

Miscellaneous notes on the flora of Tropical East Africa, including descriptions of new taxa 4-7

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**Miscellaneous notes on the flora of Tropical East Africa,
including descriptions of new taxa 4-7**

by

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This is the fourth of a series of papers on the above subject which the author proposes to continue.¹

4. *Amaryllidaceae*

***Cyrtanthus salmonoides* Bally & Carter spec. nov. (fig. 1).**

Herba bulbifera, scapigera. *Bulbus* tunicatus. *Folia* linearia, ad 20 cm longa ad 4 mm lata, canaliculata. *Scapus* singularis, uniflorus (rarius 2-florus), ad 20 cm longus. Spatha 2-valvata; valvae lanceolato-acuminatae, 3-3,5 cm longae, scariosae. Pedicellus 3-10 (-15) mm longus. *Perianthium* superius, 7-9 cm longum; tubus inferne cylindrico-angustatus, curvatus, 2-2,5 cm longus, superne abrupte dilatatus, oblongo-campanulatus, parte dilatata 2,5-3 cm longa, 1,5 cm lata; segmenta 6, patentia, recurva, obtusa, 3 exteriora apiculata, 25-30×7-8 mm; perianthium colore salmoneo-puniceo, cum lineis coccineis inter segmenta. Stamina 6, inclusa, exteriora 1 cm, interiora 1,5 cm, supra apicem tubi angustati orta; filamenta 8-10 mm longa, curvata et partem oris inferiorem versus convergentia; antherae 3,5 mm longae. *Ovarium* inferius triangulare, 5 mm longum; stylus 3-fidus, 1 cm exsertus, styli rami patentes, 3,5 mm longi; stigmata papillosa. *Capsula* et semina haud visa.

¹ Previous papers :

1. Some new species, varieties and forms in the genus *Monadenium* (Euphorbiaceae). *Candollea* 17:25.1959.
2. *Lithocaulon* Bally (Asclepiadaceae) a new genus from Somaliland, *l.c.*:53.
3. Notes on the section *Loligo* in the genus *Ceropegia* with a description of a new variety of *Ceropegia de-vecchii* Chiov., *l.c.*:71.



