

Zeitschrift: Boissiera : mémoires de botanique systématique
Herausgeber: Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève
Band: 70 (2016)

Artikel: A taxonomic revision of the genus *Noronhia* Stadtm. ex Thouars (Oleaceae) in Madagascar and the Comoro Islands
Autor: Hong-Wa, Cynthia
Kapitel: 70: *Noronhia retusifolia*
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-1036126>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 26.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

70. *Noronhia retusifolia* Hong-Wa, *spec. nova* (Fig. 55, 56A).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toliara:** Anosy, Fort-Dauphin, Ampasy Nampoana, forêt de Mandena, 24°57'10"S 47°00'10"E, 9 m, 13.II.2009, *Hong-Wa 600* (holo-: MO-6615559!; iso-: G [G00341621]!, P!, TAN!).

Diagnosis *Noronhia retusifolia* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from its congeners by its rugose bark, its oblanceolate, distinctly veined leaf blades that are verticillate at the tips of the branches, its retuse leaf apex, and its rugose fruits.

Description Trees to 12 m tall, trunk to 13 cm diameter; young twigs cylindrical to subquadrangular, 2-2.7 mm diameter, glabrous; bark medium gray, rugose. Leaves opposite, verticillate at the tips of the branches, persistent; bud scales rarely persistent; blades medium green above, lighter below, oblanceolate to obovate, 6.5-9 × 2-3 cm, subcoriaceous, glabrous, domatia common, base rounded, margin slightly revolute, apex retuse, midrib sunken above, raised below, secondary veins conspicuous, 9-14 per side, 9-12 mm apart, looping 2-3 mm from the margin; petiole medium gray, 8-11 × 1.5-2.5 mm, entirely woody, glabrous. Flowers unseen, but infructescence thyrsoïd. Fruiting pedicel 5-8 × 2-2.5 mm; young fruits green, reddish brown when mature, ovoid, 14.5-17 × 11-12 mm, rugose, apex flat to bluntly pointed; dry pericarp 1.7-2 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 9-10 × 4-8 mm.

Etymology The specific epithet refers to the distinctly retuse apex of the leaf blade, which characterizes this species.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia retusifolia* occurs on unconsolidated sands in the littoral forest of Mandena, north of Fort-Dauphin in the south (Fig. 49). It has been collected in fruits in February.

Conservation status *Noronhia retusifolia* is known only from a single collection from a small remnant of littoral forest (Mandena) in southeastern Madagascar, which has just received a permanent protection status that does not, however, preclude continued habitat degradation resulting from illicit exploitation in the context of a growing population. The surrounding areas are also being converted for ilmenite exploitation, leaving this littoral forest patch even more isolated from such other patches. Although the individual sampled appears growing close to the QMM-Rio Tinto nursery where GPS data were recorded for a group of specimens, it actually occurs farther in an area that is probably not under constant surveillance. In addition, this species appears to be rare as discussed below. Therefore, *N. retusifolia* is assigned a preliminary status of "Critically Endangered" [CR B2(iii); D].

Fig. 55.

Noronhia retusifolia Hong-Wa.

A. Fruiting branch; **B.** Fruit.

[Hong-Wa 600, TAN] Drawings: R. L. Andriamiarisoa



Notes *Noronhia retusifolia* most closely resembles *N. orientalis*, from which it differs by having leaves that are oblanceolate to obovate (vs. oblong to obovate), flat (vs. sub-bullate), and 9×3 cm (vs. 15×5 cm), shorter petioles (less than 11 mm vs. up to 22 mm), and fruits that are rugose (vs. smooth to sometimes slightly rugose). The rugose bark, oblanceolate, distinctly veined leaf blades that are verticillate at the tips of the branches, retuse leaf apex, and rugose fruits characterize this species.

Noronhia retusifolia is known only from the type specimen and appears to be rare. This is rather surprising given the level of botanical inventory done within the small littoral forest of Mandena since the late 1940s. Indeed, more than 2,000 plant collections have been made from this site, of which about 20 are identified as *Noronhia*. It is, however, possible that the numerous unidentified [and unfiled] collections of the *Service Forestier de Madagascar* held in the Paris herbarium include other representatives of this species.



Fig. 56. Photographs of *Noronhia* Stadtm. ex Thouars. **A.** *Noronhia retusifolia* Hong-Wa [Hong-Wa 600]; **B.** *Noronhia rostrata* Hong-Wa [Ammann 484]; **C.** *Noronhia sambiranensis* H. Perrier [Callmander 535]; **D.** *Noronhia seyrigii* H. Perrier [Andriamihajarivo 1100].

Photos : taken by respective collectors except D : F. Rakotoarivony