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23. *Abrahamia nitida* (Engl.) Randrian. & Lowry, **comb. nova.**

≡ *Protorhus nitida* Engl. in Bot. Jarhb. Syst. 1: 421. 1881.

Typus: MADAGASCAR: *sine loco*, s.d., fl., *Thouars s.n.* (holo-: P [P00722662]!; iso-: P [P00722664]!).

Description *Trees* 4-25 m tall, 10-22 cm DBH, bark with red or white milky latex; young twigs glabrous or glabrescent, with lenticels, waxy. *Leaves* usually whorled, sometimes opposite; blades oblanceolate, 3.5-10.5 × 1.5-3.8 cm, coriaceous, apex emarginate or retuse, margin revolute, base cuneate, glabrous on both surfaces, venation craspedodromous, midvein prominent abaxially, secondary veins 20-30 pairs, parallel, 3 mm apart, prominent abaxially, tertiary veins very slightly raised on abaxial surface; petiole 5-15 mm long, canaliculate on adaxial surface, glabrous. *Inflorescence* axillary or terminal, a panicle, 2-4 cm long, axes flattened, glabrous or glabrescent. *Male and female flowers* 5-merous; pedicel 0.5 mm long, pubescent; calyx lobes deltoid to triangular, 0.5-0.7 × 1-1.2 mm, valvate, glabrous, persistent on fruit; corolla lobes ovate, 2-2.2 × 1-1.5 mm, imbricate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface with short reddish indument; stamens 5. *Male flowers* with filaments c. 1 mm long, glabrous, anthers 0.5 mm long, ovoid to subglobose, glabrous; disk c. 1 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary rudimentary. *Female flowers* with filaments c. 1 mm long, anthers 0.5 × 0.5 mm, obloid to ovoid, sterile, glabrous; disk c. 1 mm in diam., cupuliform, glabrous; ovary c. 0.5-0.6 × 1 mm, broadly ovoid, glabrous, placentation subapical, style very short, c. 0.2-0.3 mm long, apical, stigmas capitate. *Fruits* 2-2.5 × 1-1.5 cm, ellipsoid, glabrous, surface smooth.

Vernacular names “Ditimenafotsy”, “Hazombarorana”, “Tahaka”, “Tsiramiramy”.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Abrahamia nitida* occurs in humid forest in coastal eastern Madagascar (Map 6). It has been recorded in flower in December and in fruit in late January.

Conservation status With an EOO of 45,042 km², a minimum AOO of 76 km², and 14 known locations, with subpopulations in 4 protected areas (Agnalazaha, Makira, Nosy Mangabe, and Pointe à Lareée) and the remainder subjected to pressure from forest exploitation and land clearing, *A. nitida* is assigned a preliminary conservation status of “Near Threatened” [NT] using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2012).

Notes The leaves of *A. nitida* are usually whorled, a feature found in only a few other members of the genus, the most similar being *A. sericea*, from which *A. nitida* can be distinguished by its leaves with widely (vs very closely) spaced secondary veins, glabrous (vs pubescent) disk, and glabrous (vs velutinous) fruit.

We have followed René Capuron (note in herb.) in considering the second collection made by Thouars listed above as an isotype despite the fact that we cannot be certain it represents part of a single gathering.

