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Oral

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**A new species of *Stylochaeton* Lepr. from the Sekhukhuneland Centre of Plant Endemism.**

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*Stylochaeton* is a genus of about 17 species classified in Araceae, tribe Stylochaetoneae. Species of *Stylochaeton* grow in humid tropical and deciduous forests, and in tropical savannas throughout Africa. In South Africa, a single species of *Stylochaeton* is currently recognized, namely *Stylochaeton natalensis*. It is found in the north-eastern regions of South Africa (Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu Natal) with some populations extending into Swaziland. A new species of *Stylochaeton* was discovered from Sekhukhuneland, Limpopo, in 1999. The morphology and palynology of the new species were investigated using herbarium specimens and specimens fixed in FAA. Morphological characters investi­­gated were roots, stems, petioles, leaves, inflorescence, flowers, pollen and fruits, and compared to that of *S. natalensis*. Both species are similar in habit, root, fruit, flowers and stem morphology, but differ in leaf morphology and inflorescence colour. The leaves of *Stylochaeton* sp. nov. are blue-green and sagittate, whereas the leaves of *S. natalensis* are green and sagittate-hastate, cordate-sagittate or hastate-cordate. The leaves of *S. natalensis* are wider (85-170 mm) and shorter (220-505 mm) than those of *Stylochaeton* sp. nov. (100-150 mm wide and 300-555 mm long). The spathe of *Stylochaeton* sp. nov. is brownish-cream white while that of *S. natalensis* is green outside and yellowish inside. The pollen grains of both speciesare also similar (isopola­r, spheroidal, inapaturate, about 42.2 µm in length). The leaf morphology and inflorescence colour provide the most reliable diagnostic characters, with leaf shape and size being the most prominent distinguishing feature of the new species.