Many other Syzygium species internationally also have documented uses in traditional medicine. In the commercially most important species Syzygium aromaticum (clove), the unopened flower bud is used as a spice. This plant also has uses in traditional medicine due to its anaesthetic properties. The antibacterial activity of S. aromaticum is also well known. Numerous studies have reported on the antibacterial and antifungal activities of oils and extracts from this plant. Other Syzygium species from South East Asia (Syzygium jambos), India (Syzygium lineare and Syzygium cumini) and Australia have also been shown to have antimicrobial activity. Recent reports have also highlighted Syzygium australe (Bush Cherry) and Syzygium lehmannii (Riberry) extracts as having exceptionally high antioxidant contents. Antioxidants have been associated with the prevention of cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological degenerative disorders. They are also linked with anti-diabetic bioactivities and have been associated with the reduction of obesity. Antioxidants can directly scavenge free radicals, protecting cells against oxidative stress related damage to proteins, lipids and nucleic acids. Thus, Syzygium spp. have potential in the treatment of a significant number of diseases and medical conditions related to cellular redox status. This photograph was taken in St Lucia, South Africa in 2013 by Dr Ian Cock.
REFERENCES