**Additional material
examined**

MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antsiranana: Antalaha, PN Masoala, 15°35'S 50°25'E, 22.IX.1994, ster., *Rahajasoa et al.* 510 (MO, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 22.IX.1994, ster., *Rahajasoa et al.* 523 (MO, P, TAN). **Prov. Fianarantsoa:** Farafangana, Mahabo, forêt de Marovahatry, 23°10'41" 47°43'49"E, 23 m, 21.IV.2004, y. fr., *Ludovic* 738 (MO, P, TAN); Mahabo Mananivo, Nosiala, bloc de Betaindambo, 23°08'42"S 47°42'18"E, 31 m, 22.IV.2004, fr., *Ludovic* 766 (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'S 47°41'E, 21 m, 29.X.2004, fl., *Ludovic et al.* 927 (G, K, MO, P, TAN); Mahabo Mananivo, Baboaka, [23°10'S 47°44'E], 21 m, 20.XI.2004, fl., *Ludovic et al.* 998 (G, K, MO, P, TAN); near village of Mahabo, 23°10'51"S 47°42'29"E, 30 m, 5.XI.2001, fl., *McPherson et al.* 18334 (MO, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, *McPherson et al.* 18347 (MO, P, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 23°10'42"S 47°42'24"E, 20 m, 7.XI.2001, fl., *McPherson et al.* 18373 (MO, P, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 23°08'53"S 47°43'04"E, 22.IX.2002, fr., *Rabevohitra* 4077 (MO, NY, P, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 10 m, 19.VI.2004, ster., *A. Randrianasolo et al.* 867 (MO); *ibid. loco*, 23°12'05"S 47°42'48"E, 24 m, 26.VIII.2003, fr., *Razakamalala et al.* 744 (G, MO, P, TEF); Mananjary, forêt d'Alimamba, 21°28'04"S 48°17'43"E, 13.X.2004, fl., *Razakamalala et al.* 1655 (MO, NY, P, TAN, TEF); Amporofo, [22°29'00"S 47°47'30"E], 26.VII.1955, ster., *Service Forestier* 13912 (MO, P, TEF); Ambalavotaka, [21°19'30"S 48°21'30"E], 7.I.1955, fr., *Service Forestier* 15459 (P, TEF). **Prov. Toamasina:** Maroantsetra, commune d'Ambinanitelo, Ankirindro, 15°28'29"S 49°33'10"E, 200 m, 21.XI.2002, fl., *Antilaimena et al.* 1430 (MO, P, TAN); Fénérive-Est, Mahatsara forest station, [17°38'S 49°29'E], 23.I.1986, fr., *Dorr* 4617 (MO, P, TAN); Soanieran'Ivongo, forêt d'Antanambao-Ambodimanga, 16°46'24"S 49°42'51"E, 30.I.2003, fr., *Rabevohitra et al.* 4305 (G, K, MO, P, TEF); Mahanoro, Ambodibonara, forêt Nakinà, 20°21'34"S 48°36'21"E, 13.XI.2003, fl., *Rabevohitra et al.* 4753 (G, K, MO, NY, P, TAN, TEF); Soanieran'Ivongo, NW Tanambao, 16°45'12"S 49°42'56"E, 31.I.2004, fr., *Rabevohitra et al.* 4980 (MO, NY, P, TEF); Brickaville, Andranokoditra, Vohibola, 18°33'23"S 49°14'58"E, 5 m, 10.XII.2001, fr., *Rabenantoandro et al.* 871 (MO, P, TAN, TEF); Tampolo forest station, 0-5 m, 31.VII.1996, ster., *A. Randrianasolo* 457 (MO, P, TAN); Ambila Lemaitso, 18°49'S 49°08'E, 0-3 m, 28.X.1996, fr., *A. Randrianasolo* 512 (G, K, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 18°51'38"S 49°08'34"E, 0-5 m, 9.X.1999, ster., *A. Randrianasolo et al.* 586 (G, MO, P, TAN); Maroantsetra, Nosy Mangabe, 15°30'S 49°46'E, 0-330 m, 13-23.IV.1988, ster., *Schatz* 2131 (MO, TAN); Mahanoro, [19°44'00"S 48°48'30"E], 29.I.1951, fr., *Service Forestier* 2998 (P, TAN, TEF); Ambila Lemaitso, [18°49'S 49°08'E], 11.XII.1952, fl., *Service Forestier* 6448 (P [2 sheets], TEF); *ibid. loco*, 12.XII.1952, fl., *Service Forestier* 6486 (P, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 24.I.1953, fr., *Service Forestier* 7253 (MO, P, TEF). **Prov. Toliara:** Fort-Dauphin, Mahatalaky St Luce S7, 2 km S d'Ambadrika, 24°47'47"S 47°08'37"E, 20 m, 25.XI.2011, fl., *Ratovoson* 1793 (MO, P, TAN).