The locality of *Cyrtanthus salmonoides*

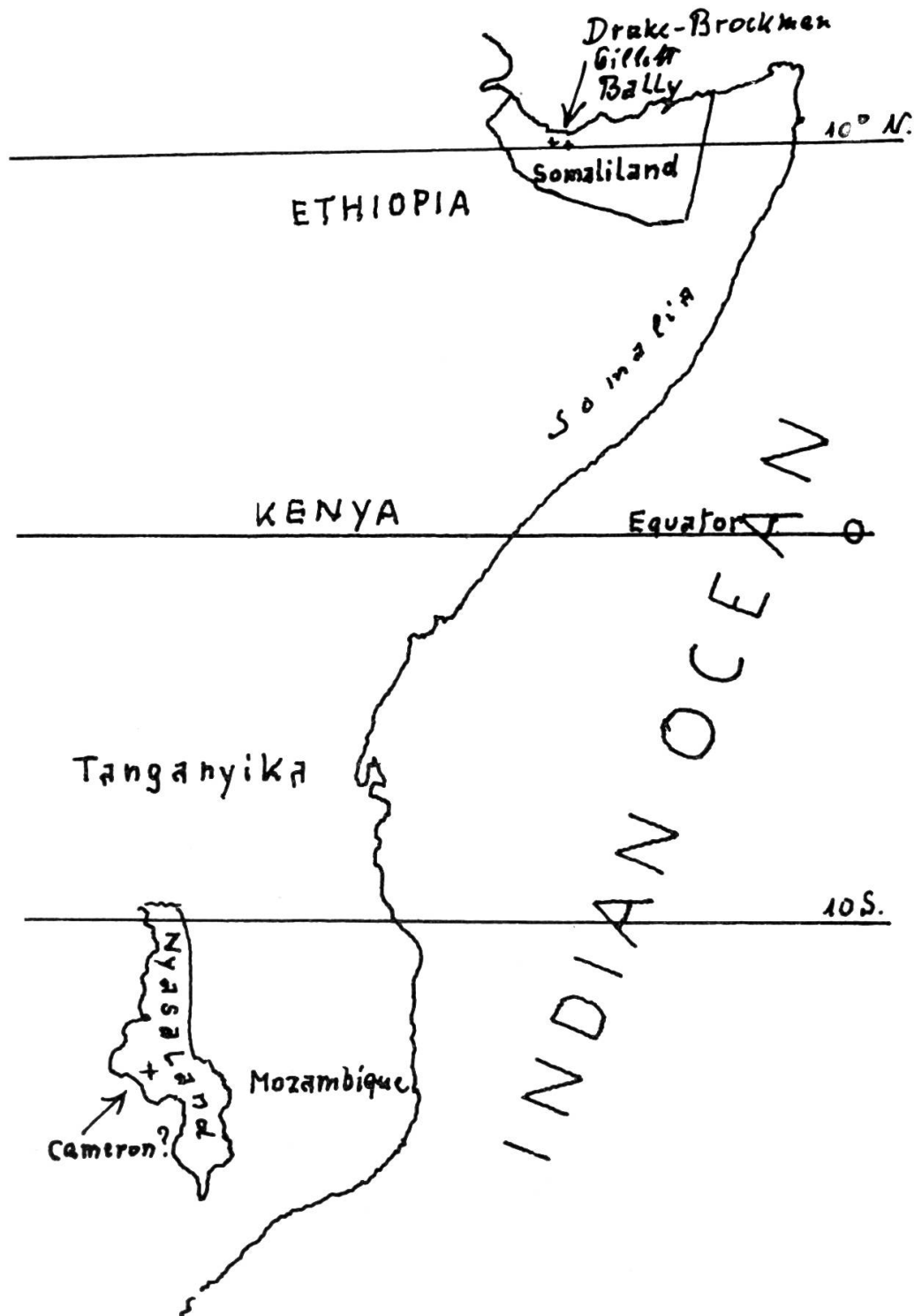
KENYA: South. Prov., Masai Distr., Kajiado Road, July 1933, *Hemsted 6131*; Ngong Hills, Jan. 1940, *van Someren CM.10266*; Old Kajiado Road, mile 10, south of the Ngong Hills, 2050 m alt. $1^{\circ}32'S-36^{\circ}47'E$, Jan. 1, 1953, *Bally 8482* (K, type); hill behind Ngong Hills, down old Narok-road, 2000 m alt., Dec. 1958, *Beecher H1/59*; Ol Esayeti Mt., behind Ngong Hills, 2100 m alt., Jan. 4, 1959, *Beecher H2/59*; Ol Esakut, behind Ngong Hills, May 1960, P. G. Archer in *Bally 12300*.

This new species is known from a small area in the Ngong District only. Its closest affinity is with *Cyrtanthus sanguineus* (Lindl.) Walp.¹ from which it differs—apart from the colour of the corolla—by its much narrower leaf, the shorter pedicel and the more constricted, oblong-campanulate upper part of the perianth-tube.

¹ It was WALPERS who transferred *C. sanguineus* from *Gastronema*, where LINDLEY had placed it, into the genus *Cyrtanthus*. The correct authorities are therefore LINDLEY, with WALPERS and not HOOK f., as commonly quoted.



FIG. 1. — *Cyrtanthus salmonoides* Bally & Carter spec. nov.



The known distribution of *Euphorbia cameronii*

5. *The original habitat of Euphorbia cameronii N.E.Br.*

In N. E. BROWN's description (F.T.A. 6, 1: 554. 1913) the discovery of the plant is attributed to CAMERON who is quoted to have collected it at Ntondwe, Nyasaland, in 1905. The type, preserved in the Kew Herbarium, consists of two short, leafless flowering shoots from which the bracts are detached and which give little indication as to the general appearance of the plant. However, with its large white involucre bracts it could not easily be overlooked in its habitat and N. E. BROWN draws attention to its potential value as an ornamental shrub. In view of its striking appearance it is surprising that it was never collected or recorded from Nyasaland again.

