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# ZAMIACEAE

#### ENCEPHALARTOS RELICTUS: A NEW SPECIES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

In a continuing attempt to document biodiversity in the African Zamiaceae, an evaluation of material from Swaziland (Hurter 1993) has led to the conclusion that there exists a distinct undescribed species, that may already be extinct in the wild. Due to the fact that no new material has been forthcoming in more than 20 years it was decided that this relict species should be described for posterity.

Encephalartos relictus *P.J.H.Hurter*, sp. nov., *E. heenanii* R.A.Dyer foliis rigidis caesiis similis, sed pinnis linearo-lanceolatis adscendentis inflexis, microsporophyllis ovatis tomentosis, et habitatione nemorali differt.

TYPE.—Swaziland: Siteki, Farm Muti-Muti, (leaf and part of male cone), 15-03-1971, J.J.P. du Preez s.n. (PRE33123, holo.). Malto his (lake m. west)

Plant arborescent, suckering from base. Trunk up to 2.5 m long, 400-450 mm diam., leaf bases persistent, crown and cataphylls tomentose, golden brown, becoming subglabrous with age. Leaves numerous in dense, spreading crown, rigid, subsessile, waxy blue-grey in colour, 1.0-1.2(-1.4) m long, pinnae ascending. Petiole apparent, woolly, becoming subglabrous with age, except pulvinus.' Rachis straight, woolly, becoming subglabrous with age, apex slightly incurved. Pinnae woolly, becoming glabrous with age, entire, veins raised abaxially, margins slightly thickened, inflexed, directed towards apex of leaf at an angle of ± 60° to rachis, opposing leaflets inflexed, set at an angle of ± 40° to each other and orientated succubously, proximal pinnae gradually reduced to a few prickles. Median leaflets oblong-lanceolate, pungent, 200-250 × 14-17 mm, margins entire, 20-25 prominent veins abaxially.

Strobili glabrous, scale facets smooth, light greenish yellow. Megastrobili unknown. Microstrobili 1–3 per trunk, subconical, 200–240 × 120–150 mm, stalked on peduncle 30–50 mm long. Median microsporophylls spreading, more or less at right angles to axis, lamina oblong, tapering to base, ± 35–40 mm long, 30–35 mm wide and 10–15 mm high, margins contracted to pedicel, bulla with terminal facet projecting slightly as drooping lip-like structure, edges verrucose, microsporangia separated from lateral margins. Figure 5.

# Diagnostic features and affinities

E. relictus superficially resembles E. heenanii R.A.Dyer (Dyer 1972), on account of its stiff waxy bluegrey leaves and pinnae with the veins prominently raised abaxially. However, it differs markedly from E. heenanii in morphology, habit and habitat. E. relictus used to occur in mixed deciduous woodland (Figure 6), whereas E. heenanii occurs in high rainfall, high altitude, sour grassland. The important morphological differences between the two species are summarized in the following table.

TABLE 1.-Differences between E. heenanii and E. relictus

	E. heenanii	E. relictus
Pinnae	ovate-lanceolate	oblong-lanceolate
	markedly deflexed from rachis	inflexed
Leaves	inflexed, crown wine- glass-shaped	straight, crown spreading
Microstrobili	ovate, tomentose	subconical, glabrous (Figure 7)

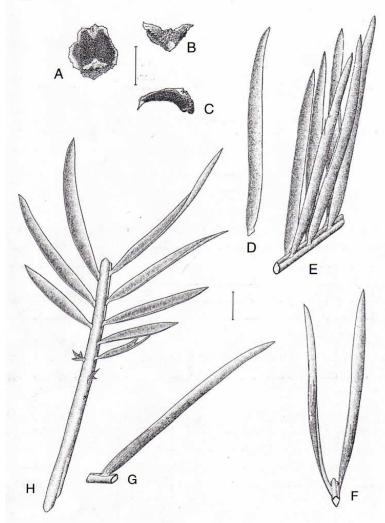


FIGURE 5.—Encephalartos relictus
P.J.H. Hurter. A-C, microsporophyll: A, abaxial view;
B, frontal view; C, side view.
D, median pinna, adaxial
view; E, F, median section of
leaf showing inflexed nature
of pinnae; G, median pinna,
abaxial view and orientation
towards apex of leaf; H, petiole and proximal pinnae.
Scale bars: A-H, 30 mm.
Artist: S.J. Burrows.

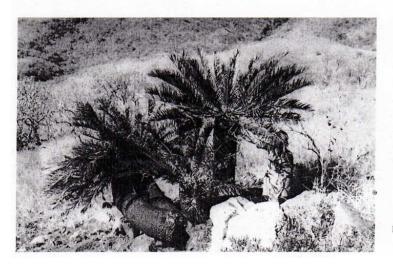


FIGURE 6.—Encephalartos relictus in habitat (photo: J.J.P. du Preez).

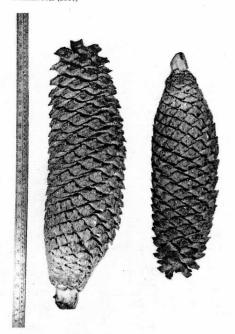


FIGURE 7.—Encephalartos relictus microstrobili (photo: J.J.P. du Preez).

## Geographical distribution

As far as is known, this species used to grow only at a single locality in Swaziland, at an altitude of 1 000 m (Figure 8). Its present conservation status code (IUCN 1994) is ExW.

# Other specimen examined

SWAZILAND.—Siteki, Farm Muti-Muti, P.J.H. Hurter 95s/h1 (GLOW).

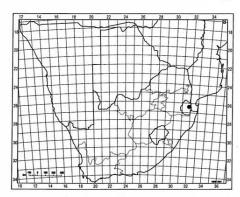


FIGURE 8.—Known former distribution of *Encephalartos relictus*.

The species no longer occurs in the wild (Red List category ExW).

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# NEW RECORDS AND DISTRIBUTIONAL DISJUNCTIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE AND MOZAMBIQUE

# INTRODUCTION

Floristic evidence for the continuity of vegetation types often lingers in the form of relicts which inhabit isolated refugia. This evidence can be ambiguous in families with adaptations to long distance dispersal. However, in a number of families, vicariance is the only logical explanation for distributional anomalies. This paper records disjunctions in Acanthaceae, Thymelaeaceae and Lamiaceae, all families renowned for the parochial dispersal of seeds and fruits.

# ACANTHACEAE

Recent research (Edwards & Harrison 1998) revealed a distributional extension to the range of *Pseuderanthemum hildebrandtii* Lindau (Acanthaceae) which reiterates the floristic links between tropical East Africa and northern KwaZulu-Natal. This species is associated with woodlands and provides compelling evidence of the continuity of dense savanna and forest habitat between the eastern seaboard of South Africa and populations in Tanzania. Acanthaceae have explosive fruits with elastic

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