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59. *Noronhia olearia* Hong-Wa, **nom. nov.** (Fig. 43A).

≡ *Olea ambrensis* H. Perrier in Mém. Inst. Sci. Madagascar, Sér. B, Biol. Vég. 2 : 277. 1949 [non *Noronhia ambrensis* H. Perrier in Mém. Inst. Sci. Madagascar, Sér. B, Biol. Vég. 2 : 277. 1949].

Typus : MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Antsiranana :** Centre (Nord) : Montagne d'Ambre, près de Diégo-Suarez, [12°33'S 49°08'E], 1000-1200 m, IX.1926, *Perrier de la Bâthie 17706* (holo- : P [P00162996] !).

Description

Trees to 10 m tall, trunk to 30 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical, 0.5-2 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray, smooth, sometimes lenticellate. *Leaves* opposite, persistent; bud scales persistent; blades dark green above, lighter below, lanceolate, 4-11 × 1.6-4.3 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base acute to attenuate, margin flat to slightly undulate, apex acute to acuminate, the acumen 1-9 mm long, midrib slightly sunken above, raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 7-12 per side, 4-19 mm apart, looping 1-5 mm from the margin; petiole yellow, 4-14 × 0.9-2 mm, usually not woody, sometimes only partially, glabrous. *Flowers* unseen, but infructescence thyrsoïd. *Fruiting pedicel* 4-13 × 0.5-2 mm; young fruits green, reddish brown when mature, ovoid, 11-22.5 × 8-16 mm, surface smooth, sometimes verrucose, apex apiculate; dry pericarp 0.4-0.6 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 11-16 × 6.5-12 mm.

Distribution, ecology and phenology

Noronhia olearia occurs in low- to mid-elevation transitional forests in the north, from Cap St. Sébastien to Montagne d'Ambre (Fig. 36). It fruits from January to June.

Conservation status

The assessment included 10 collections representing eight localities and resulted in an EOO of 377 km², an AOO of 28 km², and four subpopulations representing three locations, of which two occur within a protected area (Montagne d'Ambre). One of the subpopulations occurs in an area that is now highly degraded as a result of land conversion for agriculture and pasture, and other forms of forest exploitation. The subpopulations within Montagne d'Ambre PN, especially those at the periphery, also suffer from illicit exploitation of wood and other forest products as well as encroachment for crop and khat cultivation. All these threats will lead to decline in habitat quality and number of individuals as well as habitat loss. Therefore, *Noronhia olearia* is assigned a preliminary status of "Endangered" [EN B1ab(i,i i,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)].

Notes *Noronhia olearia* can be recognized by its yellow to reddish petioles and apiculate to rostrate fruits, which are often covered with a white pellicle. It differs from *N. linocerioides* by its lanceolate (vs. elliptic), coriaceous (vs. chartaceous) leaf blades, and smooth to verrucose (vs. smooth to punctate) fruits with an apiculate to rostrate (vs. rostellate) apex. This species was first described as *Olea ambrensis*, whose type (Perrier de la Bâthie 17706) morphologically resembles the following specimens: *Andrianantoanina* 130, 313 and 366, *Hong-Wa* 573 and 693, *Leeuwenberg* 14309 and *Schatz* 1501. Another collection, *Richard* 192 [P00701261, P04046974], identified by PERRIER DE LA BÂTHIE as *Noronhia ambrensis*, also belongs to this group. Molecular studies placed material of *Hong-Wa* 573 and 693 deep within *Noronhia* (HONG-WA & BESNARD, 2013, 2014) rather than within *Olea*. Similarly, other specimens recognized as *O. ambrensis* by GREEN (2002) fell elsewhere within *Noronhia*, close to collections to which they resemble (e.g. *Schatz* 3605 in *N. linocerioides*). Since the binomial *Noronhia ambrensis* is already occupied and no other validly published names are available for the entity described as *Olea ambrensis*, a new name is proposed here.

Additional specimens examined

MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antsiranana: Joffreville, Montagne d'Ambre PN, 12°31'S 49°09'E, 700-900 m, 3-11.V.1993, *Andrianantoanina et al.* 130 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, 12°27'S 49°13'E, 250-500 m, 3-10.VIII.1993, *Andrianantoanina & Rochscoehclher* 269 (K, MO, P); *ibid. loc.*, 12°35'S 49°09'E, 1475 m, 26.VIII-IX.1993, *Andrianantoanina* 313 (K, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, 12°27'S 49°13'E, 250-500 m, 29.IX-5.X.1993, *Andrianantoanina* 366 (K, MO); *ibid. loc.*, 12°33'S 49°08'E, 1000 m, 22.I.2009, *Hong-Wa* 573 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, 12°31'43"S 49°10'21"E, 993 m, 18.V.2010, *Hong-Wa & Ortiz* 693 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, near Station des Roussettes, 12°31'S 49°10'E, 1000 m, 23.I.1994, *Leeuwenberg* 14309 (MO, P, WAG); Cap St. Sébastien, [12°26'S 48°44'E], 1837, *Richard* 192 (P); Ambohitra (Joffreville), Montagne d'Ambre PN, 12°33'S 49°08'E, 1000 m, 13.IX.1987, *Schatz* 1501 (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, [12°33'S 49°08'E], 19.V.1987, *Service Forestier* 31599 (TEF).



Fig. 43. Photographs of *Noronhia* Stadtm. ex Thouars.
A. *Noronhia olearia* Hong-Wa [Hong-Wa 573]; **B.** *Noronhia orientalis* Hong-Wa [Hong-Wa 636].

Photos : C. Hong-Wa