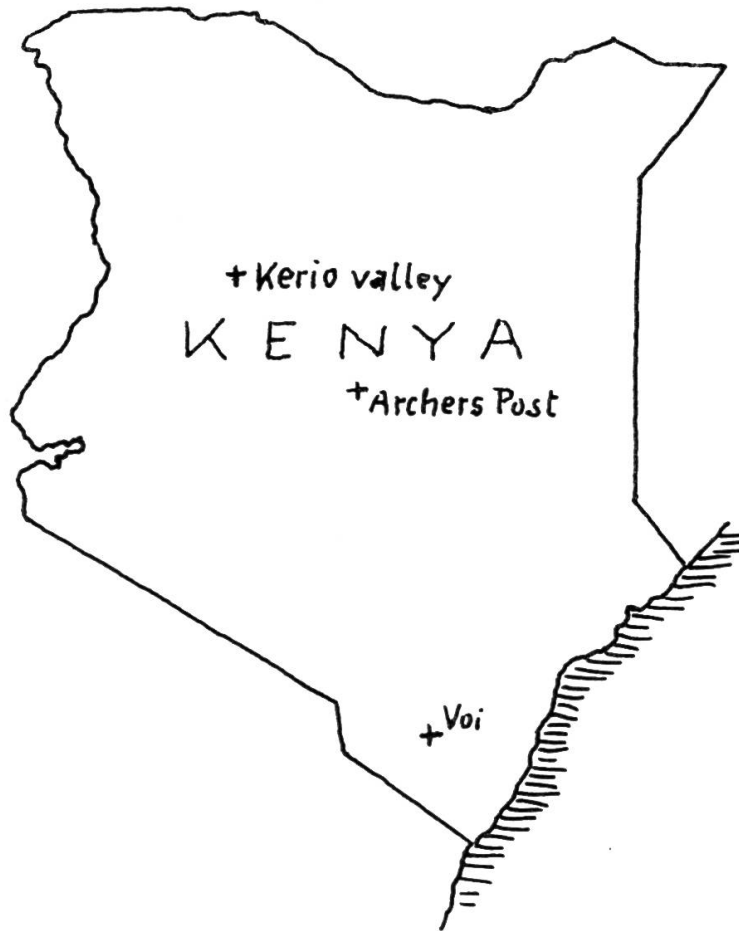
The present writer took great pains over a number of years to locate the plant again in its purported type locality; being unable to visit the country he wrote to officials in the Administration, the Forestry and the Agricultural Departments as well as to private individuals for further records or material, with negative results. The plant has either disappeared from Nyasaland or it has never occurred there.

There are, however, records of *E. cameronii* from Somali Republic, almost 3000 km to the north; the earliest specimen was collected in March 1913 and sent to Kew in May 1913 by Dr. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, others, in 1932, by J. B. GILLET, and subsequently the writer himself collected and studied the plant in its Somaliland habitat, near Behindulla. Even there, *E. cameronii* is very rare and not likely to survive for many more years¹; the remote possibility of its extermination in Nyasaland subsequent to CAMERON's presumed discovery should not therefore be ruled out entirely.

Nevertheless the writer is convinced that CAMERON never saw the plant which now bears his name, but that a mix-up of labels occurred when N. E. BROWN worked on the collections of CAMERON and DRAKE-BROCKMAN simultaneously while engaged in describing the *Euphorbiae* of Tropical Africa, in 1913. This conviction is based on a close scrutiny of CAMERON's label which now accompanies the type-sheet. There is clear evidence that it was torn off another sheet and subsequently glued to the type sheet.

Further, the original generic and specific names (now quite undecipherable) were rubbed out on the label and "*Euphorbia* § *tirucalli* ?" was pencilled in its place in N. E. BROWN's handwriting. The label quite obviously belonged to a plant from CAMERON's collection, possibly not even an *Euphorbia* and was inadvertently joined with a specimen of DRAKE-BROCKMAN's Somaliland gatherings when N. E. BROWN made use of it for his description. The Somali Republic is thus to be accepted as the only home of the species.

¹ *E. cameronii* is a large, spreading shrub with fleshy branches not unlike those of *Euph. tirucalli* L. but its latex does not contain the acrid and distasteful components of the latter. On account of its resulting succulence it is much sought by the Somali stock which destroys the vegetation of the country at an increasing rate and naturally shows a preference for plants rich in moisture.



The known distribution of *Caralluma peckii*

6. *Asclepiadaceae*

Caralluma peckii Bally spec. nov., affinis *C. dicapuae* (Chiov.) Chiov. in *Hook. Ic.* 4. t. 3340, sed caulibus gracilioribus brevioribus, corollae lobis latioribus, gynostegio elongato differt. (Fig. 2.)

