

Two mosses new to the Republic of South Africa

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Two mosses new to the Republic of South Africa and the moss *Neckera valentiniana* Besch. new to the Kingdom of Lesotho .

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Abstract: Three mosses are reported as new to countries in southern Africa: *Brothera leana* (Sull.) Müll.Hal., *Gammiella ceylonensis* (Broth. in Herzog) B.C.Tan & W.R.Buck from KwaZulu-Natal and *Neckera valentiniana* Besch. from Lesotho.

Brothera leana (Sull.) Müll.Hal. KWAZULU-NATAL: 'Crystal Falls', Monk's Cowl State forest, Champagne Castle, Central Drakensberg, 29° 04' S, 29° 23' E. On fallen decortivating tree trunk in a stream, 1400 m, 21 April 1997, *Matcham & Duckett 5088a*, det. H.W. Matcham, conf. B.J. O'Shea. Specimens deposited in BM, PRE, QMW and in the private herbarium of H.W. Matcham. This is the second record from the southern hemisphere, the only other record being from Malawi (Pócs, 1993). In the field this species was mistaken for a deciduous leaved *Campylopus*. Only after examination under the microscope was its true identity revealed. This species has a widespread distribution in the northern hemisphere (see Mueller & Frahm

1987) being found from the eastern and southern United States, south to Guatemala, and on the Indian subcontinent (Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan), Indochina (Burma, Thailand), Siberia, Mongolia, China, Japan, Korea, Sikkim, Taiwan, Philippines and the Malay Peninsula. The above collection is a considerable southerly extension of range.

Gammiella ceylonensis (Broth. in Herzog) B.C.Tan & W.R.Buck KWAZULU-NATAL: 'Fern forest', above Champagne Castle hotel, Champagne Castle, Central Drakensberg, 29° 03' S, 29° 23' E. North facing basalt rock under *Podocarpus* species, 1300 m, 24 April 1994, *Matcham & Duckett 1284a*, det. B.J. O'Shea.

Specimens deposited in BM and the private herbarium of H.W. Matcham. Primarily an Asiatic genus containing eight species. In Africa, *Gammiella ceylonensis* has been recorded from Congo-Brazzaville, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi and (as *Clastobryella pusilla* (Thér.) Wijk & Margad.) from Madagascar (O'Shea, in press). The above collection is also a considerable southerly extension of range.

Neckera valentiniana Besch. LESOTHO: Maseru District; ca. 7 km southwest of Roma near the village of Ha Mahlelebe, north of the Koro-Koro river, 29° 28' S, 27° 40' E. On the trunk of a large tree in a small wooded area of a steep south-facing humid sandstone ravine, 1780 m, 29 April 1997, Matcham & Duckett 5216, c. spor.. Specimens in QMW and the private herbarium of H.W. Matcham. Hodgetts, Matcham and Duckett (1999) carried out an intensive bryological study of the last remaining area of substantial woodland in Lesotho and it is surprising that this conspicuous species was not discovered during that survey, although, (Hodgetts *et al.*, 1999) found that this habitat on the upland basalt in Lesotho was less rich than the more humid woodlands on the sandstone at lower altitudes in KwaZulu-Natal.

Neckera valentiniana has been recorded from the islands of Madagascar and Réunion and is otherwise restricted to the Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Transvaal Provinces of South Africa (O'Shea, 1999); the record from the former Zaire (Born, Frahm and Pócs 1993) is considered to be of doubtful provenance (De Sloover, 1977).

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