

Encephalartos paucidentatus *Stapf & Burt Davy*. As in other species of the genus, there is appreciable variation between individual specimens over the full range of distribution. Unless one is able to make regular field observations over a number of seasons there is little chance of noting all the possible variations. Recordings are thus done piecemeal.

The number of cones produced by a trunk of *E. paucidentatus* was thought to be 1-3. In the mountain kloofs near Piggs Peak, where the species is sometimes common, David Heenan found female trunks with up to 3 large cones and male trunks with up to 5 cones. Unlike *E. heenanii*, where the male and female cones are almost indistinguishable, the difference in male and female cones of *E. paucidentatus* is very marked. For one thing the male cones are far more slender than the female cones and for another the median male cone-scales have a relatively long narrow beak to the bulla with a small terminal facet.

Since no description has been published of fresh male and female cones of *E. paucidentatus*, this opportunity is taken of recording them with illustrations (see Plate 4).

Cones yellowish, sometimes slightly woolly when young, irregularly papillate-pubescent with reddish-brown and colourless hairs; hair falling with age but bulla-face not becoming altogether glabrous.

Male cones 1-5 together at the apex of stems, subcylindric, slightly narrowed to base and apex, 40-50 (60) cm long, 12-15 cm diam., with cylindric peduncle about 10 cm long and subtended by slender acuminate woolly bracts; median scales narrowly oblong, up to 5,5 cm long, 2,5 cm broad, nearly flat on upper surface and with microsporangia extending nearly to the lateral margins and base; bulla decurved with sharp lateral angles, 1,5-2 cm long, 1,2-1,5 cm thick vertically; upper facet with median ridge; lower facet more or less continuous with sporangial surface; terminal facet 1-1,2 cm broad and slightly less vertically, with minutely irregular margin; the width of the terminal facets from base to apex of cone fairly constant while the vertical measurement decreases to about half.

Female cones 1-3 together at apex of stems, oblong-oval, 35-50 cm long, 20-22 cm in their greatest diam., with short stout obconic peduncle and subtended by slender acuminate woolly bracts; median scales 6,5 cm long; bulla verrucose, about 3 cm long, projecting 1,5-2 cm, 4-4,5 cm broad, 2,7-2,8 cm thick vertically, with lateral ridges extending into incurved lateral lobes about 1 cm long; upper facet rounded, indistinctly ridged; lower facet slightly convex; terminal facet concave, verrucose, 2-3 cm broad, 1-2 cm wide vertically; terminal facets becoming gradually smaller towards the apex of the cone.