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Artikel: A taxonomic revision of the genus *Noronhia* Stadtm. ex Thouars (Oleaceae) in Madagascar and the Comoro Islands
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8. *Noronhia broomeana* Horne ex Oliv. in Hooker's Icon. Pl. 14: tab. 1365. 1881.

≡ *Linociera broomeana* (Horne ex Oliv.) Knobl. in Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin 11: 1028. 1934.

≡ *Chionanthus broomeana* (Horne ex Oliv.) A.J. Scott in Kew Bull. 33: 570. 1979.

Typus: MAURITIUS: Forests near Grand Bassin, [20°25'S 57°29'E], s.d., Horne s.n. (holo-: K [K000233208] image seen).

= *Linociera verrucosa* Soler. in Bot. Centralbl. 45: 399. 1891. ≡ *Mayepea verrucosa* (Soler.) Knobl. in Engler, Nat. Pflanzenfam. 4: 10. 1892. **Typus:** MAURITIUS: *sine loc.*, s.d., Sieber 125 (holo-: M [M0174392] image seen; iso-: E [E00193166] image seen, G [G00008578] image seen, K [K000233210] image seen, MO [MO2235287]!).

= *Linociera mayottensis* H. Perrier in Mém. Inst. Sci. Madagascar, Sér. B, Biol. Vég. 2: 280. 1949. ≡ *Noronhia mayottensis* (H. Perrier) Hong-Wa & Besnard in Mol. Phylogenet. Evol. 67: 376. 2013. **Typus:** MAYOTTE: *sine loc.*, between 1847 and 1852, Boivin 3196 (holo-: P [P00184542]!).

Description

Trees to 8 m tall; young twigs subquadrangular, 1.3-2.6 mm diameter, pubescent to glabrous at maturity; bark dark to medium gray, slightly rugose, with scattered lenticels. *Leaves* opposite, persistent; bud scales rarely persistent; blades light green to yellowish above and below, oblong, 6.5-12 × 2.5-5.5 cm, chartaceous, pubescent to glabrous at maturity, domatia casual, base acute, margin flat, apex acute to acuminate, the acumen 2-8 mm long, midrib flat above and distinctly raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 8-10 per side, 8-17 mm apart, looping 2-6 mm from the margin; petiole yellowish to reddish, 6-13 × 1-1.5 mm, not woody, glabrous. *Thyrse*s fasciculate, multiflorous, compact; peduncle 5-18 mm long, densely pubescent; pedicel 1-4 mm long, densely pubescent; calyx densely pubescent outside, glabrous inside, lobes triangular, 1.5 × 1.2-1.5 mm; corolla white, rotate, petals almost free, 5-6 mm long, glabrous on both sides, the tube 1 mm long, lobes oblong, apex obtuse; corona absent; stamens 3.5-3.8 mm long, anthers elongate, apiculate, 2.8 mm long; pistil 2.6 mm long, stigma bilobed. *Fruiting* pedicel 3-4 × 1.5-2 mm; young fruits green, dark brown when mature, ovoid, 22 × 9 mm, surface ribbed, apex rostellate, the rostellum flattened, ridged, apiculate; dry pericarp 0.4 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 18 × 7 mm.

Distribution, ecology and phenology

Noronhia broomeana occurs in low- to mid-elevation forests in Mascarene (Réunion and Mauritius) islands (Fig. 3) and possibly also in the Comoro islands (see notes). It produces flowers and fruits from November to March.

Conservation status *Noronhia broomeana* has not been evaluated using the IUCN criteria in the Comoros and is assigned a preliminary status of “Not Evaluated”, although it appears to have a restricted distribution there and is very likely threatened. It is also possible that the species has been extirpated from the Comoros since it is known only there from a single collection made more than 150 years ago or that it has never occurred there, as discussed below. It has been evaluated as “Endangered” in Mauritius (HONG-WA et al., 2014) and as “Vulnerable” in Réunion (UICN-FRANCE et al., 2010).

Notes *Noronhia broomeana* can be recognized by its chartaceous, somewhat pubescent leaf blades, white flowers with almost free petals, and slightly ribbed fruits. *Noronhia mayottensis* (H. Perrier) Hong-Wa & Besnard, a doubtful species from the Comoros described and recognized by PERRIER DE LA BATHIE (1949, 1952) as *Chionanthus* (ex *Linociera*) *mayottensis*, is here included within *Noronhia broomeana*, which extends the range of the latter to this archipelago. Although *N. mayottensis* was accepted earlier (HONG-WA & BESNARD, 2013), this actually resulted from a systematic transfer of all names in *Chionanthus* to *Noronhia* for species from Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands based on phylogenetic results that found them to be embedded within *Noronhia* (HONG-WA & BESNARD, 2013). The study of *N. broomeana* in Mauritius (HONG-WA et al., 2014) along with the examination of other material from Réunion allows the inclusion of *N. mayottensis* within this group. To my knowledge, no other collection assignable to *N. mayottensis* is available from the Comoros, raising the question as to whether Boivin actually collected it there. In any case, the morphological characteristics of this specimen fit well with those of *N. broomeana* across its geographic range.

Additional specimens examined MAURITIUS: s.d., *Bouton s.n.* (MAU); Rivulet Bois Beau, near Rivière des Anguilles, 193 m, 20°27'57"S 57°33'25"E, 17.V.2010, *V. Florens & Baider CB 2367* (MAU); Bassin Blanc, 550 m, 25.V.1976, *Richardson 4165* (K, MAU). RÉUNION: Ile Bourbon, 1848, *Boivin 1209* (P); Cirque de Hellbourg, Le Béliet, Sentier d'Aurère, 31.X.1972, *Bosser 21444* (P); Dos d'Ane, 650 m, II.1972, *Friedmann 1608* (P); Grand Coude, 900 m, III.1972, *Friedmann 1652* (P); Grande Chaloupe, 400 m, XI.1972, *Friedmann 1950* (P); Salazie, 1200 m, XII.1972, *Friedmann 2028* (P); Mare Longue, St. Philippe, III.1974, *Friedmann 2316* (MO, P); Cape Noire (Mafate), 10.III.1977, *Friedmann 3079* (P); Mare Longue, St. Phillipe, 200 m, 16.XI.1966, *Schlieben 10943* (MO); Dos d'Ane, 9.XI.1968, *Service Forestier 28246* (P).