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21. *Noronhia dauphinensis* Hong-Wa, *spec. nova* (Fig. 14).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toliara:** Anosy, Fort-Dauphin, Iaboko, Antsotso, forêt Ivohibe, 24°33'52"S 47°14'25"E, 112 m, 26.XI.2005, Razakamalala *et al.* 2380 (holo-: MO-6615557!; iso-: G [G00341620]!, P [P06490461]!, TAN!).

Diagnosis *Noronhia dauphinensis* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other congeneric species by its distichous, oblong to elliptic leaf blades subtended by a short petiole and its compact inflorescences.

Description Small trees to 8 m tall, trunk to 8 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical to somewhat flattened, 1.2-1.7 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray to brownish, smooth. Leaves opposite, persistent; bud scales deciduous; blades dark green above, lighter below, oblong to elliptic or lanceolate, 6-12.5 × 2.5-7 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base rounded to acute, margin slightly revolute, apex acuminate, the acumen 3-7 mm long, midrib sunken above, raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 8-12 per side, 10-20 mm apart, looping 1.5-4 mm from the margin; petiole medium gray to brownish, 2-7 × 1.5-3 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. *Thyraxes* geminate, multiflorous, compact; peduncle 1-3 mm long, moderately pubescent; pedicel 1.5-3 mm long, moderately pubescent; calyx sparsely pubescent outside, glabrous inside, lobes triangular, 0.7-1 × 0.9-1.4 mm; corolla white, cupuliform, 3.5-4.2 mm long, glabrous on both sides, the tube 1.5-3 mm long, lobes oblong, apex obtuse; corona present, 1.2-1.5 mm long, undivided; stamens 1.2-1.7 mm long, anthers oblong, 0.9-1.2 mm long; pistil 1.3-1.8 mm long, stigma slightly bilobed. *Fruiting* pedicel 5-6 × 1-1.2 mm; young fruits green, dark brownish when mature, ovoid, 8.5-10 × 6.5-7.5 mm, surface smooth, apex flat, with the persistent style; dry pericarp 0.4 mm thick; endocarp woody.

Etymology This species is known only from the region of Fort-Dauphin, from which the epithet "dauphinensis" is derived.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia dauphinensis* occurs in low-elevation humid forests on basement rocks north of Fort-Dauphin in the south (Fig. 9). It produces flowers and fruits from November to May.

Conservation status The assessment was based on six collections representing five localities and yielded an EOO of just 7 km² and two subpopulations representing a single location (Bemangidy-Ivohibe forest). Some of the collections are encompassed within the newly established protected area of Tsitongambarika (including Bemangidy-Ivohibe), which will gradually be less subject to threats. However, others are found outside of the new protected area and will likely experience continuing decline in habitat quality and in the number of mature individuals resulting from forest exploitation. Thus, *N. dauphinensis* is assigned a preliminary status of "Endangered" [EN B2ab(iii,v)].

