

Sideroxylon inerme and *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*.

3 *O. woodiana* Knobl. (Forest olive)

(National Tree No. 620)

This is a forest tree species of up to 15 m found in the eastern districts of South Africa from about Port Elizabeth northwards along the coastal plain through Natal into Swaziland and the eastern Transvaal escarpment. Until recently it was thought to occur only in South Africa, but it has been recorded from the coastal forests of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They suggest that the northern form is more variable in leaf shape than the southern form. The disjunct distribution of this taxon is anomalous with the distribution of the other woody species of the Indian Ocean Belt in that it occurs both north and south of the Limpopo river. Only 10% of the approximately 300 tree species endemic to this phytochorion occur both north and south of the Limpopo river. This apparent disjunct distribution needs further investigation, and *O. woodiana* probably occurs in the poorly collected areas along the Mozambique coast as well.

O. woodiana is almost totally confined to the Indian Ocean coastal belt, but does transgress into the Afriomontane forests in Swaziland and the eastern Transvaal where it is relatively rare, usually occurring as large solitary trees.

4 *O. chimanimani* Kupicha

This newly described taxon is a shrub 2 to 3 m high and is endemic to the Chimanimani mountains of eastern Zimbabwe. It occurs in scrub vegetation among quartzite outcrops. The Chimanimani mountains are well known as a centre of endemism with many of the endemic species being restricted to the quartzite areas. The decision to recognize this taxon as a new species was based on its geographic isolation rather than its similarity with *O. exasperata*.

5 *O. welwitschii* (Knobl.) Gilg. & Schellenb. (East African olive)

This is a large forest tree up to 30 m in height with a small crown and a straight, slightly tapered bole. It follows a similar distribution as that

of *O. hochstetterii*, along the patches of Afriomontane vegetation. However, *O. welwitschii* is usually found on the forest margins and in the dry evergreen forests on the lower slopes surrounding the true high altitude Afriomontane forest. There is overlap in the distribution of these two species. In the far west of tropical Africa it has a scattered distribution in Guinea, where its range is not strictly Afriomontane. It seems to be confined to hills between 610 and 1220 m, and is apparently absent from the intervening lowlands. It extends from the drier evergreen forests of the Ethiopian highlands in the north to the Tanzanian and Malawian Forests in the south. It has also been recorded from the northern highlands of Zimbabwe.

6 *O. capensis* s.l. L

This complex of species is almost entirely limited to the geographic borders of South Africa. In this region it is widely transgressive. In habit it ranges from the large emergent forest tree of more than 30 m tall, as in the Knysna enclave of the Afriomontane forest, to a low bush in hot, dry river valleys and in coastal thickets. It extends from the Cape Peninsula in the south to the escarpment in the Transvaal in the north, following the eastern escarpment. At present this species is represented by four named subspecies:

6.1 *O. capensis* subsp. *capensis* (L.) Verdoorn (False ironwood) (National Tree No. 618)

This is a small to medium sized tree up to 10 m tall. It occurs from Clanwilliam southwards to the Cape Peninsula, and eastward to the coastal plain, where it is distributed from the Cape Peninsula to southern Natal. This species is conspecific with the subspecies *macrocarpa* in the Afriomontane forests of Knysna, where it attains its maximum height. The coastal form and forest margin forms are generally shrubs or small solitary windswept trees.

6.2 *O. capensis* subsp. *macrocarpa* (CH Wright) Verdoorn (Ironwood) (National Tree No. 618.2)

Of all the subspecies of the *O. capensis* complex, this taxon has the