

SHORT COMMUNICATION - *EPISINDRIS ALBIMACULALIS**

T VAN DER MERWE

Directorate of Veterinary Services, Private Bag 12022, Windhoek, Namibia

During a survey (1973-1976) to determine the distribution of *Dichapetalum cymosum* in Namibia, a caterpillar was found parasitizing exclusively on the two species of the genus *Dichapetalum* in Namibia (*D. cymosum* and *D. rhodesicum*). Due to failure to acquire the moth stage of the caterpillar, it was bred artificially and identified as *Episindris albimaculalis* (Ragonot) (Family: Pyralidae). This caterpillar was found in all areas where *D. cymosum* occurred. It parasitized mainly the young leaves and destroyed flowers of the host plant. Although it is probably not preventing propagation of *D. cymosum*, it surely contributes to a much slower rate of spread than would have been the case if it was not parasitized.

*This communication follows a paper by R I de Sousa Correia and L van Rensburg: *Geographical Distribution and Local Occurrence of Dichapetalum cymosum* (Hook) Engl. (gifblaar) in Namibia and Surrounding Areas. Agricola 2000 no 11.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Identification information: Martin Kruger (Tvl Museum) and Eugene Marais (National Museum of Namibia).

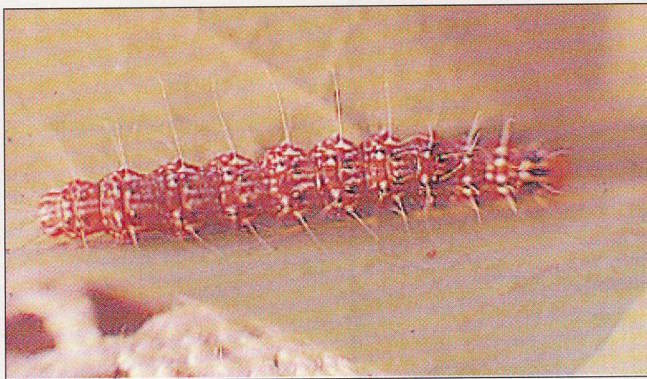


Figure 1. Caterpillar stage of *Episindris albimaculalis* (photo: T van der Merwe).

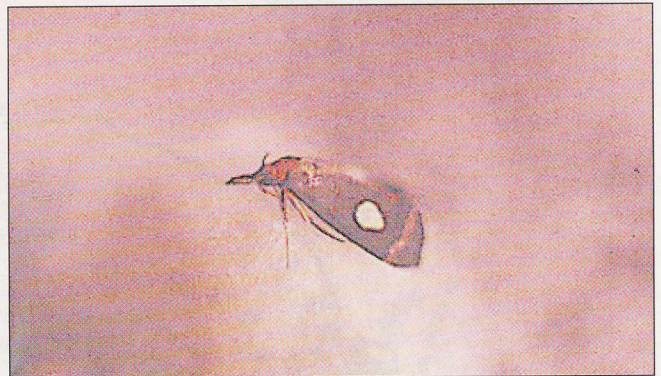
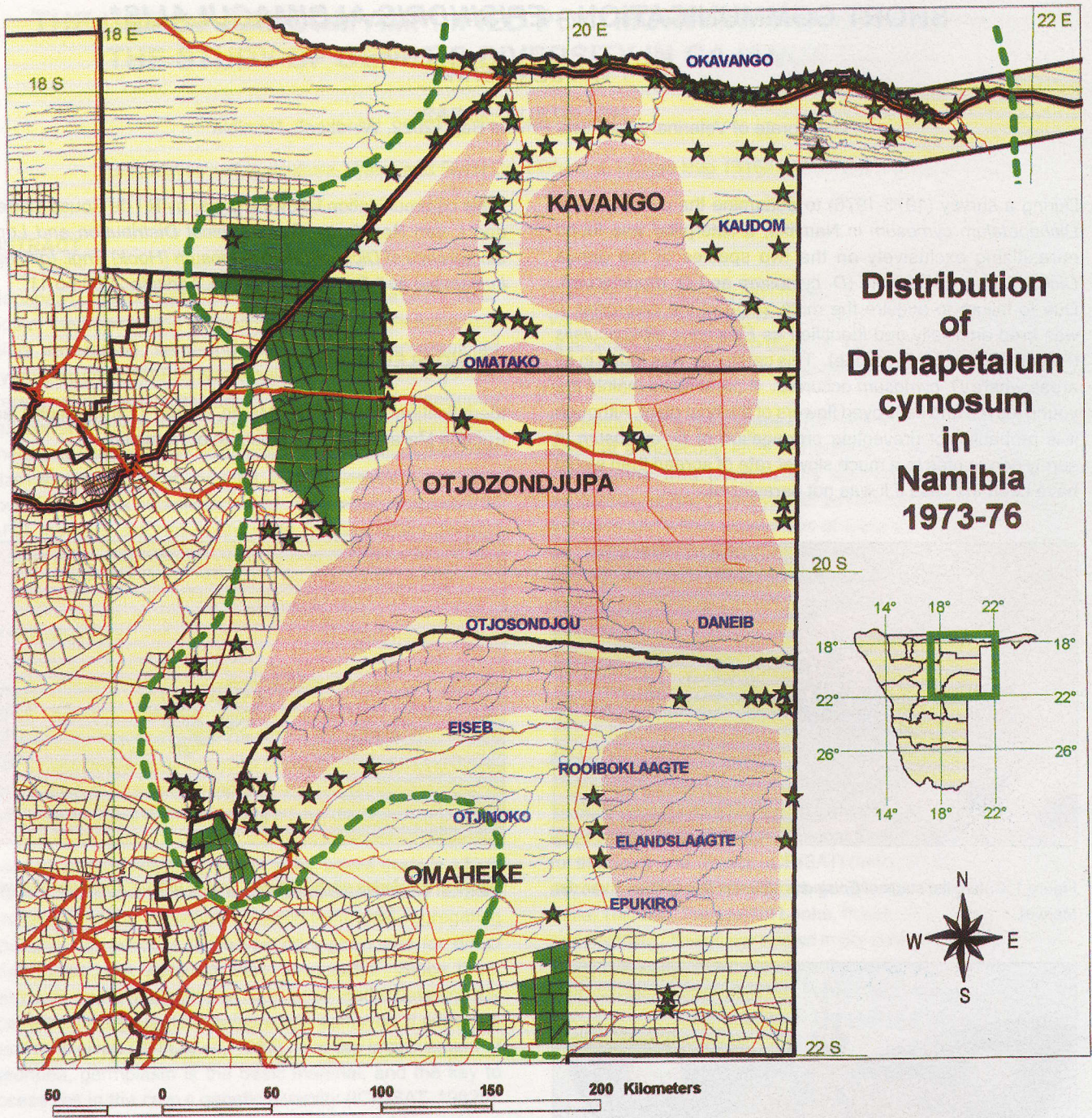


Figure 2. *Episindris albimaculalis* - resting (photo: T van der Merwe).



Figure 3. *Episindris albimaculalis* - mounted (photo: E Marais).



**Distribution
of
*Dichapetalum
cymosum*
in
Namibia
1973-76**

- Dichapetalum cymosum* on freehold land
- Dichapetalum cymosum* on non-freehold land
- Approximate extent of *D. cymosum*
- Rivers (omurambas)
- District roads
- Main roads
- Trunk roads
- Inaccessible areas, excluded from survey
- Regions



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Figure 4. The distribution of *Dichapetalum cymosum* in Namibia, 1973-1976.