

xandra), sowie die von WOOD (& EVANS) *Natal Plants* III, 1 (1900), 27 pl. 225 beschriebene und abgebildete Pflanze. Alle diese Pflanzen haben unterseits filzige Laubblätter (WOOD, pag 27 ex descr.!) und stumpfe Pappuschuppen, was nur für *St. insignis*, nicht für *B. subulata* zutrifft. - Weitere Exsikkaten der *St. insignis* sind: REHMANN 6147a (von Houtbosh in Transvaal, *B. seminivea* det. Klatt), JUNOD 707 und 2819 (Shilouvane in Transvaal), WILMS 786 (von Lydenburg in Transvaal), richtig als *B. insignis* [Harv.] O. Hoffm.), ALICE PEGLER 1345 (Albany Museum, Grahamstown, richtig als *St. insignis*) und ROGERS 19161 (von Baberton in Transvaal, leg. Thornecroft, unbestimmt).

Alabastra diversa.

Mit Beiträgen von

J. Th. Henrard (Leiden) und Fr. Kränzlin (Wolfenbüttel)

PLECTRACHNE, a new genus of grasses

by J. Th. Henrard (Leiden).

The family of the grasses, although very natural, is not easy to divide into tribes and agrostologists have always tried to find a system that gives sufficient satisfaction. Unfortunately we have not yet such a system and therefore many genera are placed arbitrarily in one of the tribes accepted by agrostologists. In the large tribe of the *Poaceae*, a plant with but one flower is thus placed in the subtribe of the *Agrostae*; if such a grass has a fertile valve with 3 awns, we recognize it as an *Aristida*. Sometimes there occur in this genus spikelets with two well-developed flowers, but such spikelets are rarely found here and there in a panicle mixed with the normal spikelets. But the question becomes very different if we find such a grass with all the spikelets normally many-flowered. Having found a grass with such characters in the Zurich Herbarium, kindly received for study from Prof. H. SCHINZ, I had to place it in one of the tribes of the grasses but it did not agree with one of the genera hitherto known. The tribe of the *Chlorideae* we can exclude because the spikelets are sessile there or short-pedicelled on a usually continuous rachis, forming a digitate or racemose inflorescence. The tribe is however as to the different other characters very unnatural and in the future other characters will be observed to bring more light in this tribe.

Our new grass has an open or somewhat contracted panicle with pedicelled spikelets and we have to place it in one of the two remaining tribes, the *Aveneae* or the *Festuceae*. These tribes are easily recognized if we have before us typical representatives of them, but there occur many grasses where it is quite impossible to place them