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69. *Noronhia ratovosonii* Hong-Wa, *spec. nova* (Fig. 54).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Antsiranana:** DIANA, Andranovondronina, Anjiabe, forêt de Belamoty, à 3 km au NE, 12°06'09"S 49°19'34"E, 85 m, 10.XI.2006, *Ratovoson et al.* 1153 (holo-: MO-6615566!; iso-: CNARP, G, P [P04254202] image seen, TAN).

Diagnosis *Noronhia ratovosonii* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its coriaceous, linear to obovate leaf blades, with a retuse to obcordate apex, and its ovoid, somewhat rugose fruits.

Description Shrubs to 2 m tall, trunk to 5 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical, 1-1.5 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray, smooth to slightly rugose. Leaves opposite, persistent; bud scales persistent; blades medium green above, lighter below, linear to obovate, 4-6 × 1-2.5 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base rounded, margin revolute, apex retuse to obcordate, sometimes slightly acuminate, the acumens 0-3 mm long, midrib sunken above, raised below, secondary veins inconspicuous, 6-8 per side, 5-12 mm apart, looping 1-2 mm from the margin; petiole light gray to whitish, 2.5-5 × 1-1.3 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. Flowers unseen, but fruits solitary. Fruiting pedicel 4-8 × 1-1.5 mm; young fruits green, brownish when mature, ovoid, 8.5-17.5 × 7-10 mm, surface smooth to rugose, sometimes covered with a white pellicle, apex rostellate, the rostellum flattened, ridged, rounded, with the persistent style; dry pericarp 0.7 mm thick; endocarp woody.

Etymology This species is dedicated to Fidisoa "Fidy" Ratovoson, a botanist at the Missouri Botanical Garden in Madagascar, for collecting the type specimen and other numerous materials of *Noronhia*, for helping to locate specimens deposited at CNARP, TAN and TEF, and otherwise for assisting with various aspects of this work.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia ratovosonii* occurs in low-elevation dry forests on limestones and unconsolidated sands in the north, around Montagne des Français (Fig. 49). Its flowering period is unknown, and it fruits from August to November.

Conservation status Based on four collections representing three localities, the assessment yielded an EOO of 74 km², an AOO of 12 km², and three subpopulations representing three locations, of which only one occurs within a protected area (Montagne des Français). Suitable habitat, both outside and inside of protected areas, will likely continue to experience some form of degradation and loss resulting from [illicit] forest exploitation, invasive species, and expansion of agricultural fields. Consequently, *N. ratovosonii* is assigned a preliminary status of "Endangered" [EN B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)].

Notes *Noronhia ratovosonii* is similar to *N. longipedicellata*, but can distinguished by its habit (shrubs vs. trees), retuse to obcordate (vs. retuse to mucronate) leaf blades, and shorter pedicels (less than 1 cm vs. 1-3 cm long). The new species can be recognized by its coriaceous, linear to obovate leaves and ovoid, somewhat rugose fruits.

Paratypes **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antsiranana:** Andranovondronina, Anjiabe, Antsaravy, forêt Antafian'i Tsirambaza, 12°08'53"S 49°20'31"E, 8 m, 17.III.2006, *Guittou 318* (CNARP, MO, P, TAN); Ramena, Andavakoera, 12°19'57"S 49°21'19"E, 172 m, 4.VIII.2007, *Hong-Wa et al. 525* (CNARP, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loc.*, *Hong-Wa et al. 548* (TAN).

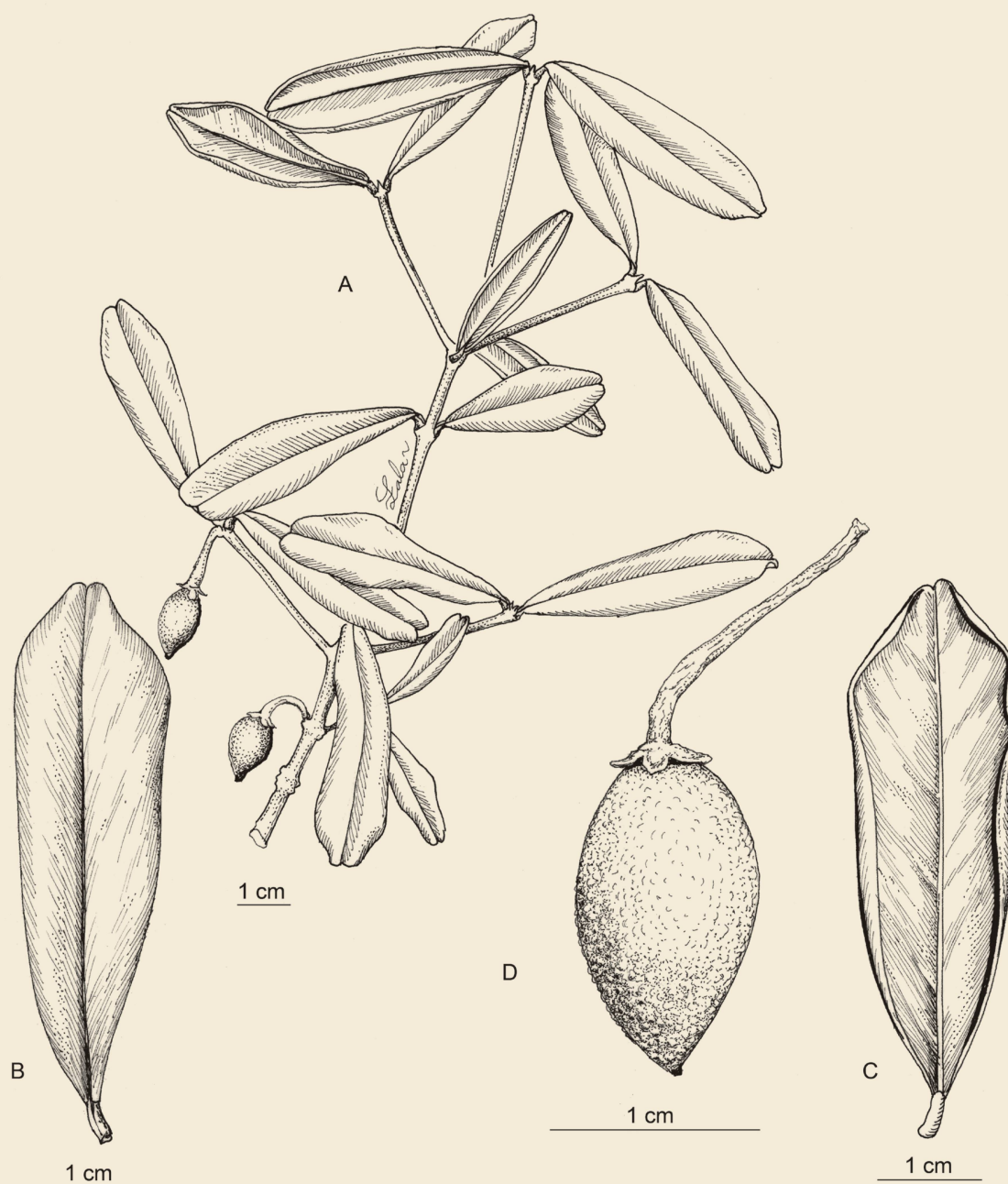


Fig. 54.

Noronhia ratovosonii Hong-Wa.

A. Fructing branch; **B.** Adaxial side of leaf blade; **C.** Abaxial side of leaf blade; **D.** Fruit.

[Hong-Wa 525, TAN] Drawings: R. L. Andriamiarisoa