

A new species of *Anaxeton* (Asteraceae) from the south-western Cape Province

B. Nordenstam

Department of Phanerogamic Botany, Swedish Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 50007, S-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden

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Anaxeton lundgrenii B. Nord. is described, bringing the total of species in this genus of the Asteraceae — Gnaphalieae to ten. The new species is related to *A. arborescens* (L.) Less. and *A. laeve* (Harv.) Lundgren, differing from both by the broader oblanceolate leaves, fewer involucre bracts, and 3-flowered capitula. Further diagnostic features are found in the pubescence of the outer involucre bracts and length of pappus. *A. lundgrenii* is endemic in the Klein River Mountains near Hermanus in the south-western Cape, where it has been collected twice.

Anaxeton lundgrenii B. Nord. word beskryf, waardeur die getal spesies in hierdie genus van die Asteraceae — Gnaphalieae op tien te staan kom. Die nuwe spesie is aan *A. arborescens* (L.) Less. en *A. laeve* (Harv.) Lundgren verwant, maar verskil van beide deur die breër omgekeerd-lansetvormige blare, minder omwindsel-skutblare en 3-blommige hofies. Ander onderskeidende kenmerke word gevind in die donsharigheid van die buitenste omwindsel skutblare en lengte van die pappus. *A. lundgrenii* is endemies tot die Kleinrivierberge naby Hermanus in die Suidwestelike Kaap, waar dit twee keer versamel is.

Keywords: *Anaxeton*, Asteraceae, endemism, new species

Introduction

The genus *Anaxeton* Gaertn. (Asteraceae — Gnaphalieae) was revised by Lundgren (1972), who recognized nine species. During field work in 1974 jointly with Dr Jan Lundgren a previously unknown species of *Anaxeton* was found near Hermanus in Caledon Division. The distinct new species is described below and named in honour of my fellow traveller and the monographer of the genus.

Description

Anaxeton lundgrenii B. Nord., sp. nov.

Suffrutex parce ramosus, rami dense foliosi lanati, floriferi subter corymbum sparsim foliosi. *Folia* ± patentia oblanceolata ad 30 mm longa et ad 5 mm lata obtusa apiculata superne floccoso-lanata glabrescentia vel glabra. *Corymbus* 25–40 mm latus; pedunculi 5–15 mm longi. *Capitula* dense aggregata, flores 3. *Involucri bracteae* 9–13; exteriores obtusae-subacutae externe (praeter apices) sericeo-pilosae; interiores stipitatae lanatae, lamina alba glabra truncata vel praemorsa. *Flosculus femineus* 1; pappi setae 10–12 barbellatae corolla breviores; achenium anguste elliptico-oblongum fuscum copiose albolanatum. *Flosculi masculini* 2; corolla superne campanulata quinquelobata; pappi setae c. 15 corolla breviores; ovarium glabrum.

TYPUS. — Cape Province: Mountain above Hermanus, Voëlklip, steep middle slopes, 17.11.1974, Nordenstam & Lundgren 2250 (S, holotypus; K, NBG, isotypi).

Sparingly branched suffrutex 150–250 mm high; branches 2–3 mm thick, greyish-woolly, glabrescent with age, closely leafy except apical portions of flowering branches (corymbophores). *Leaves* ± patent, sessile, entire, oblanceolate, 15–30 mm long, 2–5 mm wide, obtuse, apiculate, impressedly midveined above, distinctly midribbed below, loosely floccose-woolly (when young) to glabrescent or glabrous above, densely greyish-white woolly below. *Corymbophore* 25–70 mm long, with 0–4 scattered, linear, ± woolly leaves. Peduncles 5–15 mm long, densely woolly. Compound *corymb* 25–40 mm wide, made up of 5–8 clusters each 10–15 mm wide. *Capitula* 3-flowered. *Involucre bracts* 9–13 (often 10). Outer bracts elliptic-oblong–narrowly oblong-obovate, 2.5–3.5 mm long, 0.6–1.2 mm wide, obtuse or (outermost) subacute, membranaceous, pellucid, whitish or apically light brownish, distinctly silky-pilose with long white straight hairs except the very apex. Middle bracts

stipitate, 3.5–4 mm long, with somewhat thickened yellowish base; claw oblanceolate–narrowly oblong, 2.0–2.5 mm long, 0.2–0.5 mm wide basally, widening to 0.7–1 mm wide apically, light greenish-yellow, white-woolly or somewhat silky-woolly; lamina broadly elliptic-oblong to rounded-oblong, 1.0–1.5 mm long and wide, white, opaque, truncate or somewhat premorse. Inner bracts stipitate, 2.5–4.0 mm long; claw 2–3 mm long, c. 0.2 mm wide basally, widening to 0.6–0.8 mm wide apically, greenish-yellowish, white-woolly especially along the margins; lamina roundish, 0.8–1.5 mm long and wide, white, opaque, apically obtuse–rounded or minutely lobed. *Female floret* 1. Corolla tubular, 2.0–2.3 mm long, minutely 4–5-lobed, sparsely glandular. Style branches 0.8–1 mm long, obtuse. Pappus bristles 10–12, 0.6–1.0 mm long, barbellate, white, basally connate. Achene narrowly elliptic-oblong, 1.7–2.0 mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, brown, copiously white-woolly. *Male florets* 2. Corolla 2.7–3 mm long, campanulate above, 5-lobed, sparsely glandular; lobes deltoid. Anthers 1.0–1.2 mm incl. tails and apical appendage; appendage triangular, acute. Style undivided, sterile, apically subclavate, truncate, papillate. Pappus bristles c. 15, 1.5–2.0 mm long, barbellate, white, basally connate. Ovary narrowly oblong, 0.7–0.8 mm long, yellowish, glabrous. (Figure 1). Flowering period: September–November.

