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NOTES ON AFRICAN COMMELINACEAE: VI  
A NEW SPECIES OF COMMELINA FROM  
SOUTH TROPICAL AFRICA

by

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*Commelina* (Subgen. Didymoön, Sect. "Eu-Commelina")  
*fluviatilis* Brenan, sp. nov.; ut videtur *C. violaceae*  
C.B.Cl. affinis, spathis saepius majoribus manifeste pedunculatis,  
seminibus foveolatis differt.

Herba erecta vel plus minusve diffusa. Caulis 15 - 180 cm  
longi, subsimplices vel ramosi, satis graciles, glabri, internodiis  
inferioribus nonnunquam brevibus et tantum 1 - 2 cm longis  
sed saepius conspicue elongatis 5 - 15 cm longis. Folia linearia,  
plerumque 5 - 25 cm longa, 1 - 3.5 mm tantum lata, apice attenuato-  
acuta, basi nisi in vaginae orem non vel vix dilatata, glabra  
(marginibus imo basi ciliatis exceptis); vaginae 0.5 - 3 cm longae,  
plerumque purpureo-striatae vel purpurascens, ore plus minusve  
ciliato excepto glabrae, nonnunquam omnino glabrae. Spathae  
singulatim ex axillis supremis ortae, 1 - 3 pro caule, pedunculis

(1-)1.5 - 7 cm longis glabris usque unilateraliter et breviter pubescentibus suffultae, 1 - 2.8 cm longae, (2-)4 - 9 mm latae, horizontales vel deflexae, a latere visae subtus rectae vel concavae hinc falcatae, apice plus minusve attenuato-acutae vel acuminatae, marginibus glabris vel nonnunquam ciliatis ad basim liberis, aliter glabrae vel nonnunquam inconspicue puberulae. Flores lilacini, pallide caerulei vel purpurei, e spathi exserti. Sepala 4 - 5 mm longa. Petala in statu sicco tantum visa, superiora in unguem circiter 5 mm longum angustata, lamina fortasse circiter 1 cm diametro; inferius circiter 5 - 7 mm longum. Stamina fertilia antica 3, filamentis circiter 10 mm longis. Staminodia postica 3, filamentis 5 - 6 mm longis. Ovarium anthesi 5-ovulatum, apice apiculatum. Stylus circiter 12 mm longus. Capsula 5.5 - 7 mm longa, 2.5 - 3.5 mm lata, apice apiculata, ovulorum abortu 2 (-?4) sperma. Semina griseo-brunnea, saepius ellipsoidea, 2 - 3 mm longa, 1.75 mm lata, irregulariter foveolata.

#### Zambia

Barotseland: 8 km N. of Senanga, in moist sandy soil in grassy plain, 1040 m alt., 30 July 1952, CODD 7252 (K): flowers mauve. - Kalabo, near rest-house, margin of marshy grassland near river, 13 Nov. 1959, DRUMMOND & COOKSON 6400 (K): flowers blue. - Mongu Distr.: Bulozhi Plain, 8 Jan. 1960, GILGES 957 (K). - Nangweshi, mudflat by river, 26 July 1962, FANSHAWE 6967 (K): procumbent herb with sheathing linear leaves and brown or purple flowers in terminal keeled bracteate heads. - North: Lumi River marsh and Kawimbe Mission, in very wet peaty grey soil among long grass on edge of water, 1520 m, 20 May 1955, RICHARDS 5801 (K): angular-stemmed plant 45 cm high; stem glabrous; leaves linear, glabrous; spathe green, veined brown, with very long point; flowers large, palest mauve; does not exude fluid. - Kawambwa Distr.: Kilwa Island, Lake Mweru, in deep water, 900 m, 21 Apr. 1957, RICHARDS 9385 (K): rooting at nodes; leaf-sheath striped pale green; spathe small, striped; flowers pale blue. - Abercorn Distr.: Lumi R., in water at side of river among grass, 1680 m, 31 May 1957, RICHARDS 9941 (K): spathe small, green veined brown; flowers pale greyish-blue, large. - Mpika Distr.: Luitikila R., in water and mud, 1200 m, 6 Apr. 1961, RICHARDS 14984 (K, holotype): spathe green with brown lines; flowers purple. - Abercorn Distr.: Kaka New Road, Saisi R., in water, 1500 m, 17 Feb. 1962, RICHARDS 16120 (K): plant rooting at nodes; flowers pale blue, fragile. - South: Victoria Falls, is-

lands, etc., Feb. 1906, ALLEN 282 (K): straggling plant; flowers mauve; stamens yellow. - Same locality, Livingstone Island, 910 m, July 1908, ROGERS 5085 (K). - "Shallow water, flooded by the Zambesi", GAIRDNER 500 (K): flowers mauve.

#### South-West Africa

Okavango area, Niangana, May 1934, DINTER 7201 (K). - Okavango, Diyona Camp 3 km from Nyangana Mission Station, in fairly deep water, 27 Feb. 1956, DE WINTER & MARAIS 4884 (K): erect herb; stems up to 2 m long; flowers pale mauvish-pink.

*Commelina violacea* C.B.Cl. is so far only known with certainty from the holotype collected in South-West Africa (SCHINZ 21, 8, 33, Olukonda, in Herb. Kew.). In that species the spathes are sessile or almost so (peduncle up to 4 mm) and the seeds have the same coarsely and irregularly/muricate (but not foveolate) sculpturing of the surface as is to be seen in *C. subulata* Roth. *C. fluviatilis* has often been misidentified with *C. violacea*.

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