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15. *Noronhia comorensis* S. Moore in J. Bot. 58: 189. 1920 (Fig. 7D).

Typus: MAYOTTE: Forêt de Combani, [12°45'S 45°08'E], 3.XI.1884, *Humblot 1376* (holo-: P [P00184551]!; iso-: BM [BM000021591] image seen, K [K000233196] image seen, P [P00184552, P00184553]!).

Description

Trees to 10 m tall, trunk to 10 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical, 0.6-1.6 mm diameter, glabrous; bark light gray, smooth to slightly rugose. *Leaves* opposite, persistent; bud scales persistent; blades medium green above, lighter below, oblong to elliptic, sometimes obovate, 6.5-14 × 2-6 cm, chartaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base acute to attenuate, margin flat to slightly undulate, apex acuminate, the acumen 6-20 mm long, midrib flat above, slightly raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 8-12 per side, 7-17 mm apart, looping 1.5-4 mm from the margin; petiole medium to light gray, 3-7 × 1-1.8 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. *Flowers* fasciculate; pedicel 5-16 mm long, glabrous; calyx sparsely pubescent outside, glabrous inside, lobes triangular, 1-2 × 1-2.2 mm; corolla yellow tinged reddish, cupuliform, 5-7 mm long, glabrous on both side, the tube 3.5-6 mm long, lobes widely ovate, apex obtuse; corona present, 1.8-2.3 mm long, undivided; stamens 2-3.2 mm long, anthers widely obovate, 1.5-2.6 mm long; pistil 2-3 mm long, stigma capitate. *Fruiting* pedicel 7-23 × 0.8-1.6 mm; young fruits green, dark brown when mature, ovoid, 10-16 × 8-10 mm, surface smooth, apex rostellate, the rostellum flattened, rounded, with the persistent style; dry pericarp 0.2-0.4 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 8.5-12 × 4-7 mm.

Distribution, ecology and phenology

Noronhia comorensis occurs in low- to mid-elevation humid forests in the Comoro Islands (Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mayotte, and Moheli) (Fig. 9). It produces flowers and fruits from September to May.

Conservation status

Based on 15 collections representing eight localities, the assessment provided an EOO of 966 km², an AOO of 32 km², and seven subpopulations representing seven locations, of which three occur within protected areas (Réserves forestières de Benara, des Crêtes du Nord et de Majimbini). A decline in EOO and AOO as well as in habitat quality will very likely occur due to land conversion affecting the subpopulations in Anjouan, Grande Comore and Moheli, which are not encompassed within protected areas. Therefore, *N. comorensis* is assigned a preliminary status of "Vulnerable" [VU B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii, iii,iv,v)].

Notes

Noronhia comorensis can be recognized by its chartaceous, oblong to elliptic leaf blades, fasciculate, yellow flowers, and distinctly rostellate fruits. It differs from *N. cochleata* by the features mentioned under that species.

**Additional specimens
examined**

COMOROS: Anjouan (Ndzouani), 1 km E of Lingoni, 200-200 m, 14.IX.1991, *Attoumane* 13 (MO); Anjouan (Ndzouani), *Lavanchie* s.n. (P); Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Iconi, 11°43'48"S 43°14'03"E, 27 m, 23.V.2006, *Labat* 3677 (K, MO, P); Moheli (Mwali), piste du Bajo au sommet du M'Ze, 12.XI.1970, *Jacquemin* 860J (P); Miringoni, Mdawnyombe Chalet Saint-Antoine, 12°17'18"S 43°39'51"E, 688 m, 29.V.2006, *Labat et al.* 3729 (K, MO, P). MAYOTTE: Chinconi, Grande Terre, Coconi, 5.II.2001, *Barthelat & M'Changama* 282 (G, MO, P); Dembeni, Réserve forestière de Benara, 7.IX.2001, *Barthelat* 486 (G, K, MO, P); Chembenyoumba, Hachirongou, 9.X.2001, *Barthelat* 537 (G, K, MO, P); Mamoudzou, La Convalescence, Réserve forestière de Majimbini, 11.I.2002, *Barthelat & Sifary* 673 (G, K, MO, P); *ibid. loc.*, 11.I.2002, *Barthelat & Sifary* 675 (G, K, MO, P); *ibid. loc.*, Réserve de Majimbini, Mlima M'Tsapere, 12°46'10"S 45°11'26"E, 300-400 m, 19.XI.2000, *Labat* 3257 (G, K, MO, P); *ibid. loc.*, 23.XI.2000, *Labat* 3281 (G, K, MO, P); Piste de Convalescence, 11.XII.1990, *Ménager* 552 (MO, P); Hachiroungou, [12°43'S 45°04'E], 450 m, 16.IV.1996, *Pascal* 507 (MO, P); Convalescence, 400 m, 18.IX.1996, *Pascal* 666 (BR, G, MO, NY, P, WAG).