Distribution and habitat

A. lundgrenii is apparently endemic to the Klein River Mountains, a small and rugged range along the southern Cape coast between Hermanus and Stanford in Caledon Division (Figure 2). This is a floristically rich fynbos area housing several other narrowly distributed and endemic species, e.g. *Mimetes palustris* Salisb. ex Knight, *Metalasia seriphiiifolia* DC., and *Thaminophyllum latifolium* Bond. We found the new species growing from rock crevices and on inaccessible large boulders on the steep middle slopes of the mountain above Hermanus, mainly with a SW aspect.

Discussion

A. lundgrenii is allied to *A. arborescens* (L.) Less. and *A. laeve* (Harv.) Lundgren, with both of which it shares the distinctly woolly achenes. It differs from both these species

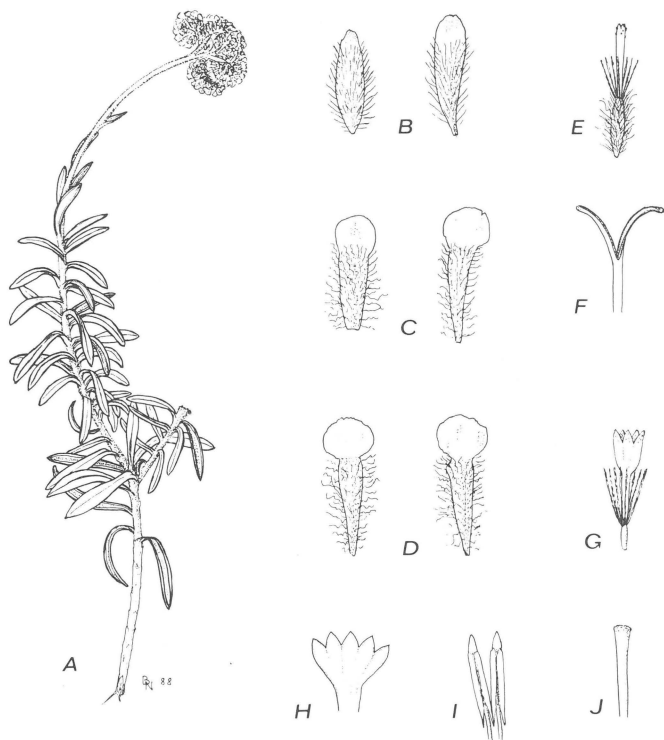


Figure 1 *Anaxeton lundgrenii* B. Nord. (*Nordenstam & Lundgren 2250*, holotypus in S). A. Portion of plant, \times ca. 1/2. B. Outer, C. middle and D. inner involucre bracts, \times 5. E. Female floret, \times 5. F. Style branches from female floret, \times 10. G. Male floret, \times 5. H. Corolla of male floret, laid out, \times 5. I. Stamens, \times 10. J. Sterile style from male floret, \times 10. Del. auct.

by the broader oblanceolate leaves, the fewer involucre bracts with a smaller white lamina, and the few-flowered capitula. The number of involucre bracts is 15–22 in *A. arborescens* and 18–25 in *A. laeve*. In *A. lundgrenii* the number is usually around 10, and not exceeding 13. The number of male florets seems to be constantly 2 in *A. lundgrenii*. In the two related species the number is always higher, viz. 4–5 in *A. arborescens* and 8–11 in *A. laeve*.

In number of involucre bracts and florets the new species resembles *A. virgatum* DC., but the latter is very different in foliage, size of capitula, pappus structure, and

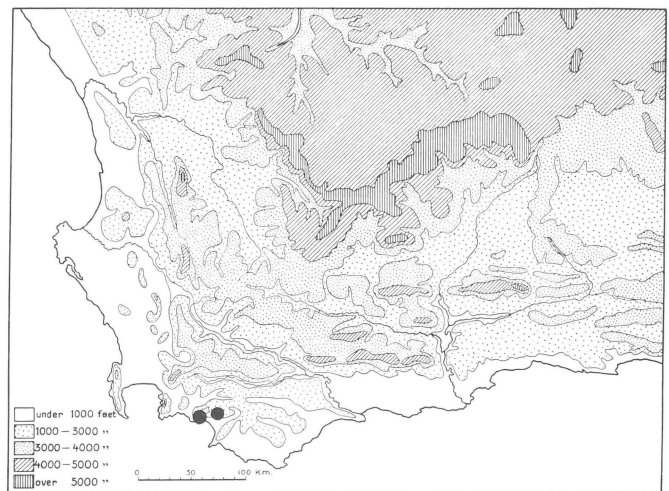


Figure 2 The geographical distribution of *Anaxeton lundgrenii* B. Nord.

especially achene surface, which is glabrous or sparingly puberulous.

Further differences from *A. arborescens* are the pale colouring of the involucre and the extensive pubescence of the outer involucre bracts in *A. lundgrenii*, and the short pappus bristles in both types of florets further serve to distinguish the new species from *A. laeve*.

Specimens examined

— 3419 (Caledon): Voëlklip, mountain above Hermanus (–AC), 17/11/1974, *Nordenstam & Lundgren 2250* (K, NBG, S); Klein River Mountains, E. of Rocklands Peak (–AD), 9/1940, *Stokoe s.n.* (SAM).

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Reference

LUNDGREN, J. 1972. Revision of the genus *Anaxeton* Gaertn. (*Compositae*). *Opera Botanica* 31, 59 pp.