CXXIII. **R. Marloth, Species novae austro-africanae
Euphorbiae generis. I.**

(Ex: Trans. R. Soc. South Africa, I, 1 [1909], pp. 315—319, fig. 1—4.)

1. ***Euphorbia pulvinata*** Marloth, l. c., p. 315, fig. 1. (Sect. *Diacanthium*.)
— Caulis subterraneus, brevissimus, apice ampliatus, ramis brevibus simplicibus in pulvino depresso aggregatis, verticaliter 7-costatis, profunde inter costas sulcatis, pedunculis sterilibus longis spinaeformibus pungentibus. Folia linearia decidua. Cyathia in apice ramorum sessilia aggregata. Involucrum 2—3 foliolis ovatis ciliatis suffultum, longecampanulatum, lobis brevissimis retusis denticulatis, glandulis rubris erectis hemisphaericis margine repandis. — The plant spreads laterally by producing numerous branched of equal length, thus forming a slightly convex cushion-shaped mass, up to 50 cm in diam. The length of the branches is 3—6 cm, their diam. (with ribs) 3—4 cm; the number of ribs is mostly 7, sometimes 6 or 8, their edge is slightly crenate, their height and width 7—9 mm, the length of the spines 10—15 mm, the diam. of the cyathium, which is dark red, 4 mm; leaves 5—10 mm. — South Africa: Growing in rocky ground near Queenstown, flowering in Nov., Marloth no. 4372, also gathered by Mr. E. Galpin and Mr. E. Phillips.

2. ***Euphorbia lignosa*** Marloth, l. c., p. 316, fig. 2. (Sect. *Lyciopsis*.)
— Frutex ramosissimus, compactus, 1—2 pedalis, ramulis crassis rigidis acutis subviridibus. Cyathia terminalia solitaria vel terna; involucrum campanulatum lobis brevissimis retusis subdenticulatis, glandulis infundibuliformibus, sub-bilabiatis, labio exteriori 3—4 palmatifido. Capsula globosa punctata pilosa, 4 mm diam. — A much-branched very rigid shrub with sharp-pointed branches, forming a nearly hemispherical compact mass up to 1 m in diam. Leaves, on young shoots only, linear-oblong, 10—15 mm. Flowers probably in winter, as only a few old flowers could be found in November. The species does not readily fit into any of the sections established by Boissier. It is placed here into *Lyciopsis* on account of its habit, but, as pointed out by Bentham in the *Genera Plantarum*, habit does not always coincide with the characters taken from the form of the glands. — South Africa: On stony ground or rocks in the desert of Great Namaqualand, near Tschaukaib, at an alt. of 900 m and a distance of 60 km from the coast of Angra Pequena, Marloth no. 4637.

3. ***Euphorbia namibensis*** Marloth, l. c., p. 318, fig. 3. (Sect. *Medusea*.)
— Caulis crassus globosus vel breve-cylindricus; rami breves succulenti podariis elongatis conicis, foliis linearibus deciduis. Involucra sessilia campanulata basi bifoliolata, lobis brevissimis obtusis ciliatis, glandulis bilabiatis; labio superiori brevi mutico vel subemarginato, inferiori in 3—4 lacinias subulatas partito; stylis haud divis. — The stem is whitish, club-shaped, nearly globose or somewhat elongate, up to 15 cm in diam. and 15—20 cm high. The cylindrical branches are 2—4 cm

long and 1 cm in diam.; the leaves, which appear only for a short time after rain, are 10—15 mm long; diam. of cyathium, 8—10 mm. — South Africa: Growing in the stony plains of the desert „Namib“, near Tschaukaib, at an altitude of 800 m and a distance of 50 km from the coast of Angra Pequena. Marloth no. 4635. — This is the plant figured in Schultze¹⁾ as *E. Marlothii* Pax, and although the name is given on the authority of Prof. Pax, it is obviously an error. *Euphorbia Marlothii* belongs to another section, being very different in appearance and systematic characters. A fairly good figure of the true *E. Marlothii* is given by Berger in „Sukkulente Euphorbien“, p. 117.

4. *Euphorbia crassipes* Marloth, l. c., p. 318, fig. 4. (Sect. *Dactylanthus*.) — Caulis brevis globoso-cylindricus, ramis crassis numerosis brevibus cylindricis. Cyathia in apicibus ramorum stipitata, basin 3—5 foliolis spatulatis ciliatis suffulta. Involucrum campanulatum lobis ovatis acerato-ciliatis, glandulis patentibus, concavo-bilabiatis, labio superiori brevi, emarginato, labio inferiori breviter 3—4 dentato. Pedunculi deflorati persistentes inermes. Styli inferne coaliti apice sub-bilobi. — The stem is 10—15 cm thick and high, flattened at the apex, and bearing numerous short fleshy branches, the lower ones gradually shrivelling up and exposing the bare stem. Sometimes the stem remains quite short and buried in the ground, the branches forming a rosette 15—20 cm in diam. Length of branches 4—6 cm, their diam. 10—15 mm; length of persistent peduncles (floriferous branchlets) 15—20 mm, they are woody but not sharp pointed. Diam. of cyathium 4 mm, without the teeth of the glands. — South Africa: Growing in stony ground of the karroo, near Prince Albert and Beaufort West. Marloth no. 4397. — This is nearly allied to *E. anacantha* Boissier, but easily distinguished by the persistent stalks of the inflorescences.

5. *Euphorbia esculenta* Marloth, l. c., p. 319. (Sect. *Pseudomedusea* Berger.) — (See figure in: Marloth, Das Kapland Jena, 1908, p. 247.) — Planta succulenta, habitu *E. Caput Medusæ*, sed cyathiis differens. Involucrum campanulatum lobis brevibus conniventibus, valde albo-fimbriatis; glandulis minimis calliformibus brunneis verticaliter adpressis. — The stem is obconical or club-shaped, buried in the ground, flat at the apex, 10—20 cm in diam., bearing numerous thick branches arranged in a rosette of half a meter in diam., each branch being from 5—15 cm long and 15—20 mm thick. The flowers are aggregated at the ends of the branches, white, sweet-scented like violets. — South Africa: Klipplaar in the Eastern karroo, flowering in spring. Marloth no. 4162. — This plant is very common in the karroo of Graaff Reinet, Aberdeen, and Jansenville, and forms a very nutritious food for the stock in times of drought. Formerly it was also occasionally roasted in the ashes for human use. Owing to its resemblance to *E. Caput Medusæ*, it has been often quoted under this name. The latter, however, is not edible, and possesses flowers of quite a different structure.

¹⁾ Schultze, L., Aus Namaland und Kalahari, Jena 1907, p. 88.