

# Noronhia intermedia

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**37. *Noronhia intermedia*** Hong-Wa, *spec. nova* (Fig. 26).

**Typus:** MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Antsiranana:** SAVA, Vohémar, Daraina, forêt d'Ambohitsitondroina, 13°08'S 49°27'E, 210 m, 11.I.2006, *Ranirison & Nusbaumer 1073* (holo-: MO-6410087!; iso-: Daraina, G [G00090500], K, P [P04255368] image seen, TEF).

**Diagnosis** *Noronhia intermedia* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its obovate to obtrullate, distinctly acuminate and coriaceous leaf blades, and its geminate to fasciculate flowers with pale green corolla.

**Description** Shrubs to 6 m tall, trunk to 3 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical, 0.9-1.3 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray, somewhat rugose, with scattered lenticels. Leaves opposite, persistent; bud scales persistent; blades medium green above, lighter below, obovate to obtrullate, 5.1-6.7 × 2-3 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base attenuate, sometimes acute, margin slightly revolute and undulate, apex acuminate, the acumen 7-12 mm long, midrib sunken above, raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 7-9 per side, 7-9 mm apart, looping 1-3 mm from the margin; petiole medium gray, 3-7 × 1.1-1.6 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. Flowers geminate to fasciculate; pedicel 10-23 mm long, glabrous; calyx moderately pubescent outside, the pubescence being clustered at the tips, glabrous inside, lobes deltate, 2-3 × 1.8-2.5 mm; corolla pale green, urceolate, 5-6.5 mm long, glabrous on both sides, the tube 4-5 mm long, lobes deltate, apex obtuse; corona present, 1.7-2 mm long, undivided; stamens 2.2-2.5 mm long, anthers slightly obovate, 1.6-2 mm long; pistil 2.8-3.5 mm long, stigma capitate to slightly bilobed. Fruiting pedicel 14-25 × 0.8-1 mm; young fruits green, brownish when mature, ovoid, surface smooth to rugose, apex rostrate, the rostrum flattened, ridged, apiculate; endocarp woody.

**Etymology** *Noronhia intermedia* is somewhat intermediate between *N. candicans* and *N. crassinodis*. It is this condition that was used to derive its name.

**Distribution, ecology and phenology** *Noronhia intermedia* occurs in low- to mid-elevation transitional to humid forest around Daraina in the north (Fig. 27). It produces flowers and fruits from December to March.

**Conservation status** *Noronhia intermedia* is currently known only from the forests around Daraina, with an EOO of just 13 km<sup>2</sup> and an AOO of 12 km<sup>2</sup>. Two subpopulations representing two locations can be recognized, all of which are encompassed within the newly established protected area of Loky-Manambato. However, despite benefiting from this new protection, the Loky-Manambato complex has the only large remaining patches of forest in an otherwise heavily degraded area, upon which the predominantly



**Fig. 26.** *Noronhia intermedia* Hong-Wa.

**A.** Flowering branch; **B.** Adaxial side of leaf blade; **C.** Abaxial side of leaf blade; **D.** Flower; **E.** Lateral view of corona; **F.** Pistil; **G.** Stamen.

[A-C: Ranirison 1073, TEF; D-G: Nusbaumer 869, M0] Drawings: R.L. Andriamiarisoa

farm-oriented and fast-growing surrounding human population depends. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the forests are still potentially subject to illicit exploitation and encroachment. Thus, with an AOO of less than 20 km<sup>2</sup>, a small number of locations and some lingering threats, *N. intermedia* is assigned a preliminary status of “Vulnerable” [VU D2].

**Notes** *Noronhia intermedia* appears to be morphologically intermediate between *N. candicans* and *N. crassinodis*, with both of which it shares some leaf characters, but from which it differs by its obovate to obtrullate (vs. oblong to broadly elliptic in *N. candicans* and obovate in *N. crassinodis*), acuminate leaf blades (vs. acute to acuminate and mucronulate, respectively), greenish flowers (vs. reddish in both the other two species) borne on longer pedicels (10-23 mm vs. 3-20 mm and 8-20 mm), and smooth to rugose (vs. smooth and punctate, respectively) fruits. The new species can be recognized by its obovate to obtrullate, distinctly acuminate and coriaceous leaf blades, and geminate to fasciculate flowers with pale green corolla.

**Paratypes** **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antsiranana:** Vohémar, Daraina, forêt d’Ambohitsitondroina, 13°07’55”S 49°28’13”E, 140 m, 22.III.2004, *Gautier et al.* 4676 (Daraina, G, K, MO, P, TEF); Daraina, forêt de Binara, 13°15’44”S 49°36’17”E, 715 m, 21.XII.2003, *Nusbauer* 869 (Daraina, G, K, MO, TEF).



Fig. 27. Distribution maps of species of *Noronhia* Stadtm. ex Thouars. *N. intermedia* Hong-Wa to *N. macrocarpa* Hong-Wa.