A. rostrata* is comparable only to that of *A. tomentosa*. These two species are the only ones with a rostrate keel, a macronate standard and oblong wing petals. *A. rostrata* differs in the strongly revolute leaf margins (leaves flat in *A. tomentosa*), the pilose vestiture (silky-canescence in *A. tomentosa*), the maroon-coloured flowers (yellow in *A. tomentosa*), the corollate standard (oblong in *A. tomentosa*) and the absence of protuberances at the apices of the keel and wing petals (see Figure 4). Unlike all other species of *Amphithalea*, the upper part of the standard petal is cucullate (not recurved or straight) and the wing petals are distinctly squarrose (not straight) and shorter than the keel (not as long or longer than the keel).

*A. rostrata* was discovered by Mr E.G.H. Oliver of the Stellenbosch Herbarium. We thank him for directing us to the only known locality, which is at Carruthers Hill, south-east of Pearly Beach (Figure 5). The population occurs amongst fynbos on a sandy and stony south-facing slope, at 120 m above sea level.

![Map showing the distribution of Amphithalea rostrata](image.png)

**FIGURE 5.**—The known geographical distribution of *Amphithalea rostrata*.

CAPE. —3419 (Caledon); Carruthers Hill, SE of Pearly Beach (−DA), 1006:1985, Oliver 8752 (STE, holo.; PRE, iso.), 13.11.1989, Van Wyk 2896 (JRAU).

REFERENCE


A.L. SCHUTTE* and B-E. VAN WYK*

* Botany Department, Rand Afrikaans University, PO. Box 524, Johannesburg 2000.  
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FIGURE 4.—*Amphithalea rostrata* (R1–R10) and *A. isomentosa* (T1–T9) showing the differences between the two species: R1 & T1, flowers in lateral view (note the cucullate standard petal and squarrose wing petal in *A. rostrata*); R2 & T2, leaves in abaxial view (note the revolute margin and pilose vestiture in *A. rostrata*); R3 & T3, calyces opened out with the upper lobes to the left, vestiture not shown; R4 & T4, standard petals; R5 & T5, wing petals; R6 & T6, keel petals; R7 & T7, stamens; R8 & T8, pistil; R9 & T9, bracts; R10, flowering branch. R1–R10 from Oliver 8752 in STE; T1–T9 from Schutte 327 in JRAU; scale in mm.