

A *Ceropegia* from the winter rainfall area in South West Africa

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***Ceropegia* sp.** Lavranos & Pehlemann 20134

Farm Witpütz Süd, district Lüderitz

This plant was found by Mrs. Inge Pehlemann in quartzite dyke on top of hill at approximately 1350 m, on the 4th of December 1981 in flower.

Rootstock tuberous. *Tuber* large, hard, dark brown, ca. 60 mm diameter in the one specimen found.

Stem scandent, apparently perennial, 1,5-2 mm in diameter, branching, glabrous, glaucous green.

Leaves lanceolate to linear, acute, fleshy, sessile, 7 mm long and 2 mm broad, glabrous.

Corolla in bud acuminate, at anthesis about 30 mm long; tube slightly curved with an inflated base which is 3-4 mm in diameter, ca. 8 mm long thereafter constricted to ca. 2 mm expanding at first gradually but then rather abruptly to a trumpet-shaped mouth; lobes corneate at the apex ca. 10 mm long, deltoit at base, narrowing and becoming replicate towards the apex, wholly glabrous at the remainder of the corolla.

Corona cupular 1,5 mm diameter, the inner lobes arising from its rim ascending erect, connivent over the gynostegium.

It is difficult to decide upon the relationships of this plant without more detailed examination of the scanty material available. It would appear however that it bears some affinity to *Ceropegia cancellata* Reichenbach.

A painstaking search, at various times of the year, of the area where the original discovery was made, was wholly unsuccessful and it is to be hoped that more material will eventually be found.

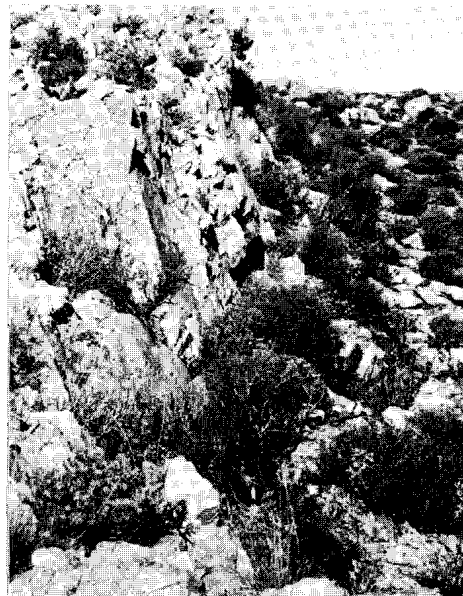
The locality where this plant was found, is in the winter rainfall area of the southern succulent semi-desert of SWA at a distance of not less than 500 km from any other known *Ceropegia* habitat.



Ceropogia sp. found in rock crevice (Lavranos & Pehlemann 20134) (Photos: Inge Pehlemann)



Tuber of *Ceropogia* sp. large, hard, dark brown ca. 60 mm in diameter.



Witputz Sud

Typical natural environment where this *Ceropogia* sp. was found at an elevation of 1350 m above sealevel.