Planta succulenta, ad 20 cm alta. Radices fibrosae; caules supra basin sparse ramosi obtuse tetragoni glauci brunneomaculati, angulis dentatis; dentes angulorum 10-24 mm distantes, foliis minutis lanceolatis vel subulatis 1,5-2 mm longis mox deciduis instructi. *Caules* et rami supra attenuati, acute quadrangulares, paene vel haud dentati. *Flores* plerumque pro nodo 1-2 axillares in parte attenuata ramorum producti. Pedicelli graciles filiformes 10-12 mm longi ex axillis bractearum minutarum subulatarum orti. Calyx 5-lobatus, fere usque ad basin divisus; lobi glabri subulati acuti 1-1,25 mm longi. Corolla circiter 10 mm longa, 5 mm diametro; lobi corollae laxè pendentes, elliptici, in apice subacuti, basin versus angustati plicati, extus virides, intus pallide flavi rubromaculati, in medio 2,5 mm lati, glabri sed basin versus pilis paucis longis clavatis vibratilibus purpurescentibus instructi. Gynostegium elongatum, cum corona clavatum, 3 mm altum, in apice 2 mm

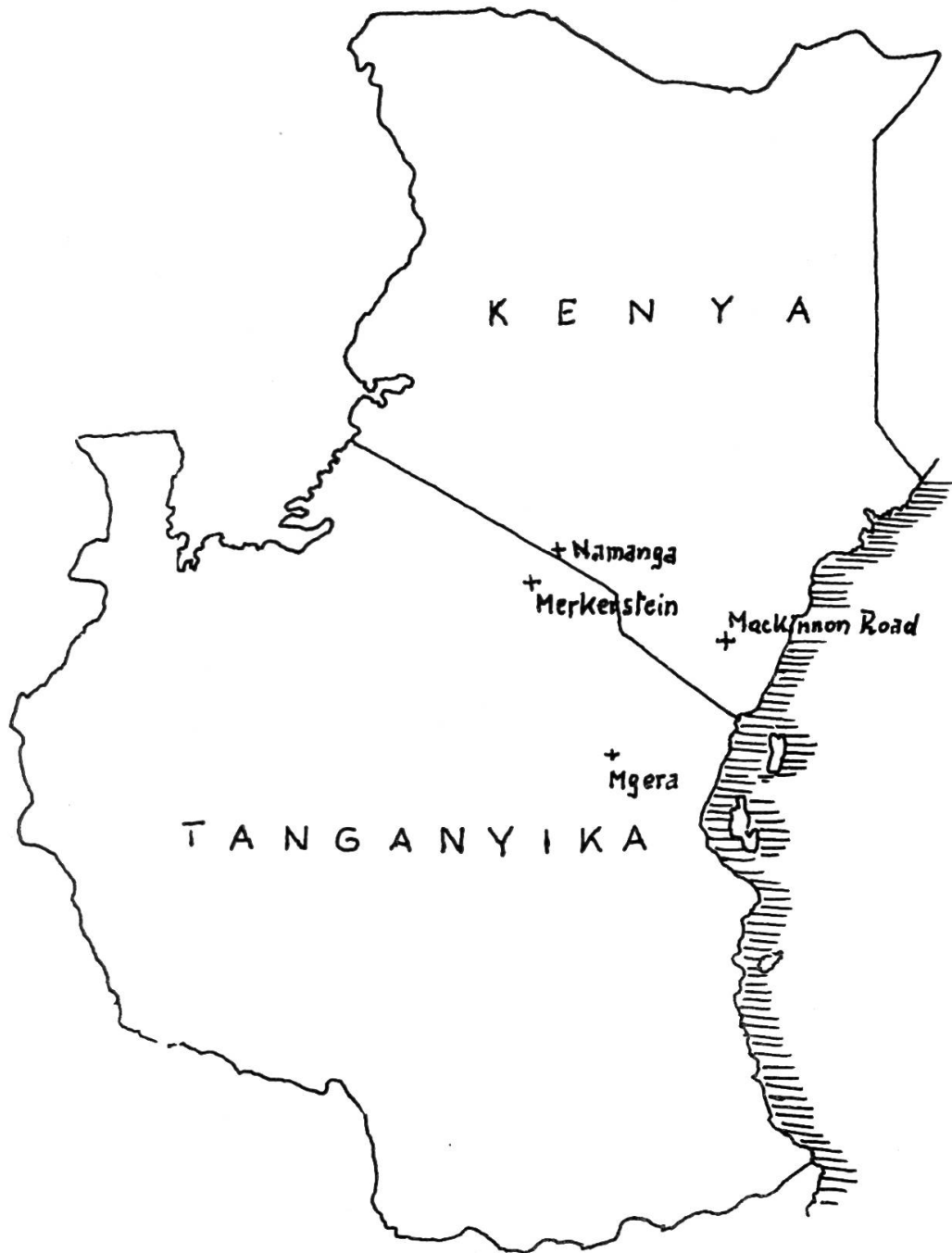
diametro, ut in icone depictum. Corona glabra alba, lobi exteriores 5, bilobi, lobi brevissimi subulati, divaricati purpurei, horizontaliter porrecti; lobi interiores 5, erecti, triangulares, apicibus conniventibus, 1 mm alti, albescentes.



