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Haworthia groenewaldii typical specimen with whitish flecks and parallel lines with some green colour.

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Haworthia groenewaldii I. Breuer spec. nov.

A new species of the *Haworthia magnifica* group from the southern Western Cape Province

Ingo Breuer, Jannie Groenewald and Gerhard Marx

A couple of years ago Jannie Groenewald found an interesting looking *Haworthia* on his parents' farm near Buffeljagdsrivier. Later, during a presentation, he met the well known *Haworthia* expert Mr. Bruce Bayer, reported his discovery to him and invited him to visit the locality to have a look for himself. After his inspection Bayer regarded this element not to be a new taxon within *Haworthia*, but a form of *H. mutica*. Soon afterwards during 2008 Gerhard Marx visited the locality together with Bruce Bayer and Kobus Venter.

The summary of Gerhard's visit reads as follows:

"The opportunity to visit *H. groenewaldii* n.n. in habitat came during August 2008 when I was invited by Bruce Bayer to accompany him, his wife Daphne and Kobus Venter to the locality.

"Upon seeing the first few plants I said to Bruce that they look just like small *H. springbokvlakensis*, but later when Bruce pointed out some exceptionally nicely marked plants I could see the links to *H. mutica* which he wanted to emphasize. Some of the plants had the same white dusky dots and lines in the leaf windows as found in some populations of *H. mutica*. In addition, the bluish-grey colour of plants growing in the dappled shade of bushes also reminded somewhat of *H. mutica*. Another striking feature of the plants was the fine but rough leaf texture, which give the plants a glistening effect in sunshine.

"I think it was Kobus Venter who mentioned that in addition to the subtle *H. springbokvlakensis* and *H. mutica* links, he felt that *H. magnifica* var. *atrofusca* also comes to mind when looking at these plants. I could immediately see that connection too.

"Later on when the flowers and flowering time of these plants became evident, it was clear that the *H. magnifica* var. *atrofusca* connection was the closest one in terms of real relationship."

During 2010 Gerhard added the following comments in an e-mail message to me:

".....Unfortunately Bruce Bayer keeps on refusing to see it as something new and calls it simply a form of *H. mutica* - "*H. mutica* 'Buffeljags' ". Well, superficially there are some similarities. The typical *H. mutica* grows only 20 km to the west at Dankbaar farm. But MBB7801 (= *H. groenewaldii* n.n.) is a summer-flowering species (as said, late February to April) with thin tender peduncles and delicate flowers identical to that of *H. maraisii* and some *H. magnifica* and *H. mirabilis*. *H. mutica* flowers in spring (Sept-Oct) and has more robust peduncles and flowers.

"Seedlings of *H. mutica* develop fast while MBB7801 is very slow. Two-year old seedlings of MBB7801 is smaller than 8 month old *H. mutica*....."

In 2010 Gerhard Marx also sent me some pictures of these plants and encouraged my further attention to the discussion of the item. After checking all the facts and also discussing it with Jannie Groenewald, I came to the conclusion that the main features of its habit, and especially the flower characters and flowering time, differentiate it from *H. mutica* and relatives, therefore I decided to describe it as a new species and name it after its discoverer Jannie Groenewald, a student of Ecology science, who is very much interested in the biomes of the African Field (vegetation types):

Haworthia groenewaldii I. Breuer spec. nov.

Latin Diagnosis

HABITUS FOLIORUM *H. SPRINGBOKVLAKENSIS* SIMILIS EST. FACIE ET PIGMENTORUM *H. MUTICA* SIMILIS EST. HABITUS FLORIS ET TEMPORIS FLORIS UT IN *H. MAGNIFICA*.

Description:

Always growing singly, but in a couple of cases growing in groups of plants of different ages. Rosette: acaulescent, 40-50 mm Ø (exceptionally up to 100 mm). Leaves: 5-7(8), fleshy, spreading, end-area in most cases very rounded (resembling *H. springbokvlakensis*), 20-25 mm long, 13-18 mm broad, 11-13 mm thick. Leaf surface of back and leaf-base, smooth, opaque; colour dull dark green. Margins: opaque, smooth. Back without keel. End-areas: 13-18 mm long, face translucent, with 3-5 whitish parallel lines, the middle one the longest (sometimes parallel lines are ± partly of greenish colour). Surface of the end area, rough with small papillae. End area of some specimens are with ± whitish, ± raised dots, in a few cases the dots are blended into cloudy flecks. Leaf-tip: very rounded, without teeth.

Inflorescence: 300-600 mm long, 1.2-2 mm diam., Peduncle: 200-300 mm long. Sterile Bracts: 15-20, 5-7 mm long. Raceme: 100-300 mm long. 8-18 flowers, 2-5 flowers open at one time. Fertile Bracts: 3-4 mm long. Pedicels: 2-4 mm long, 1-1.2 mm diam. Flowers: 14-16 mm long. Perianth: 3 - 4 mm diam. Flower-face: 9-12 mm long. Upper part: 6-7 mm long, 3-5 mm broad. Lower part: 5-7 mm long, 5-9 mm broad. Fruit: 11-18 mm long, 2.5-4 mm thick. Flowering time February – March.

Type Information

Collector: J. Groenewald s.n. (= MBB7801)

Locality: 3420 (-BA), Buffeljagdsrivier, Western Cape, SA

Type Location: holotype in GRA

Description of the Vegetation type and distribution
by Jannie Groenewald

Ruens Silcrete Renosterveld (RSR) occurs in the Western Cape Province and is particularly common along the lower Breede River south of Buffeljagsrivier to Malgas (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). RSR is seen as a critically endangered vegetation type as 78% of it has been transformed into agricultural land (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). The fragments that are left are those parts that are too steep or rocky to be ploughed.

Silcrete Renosterveld contains rare and endemic plants that are sensitive to grazing and trampling and it is recommended that it must be left alone (De Villiers *et al.* 2005).

Haworthia groenewaldii is one of these rare and endemic plants that can only be found on a belt of left over RSR that occur in the farming town of Buffeljagsrivier.

The habitat lies between 80 and 120 meters above sea level and faces in a Northerly direction.

In the cattle overgrazed parts of the veldt *H. groenewaldii* occurs as a few chattered and small plants. The main population of *H. groenewaldii* is found in a camp that was not grazed by cattle, but by sheep. The plants grow under and inside clumps of *Merxmuellera disticha*, a hard and unpalatable grass. Here the plants grow in small groups of mixed ages, size as well as leaf form.

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Photographs.

Front cover. *H. groenewaldii* typical specimen with
whitish flecks and parallel lines with some green
colour.

Page 16. Flowers of *H. groenewaldii*.

Page 17. Fruit of *H. groenewaldii*.

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Page 19. Another specimen of *H. groenewaldii* with
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Page 20. A specimen of *Haworthia groenewaldii*
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Back cover. A group of *Haworthia groenewaldii* of
different size and age, but all single plants.



Dry fruit capsules and seeds of *Haworthia*.
Groenewaldii



Haworthia groenewaldii in Habitat. Specimen without whitish flecks, growing in between *Merxmüllera disticha*, a hard and unpalatable grass.

Another specimen of *Haworthia groenwaldii* with little whitish flecks



A specimen of *Haworthia groenwaldii* with inflorescence among a group of smaller plants.





A group of *Haworthia groenewaldii* of different size and age, but all single plants.