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17. *Noronhia coriacea* Hong-Wa, spec. nova (Fig. 11).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toliara:** Anosy, Andohahela (parcel 3), Ankazofotsy, 25°01'S 46°38'E, 15.V.2001, *Randriamampionona 1004* (holo-: MO-6615574!; iso-: BR!, G [G00341630]!, K!, MO-6616000!, P [P03533041]!, TAN!, US!, WAG!).

Diagnosis *Noronhia coriacea* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its white bark, its thick, coriaceous, shiny leaf blades and its ovoid and smooth fruits.

Description Trees to 6 m tall; young twigs flattened, 1.3-1.5 mm diameter, glabrous; bark whitish, smooth to rugose. Leaves opposite, persistent; bud scales rarely persistent; blades glossy green almost silvery above, dull green to yellowish below, oblanceolate to obovate, 6.5-9 × 1.8-2.2 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base acute to attenuate, margin slightly revolute, apex retuse to rounded, midrib slightly sunken above, distinctly raised above, secondary veins inconspicuous, 9-11 per side, 7-10 mm apart, looping 1-2 mm from the margin; petiole whitish, 6-9 × 1.5-1.7 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. Flowers unseen, but infructescence thyrsoid. Fruiting pedicel 5-7 × 0.9-1.3 mm; young fruits green, unseen mature, ovoid, 11.5-11.8 × 9-10 mm, smooth, apex flat to bluntly pointed, ridged, style persistent; dry pericarp 1.2-1.5 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 7-7.5 × 4-4.5 mm.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia coriacea* occurs in low elevation transitional forest on basement rocks at Andohahela in the south (Fig. 9). It has been collected in fruits in May.

Conservation status With just a single collection known from a restricted forest (Andohahela Parcel 3), *N. coriacea* has an AOO of just 4 km² and one subpopulation, representing a single location. Despite its occurrence within a protected area (Andohahela), which theoretically provides protection, this species may nonetheless experience a decline in habitat quality in the near future due to the close proximity of the subpopulation to a national road (less than 100 m away), where forest clearance can be observed. Therefore, *N. coriacea* is assigned a preliminary status of "Vulnerable" [VU D2].

Notes *Noronhia coriacea* is somewhat similar to *N. retusifolia* Hong-Wa, but can be distinguished by having only opposite leaves (vs. opposite to verticillate at the tips of the branches), by the absence (vs. presence) of domatia on the abaxial surface of the leaf blades, and by having smooth (vs. rugose) fruits. The new species can be recognized by its white bark, thick, coriaceous, shiny leaf blades, and ovoid and smooth fruits.

Fig. 11. *Noronhia coriacea* Hong-Wa.
A. Fruiting branch; **B.** Abaxial side of leaf blade;
C. Adaxial side of leaf blade; **D.** Fruit.

[*Randriamampionona* 1004, MO] Drawings: R.L. Andriamiarisoa