FIG. 2. — *Caralluma peckii* Bally spec. nov.

KENYA: Northern Frontier Prov., Archers Post near Isiolo, 1150 m alt., 0°37'N, 37°40'E, Jan. 1941, Peck in *Bally S 61* (K, type); Kerio valley, 1°35'N, 35°45'E, May 1960, Classen, in *Bally 12260*; Coast Prov., Taita Distr., between Taveta and Bura, 1000 m alt., Feb. 1940, *Rauh Ke 914*.

* * *



The known distribution of *Senecio implexus*

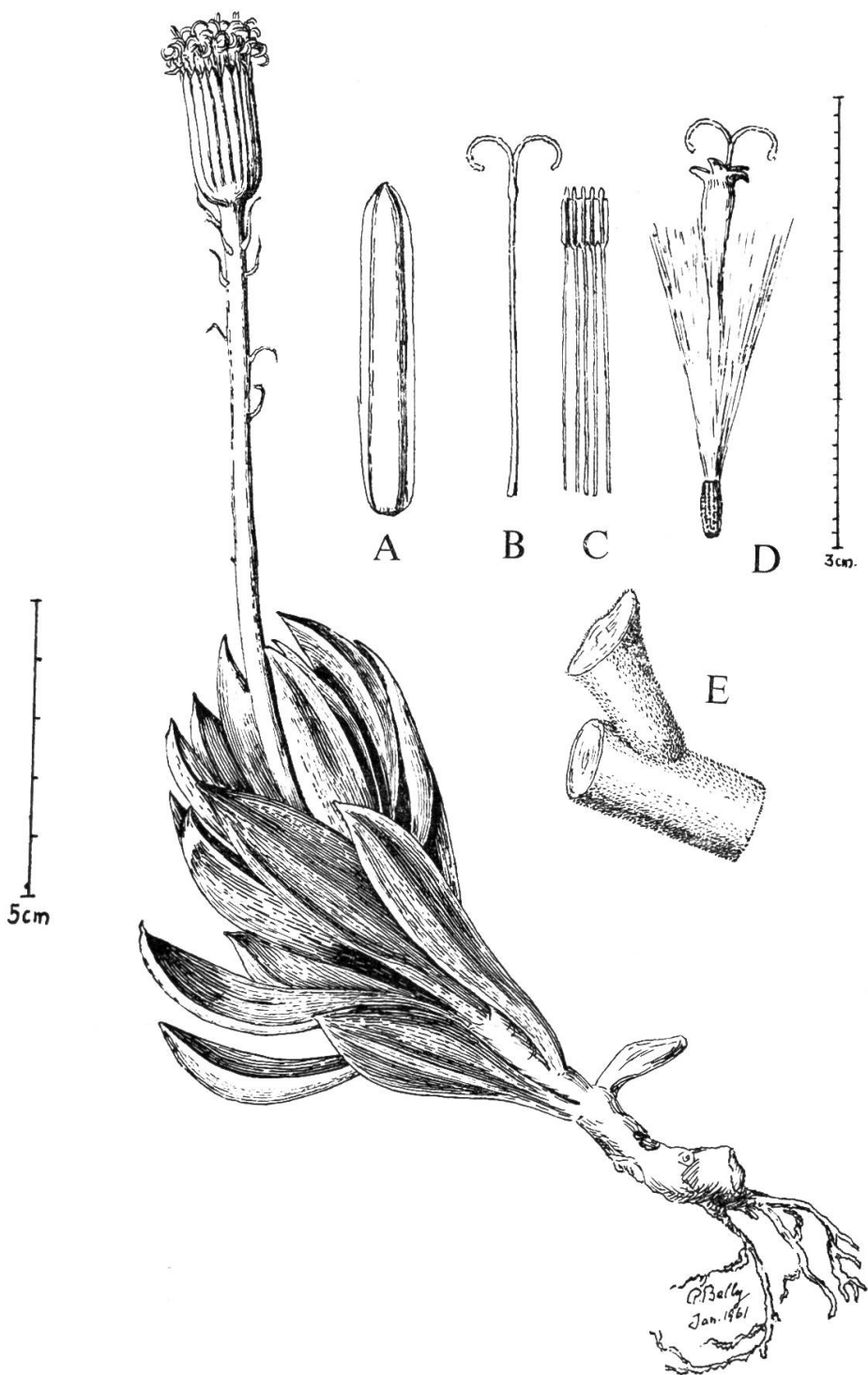


FIG. 3. — *Senecio implexus* Bally spec. nov.
 A: floral bract (phyllary); B: style; C: stamens; D: floret with achene and pappus;
 E: articulation of leaf with stem, showing the minute pubescence.

7. *Compositae*

Senecio implexus Bally spec. nov. affinis *S. jacobsenii* (Muschl.) Rowley in *Nat. Cact. Succ. Journ.* **10**: 31. June 1955 sed ramis foliisque pubescentibus, foliis oblanceolatis acutis, corollis minus abrupte dilatatis, lobis longioribus differt. (Fig. 3.)

Planta repens succulenta. *Caules* prostrati ad 70 cm longi 0,6 cm crassi, sparse ramosi, in apice usque ad 8 cm erecti, dense et minute pubescentes. *Folia* oblanceolata, valde carnosa, in utraque pagina puberula, 2,5-6,2 cm longa, 0,9-3,25 cm lata, 0,2-0,4 cm crassa, in petiolum gradatim angustata, in apice acuta, mucronatai margine integro. *Capitulum* magnum solitarium, longe pedunculatum. Peduncul, axillares, erecti, 10-30 cm longi, 0,3-0,35 cm crassi, in basim pilis paucis praediti, aliter