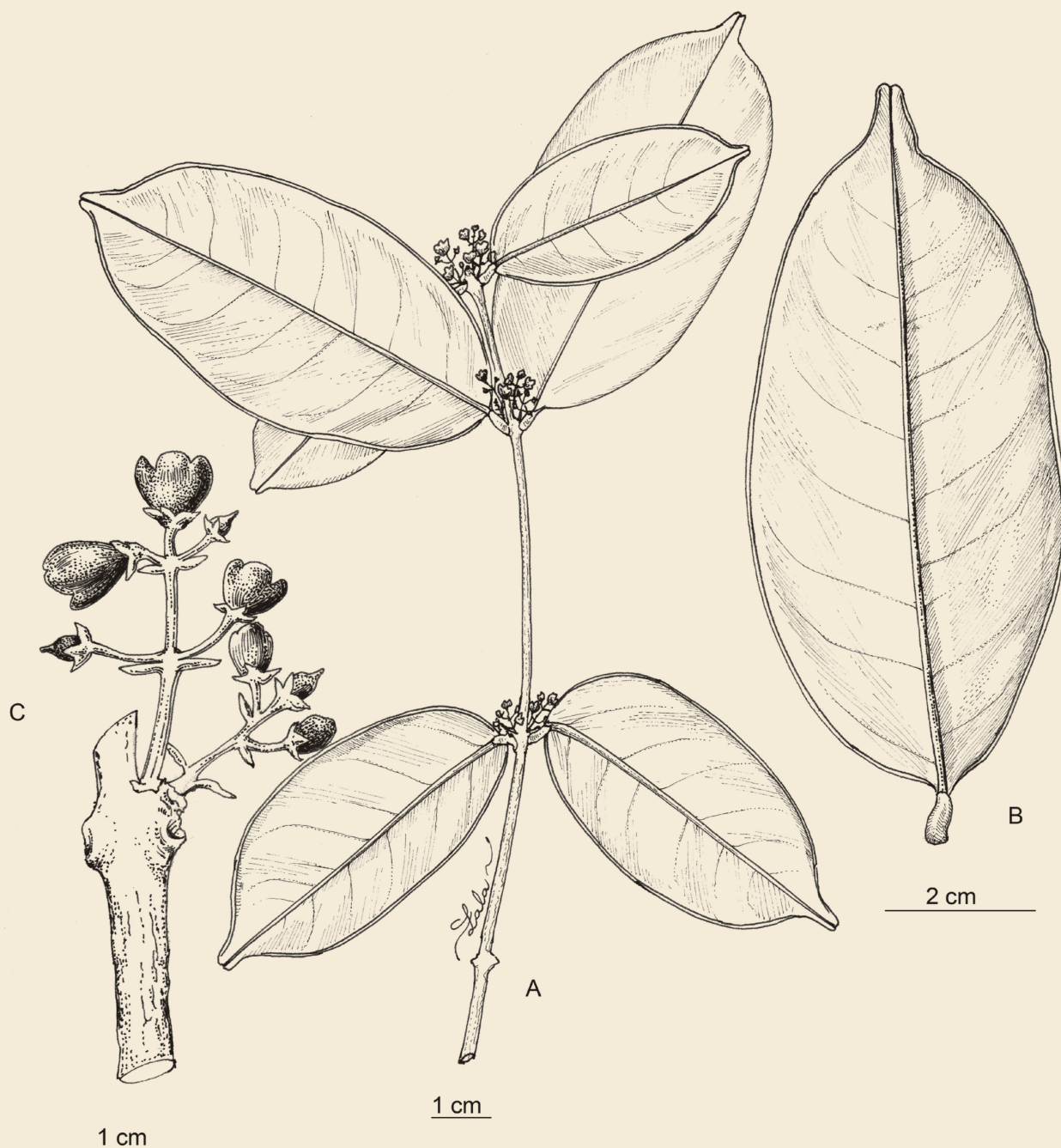


Fig. 14. *Noronhia dauphinensis* Hong-Wa.
A. Flowering branch; **B.** Abaxial side of leaf blade; **C.** Inflorescence.

[Rozakamalala 2380, TAN] Drawings: R.L. Andriamiarisoa

Notes *Noronhia dauphinensis* most closely resembles *N. boivinii*, from which it differs mainly by its thyrsoid inflorescences (vs. fasciculate flowers), cupuliform (vs. urceolate to campanulate), white (vs. pink to reddish) corolla, and bilobed (vs. capitate) stigma. The new species can be recognized by its distichous, oblong to elliptic leaf blades subtended by a short petiole and its compact inflorescences.

Paratypes **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Toliara:** Fort-Dauphin, Bemangidy Forest, 24°34'05"S 47°12'38"E, 100 m, 10.II.2006, *Lowry et al.* 6741 (G, MO, P); Iabakoho, Antsotso Avaratra, Ivohibe, 24°34'10"S 47°12'26"E, 105 m, 24.V.2006, *Birkinshaw* 1642 (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, 24°35'33"S 47°12'52"E, 22.V.2006, *Rajoharison et al.* 156 (MO, P, TEF); *ibid. loc.*, 24°33'52"S 47°11'43"E, 386 m, 1.XI.2005, *Razakamalala et al.* 2463 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, *Razakamalala et al.* 2551 (MO, P, TAN).