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Kapitel: 68: Noronhia randrianaivoi

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68. *Noronhia randrianaivoi* Hong-Wa, spec. nova (Fig. 52, 53).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. Prov. Toliara: Anosy, Fort-Dauphin, Ankarara, Tsimelahy, à 6 km à l'E du gite (bureau de l'ANGAP), 24°56'37"S 46°39'10"E, 227 m, 4.III.2008, Randrianaivo et al. 1564 (holo-: MO-6615567!; iso-: G [G00341626]!, P, TAN).

Diagnosis *Noronhia randrianaivoi* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other congeneric species by its short, non-woody petioles, its ovate leaves, its long, diffuse inflorescences, with cupuliform, red flowers.

Description Shrubs; young twigs cylindrical, 0.7-0.8 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray, smooth. Leaves opposite, persistent; bud scales deciduous; blades dark green above, lighter below, ovate, 4-6.5 × 2-3 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base cordate, margin slightly revolute, apex acuminate, the acumen 3-4 mm long, midrib flat above, slightly raised below, secondary veins conspicuous mostly above, 6-8 per side, 5-10 mm apart, looping 2-3 mm from the margin; petiole green, 2 × 1-1.6 mm, not woody, glabrous. Thyrses solitary, pauciflorous, diffuse; peduncle 11-21 mm long, glabrous; pedicel 8-11 mm long, glabrous; calyx sparsely pubescent outside, glabrous inside, lobes triangular, 1-1.5 × 1-1.3 mm; corolla red, cupuliform, 5-7 mm long, glabrous on both sides, the tube 2-3 mm long, widely ovate, apex acute; corona present, 1.5 mm long, lobed; stamens 2 mm long, anthers widely oblong, 1.5 mm long; pistil 2.8 mm long, stigma capitate to bilobed. Fruits unseen.

Etymology This name honors Richard Randrianaivo, a botanist at the Missouri Botanical Garden in Madagascar, for collecting the type specimen and for contributing to the knowledge of the Malagasy flora.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia randrianaivoi* occurs in mid-elevation transitional forests and basement rocks in Andohahela PN in southern Madagascar (Fig. 49). It has been collected in flowers in March.

Conservation status *Noronhia randrianaivoi* is currently known only from a single collection made outside a protected area, where decline in habitat quality resulting from forest exploitation continues. With an AOO of just 4 km², a single location and projected continuing decline, *N. randrianaivoi* is assigned a preliminary status of "Critically Endangered" [CR B2(iii)].

Notes *Noronhia randrianaivoi* is similar to *N. ovalifolia*, but can be distinguished by its non-woody (vs. woody) petioles, thyrsoid inflorescences (vs. solitary flowers), and red (vs. pink) corolla. Distinguishing features of this species include short, non-woody petioles, ovate leaf blades, long, diffuse inflorescences, and cupuliform, red flowers.

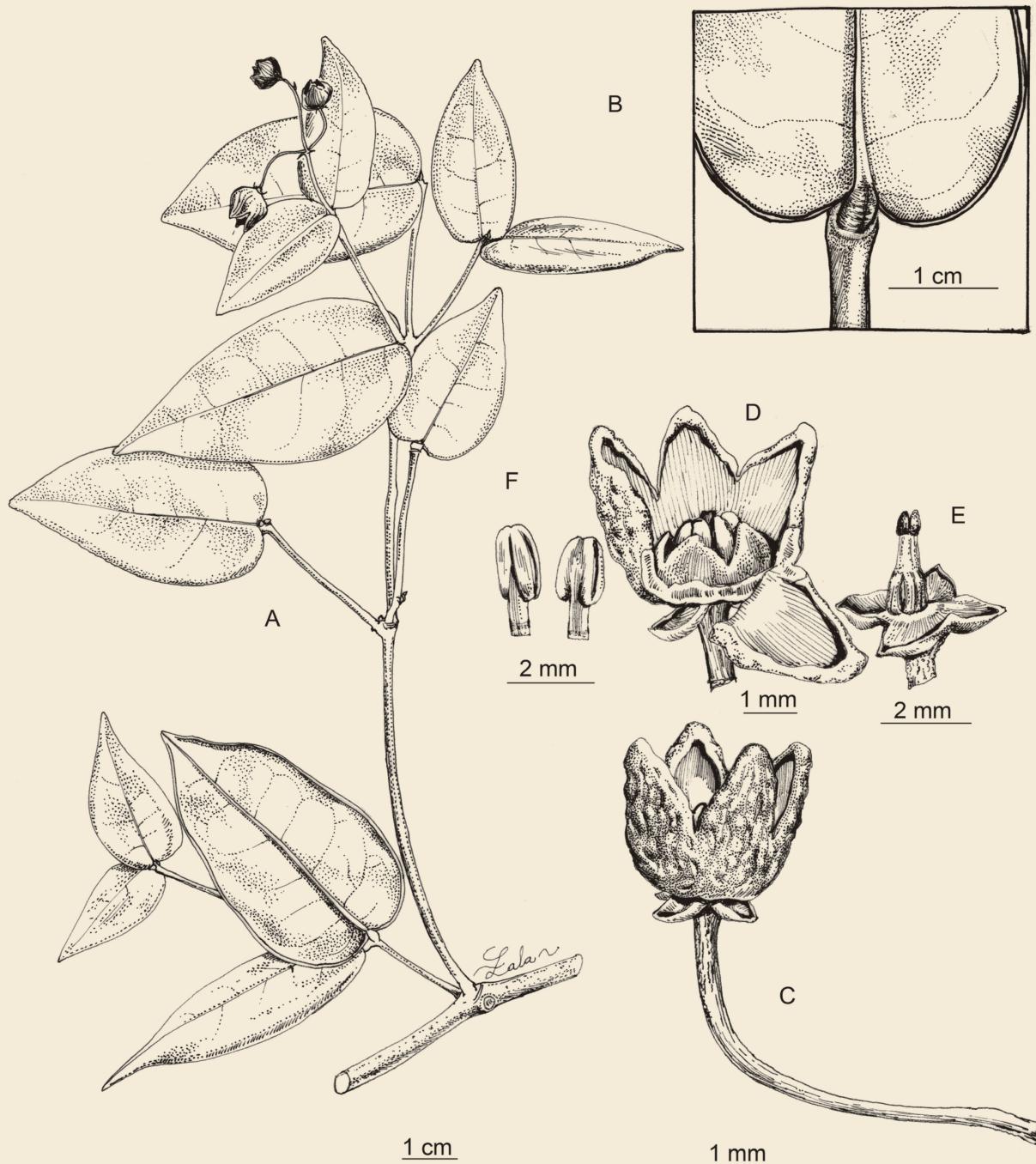


Fig. 52.

Noronhia randrianaivoi Hong-Wa.

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

[Ranorianaivo 1564, TAN] Drawings: R. L. Andriamiarisoa



Fig. 53. *Noronhia randrianaivoi* Hong-Wa [Randrianaivo 1564].

Photo: F. Ratovoson