glabri. Pedunculi bracteae inferiores remotae, filiformes ad 1 cm longae 0,5 mm latae, mox dessicatae, postea deciduae. Capitulum 3,3 cm longum, 1,2-1,4 cm latum; involucrum 24 mm longum, 11-12 mm diametro. Phyllaria 12-14, lineari-oblonga, 1,9-2 cm longa, 1,5-2 mm lata, margine anguste membranaceo circumdata. *Flosculi* circa 44; flosculorum corolla 22 mm longa, in tertio superiore aliquantum inflata; corollae lobi triangulares acuti, 1,5 mm longi. Stylorum rami recurvi, glabri, longe ultra antheras exserti. *Achenium* 4 mm longum, 8-costatum, 1,5 mm diam. Pappus niveus, corollae vix aequilongus.

KENYA: South. Prov., Masai Distr., above Namanga, southern slope of Ol Doinyo Orok, 2°33'S, 36°47'E, 1250 m alt., *Bally 4671* (K, type); *ibid.*, red sandy soil with quartzite, under bushes, *Acacia*, *Grewia* etc., locally common, Oct. 1952, *Bally 8496*; Coast Prov., Mackinnon Road, 3°44'S-39°05'E, 300 m alt., Sept. 1, 1953, in *Acacia-Commiphora* bush (form with dull carmine florets) *Drummond & Hemsley 4092*.

TANGANYIKA: Northern Prov., Masailand, Merkerstein (Kisilya), 1600 m alt., 2°45'S, 36°31'E, Jan. 13, 1936, on reddish sandy soil, on gneiss rock, not common in *Acacia-Commiphora* association, *Greenway 4351*; Tanga Prov., Handeni-Masailand, north of Mgera at Ngobora, 1080 m alt., 5°20' (appr.), 37°33'E, alluvial rubble, facing dry riverbed, *Acacia-Commiphora* bush, Sept. 28, 1933, *Burt 4965*.