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Two new species of *Trachyandra* sect. *Liriothamnus* (Xanthorrhoeaceae, Asphodeloideae) from the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces of South Africa

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Abstract

Trachyandra eriocarpa and *T. bulbosa* are two new species from Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces of South Africa. They are placed in *T.* sect. *Liriothamnus* based on their wiry roots, the cataphylls not forming membranous collars, and the remains of the outer leaves forming a fibrous collar. *Trachyandra eriocarpa* from the Great Winterberg in Eastern Cape is recognised by its unusual, villous ovary and capsules; and *T. bulbosa* from north of Springbok in Northern Cape by the irregular, bulbous rhizome, microscopically puberulous leaves and maculate tepals.

Key words: Asphodeloideae, new species, South Africa, taxonomy, *Trachyandra*

Introduction

The genus *Trachyandra* Kunth (1843: 573) (Xanthorrhoeaceae: Asphodeloideae) currently comprises ca. 55 species in Africa and Madagascar, with the majority of species concentrated in the Greater Cape Floristic Region (Obermeyer 1962; Boatwright & Manning 2010), where some 42 species are found (Manning & Goldblatt 2012; Snijman 2013).

Phylogenetic relationships within and among certain genera of Asphodeloideae are poorly understood and are the subject of ongoing taxonomic and molecular studies, during which several new species have come to light (Boatwright & Manning 2010; J.S. Boatwright *et al.* in prep.). Here we describe a further two, distinctive species of *T.* section *Liriothamnus* (Schlechter 1924: 145) Obermeyer (1962: 720). This section, which currently comprises 13 species, is characterised by wiry, unthickened roots; the lowest, entirely sheathing leaves or cataphylls (prophylls in the sense of Obermeyer 1962) not forming a membranous collar ('squamae' in the sense of Obermeyer 1962); and the remains of the leaf bases persisting around the base of the stem as a fibrous collar (Obermeyer 1962). Inflorescences are mostly simple and the perianth in most of the species is immaculate. Sections *Glanduliferae* Obermeyer (1962: 751) and *Trachyandra* have mostly branched inflorescences and often maculate tepals. Section *Glanduliferae* is diagnosed by the glandular-pubescence, at least on the ovary, and sect. *Trachyandra* by the ± swollen roots, often fused into fleshy tubers, and the cataphylls transformed into membranous, collar-like sheaths that surround the stem and individual leaf bases (Obermeyer, 1962). This sectional classification, however, remains to be tested.

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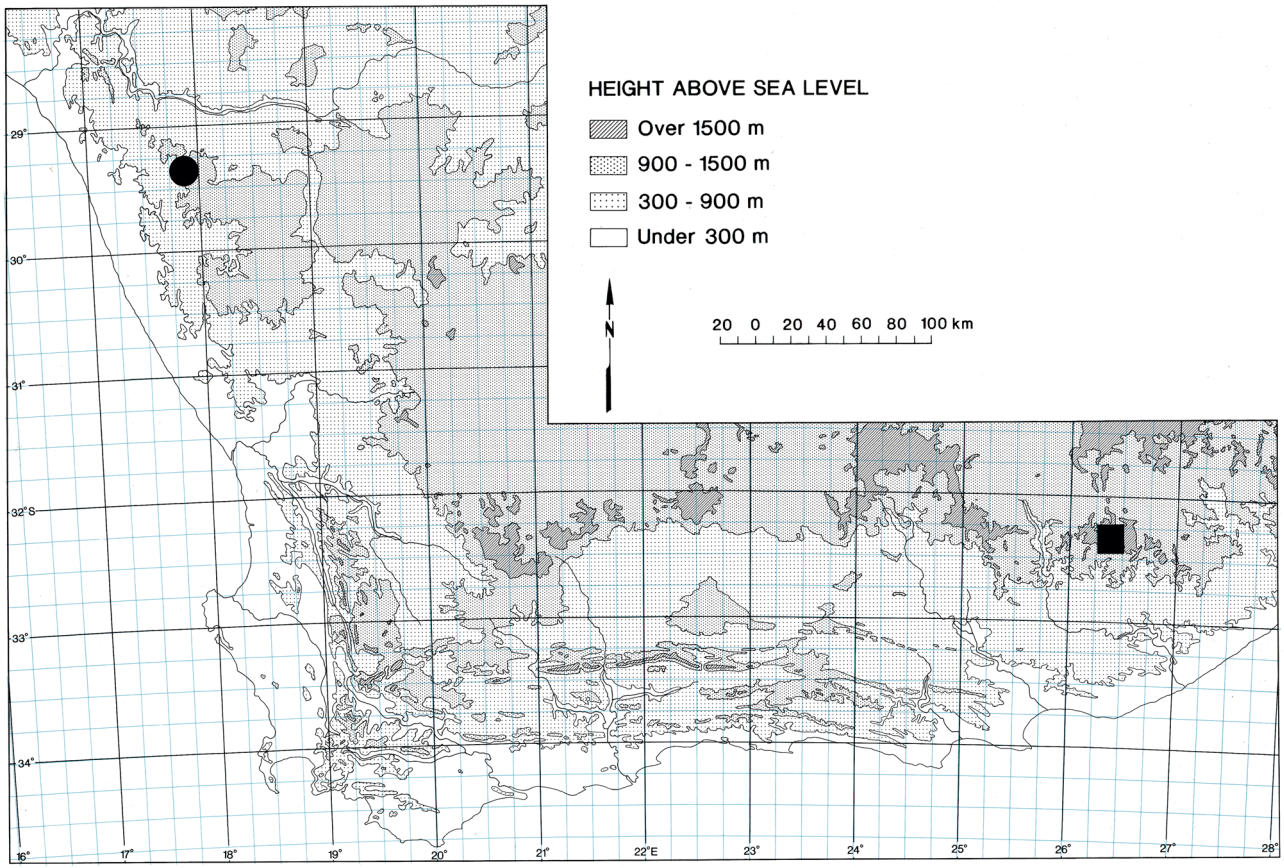

FIGURE 3. Known geographical distribution of *Trachyandra eriocarpa* (square) and *T. bulbosa* (circle).

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