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A NEW SPECIES OF *FREYCINETIA* (PANDANACEAE) FROM THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

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Mots-clés: Pandanacées, *Freycinetia*, Taxonomie, îles de Santa Cruz

Keywords: Pandanaceae, *Freycinetia*, Taxonomy, Santa Cruz Islands

Résumé

Une espèce nouvelle de *Freycinetia* des îles de Santa Cruz est décrite (*F. santacruzensis*).

Summary

A new species of *Freycinetia* is described from the Santa Cruz Islands (*F. santacruzensis*).

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue *Freycinetia*-Art aus den Santa Cruz Inseln wird beschrieben (*F. santacruzensis*).

INTRODUCTION

The Santa Cruz Islands are a group of melanesian islands situated north of Vanuatu (the New Hebrides) and south-east of the Solomon Islands. A new species of *Freycinetia* has been found in the Santa Cruz Islands: it is described below.

DESCRIPTION

Freycinetia santacruzensis Huynh, sp. nova (sect. *Oligostigma*) (fig. 1)

Folia infra infructescentiam 75-95 cm longa, 5.5-6 cm lata in medio 5 cm in basi (auriculis non inclusis), ensiformia, in apice abrupte attenuata, 1.5-2 cm caudata, imbricata, in basi amplexicaulia; in sicco subcoriacea, pallida, striata in pagina adaxiali; venis longitudinalibus distinctis in pagina abaxiali minus in adaxiali; venis transversalibus utrinque invisibilibus; marginibus armatis in 5-8 cm summis solum, denticulis usque ad 2/3 mm longis; costa media armata in 3-5 cm summis, denticulis usque ad 2/3 mm longis, raro cum 2 vel 3 denticulis in medio usque ad 1.3 mm longis; auriculis omnibus conservatis, 15 cm longis, 1.2 cm latis, in apice adnatis, pallidis, submembranaceis, inermibus, utrinque longitudinaliter nerviis sed non striatis. Infructescentia terminalis, 2 (?) spicis praedita, pedunculo communi 9 cm longo, 8 mm crasso; bracteis floralibus 10-11 cm longis, 5 cm latis, navicu-

laribus, breviter acuminatis, tote inermibus, utrinque dense longitudinaliter nerviis, atrobrunneis; syncarpiis cylindratis apice basique rotundatis, 8 cm longis, 3.8-4 cm latis, maturis, pedunculis 4 cm longis, 5-6 mm latis, laevibus. Baccae filiformes, 15 mm longae, 1 mm latae, sclerenchymate centrali in pileo et longissimis fasciculis fibrarum, ex apice ad basim non interruptis, non fusiformibus/ellipticis, praeditae; pileo 5 mm longo, 1 mm lato, anguste pyramidalis, fusco; ovario 10 mm longo; stigmatibus 2, distinctis et oppositis, interdum 4, areola stigmatica annulo perspicuo cincta. Semina 1.23 mm longa, 0.42 mm lata in medio, recta; strophio indistincto; endospermio 0.39 mm lato; raphe 0.03 mm lata, cellulis raphidiphoris praedita sed crystalliferis destituta, cellulis circum fasciculum vasorum lignosis.

Typus: *Yen 804* (holo-BISH!); Vanikoro Island (Santa Cruz Islands), south coast, permanently wet coastal swamp extending inland from dune, alt. 300 m, September 1978; common in swamp; low tree, 6-12 ft tall.

Note: Vanikoro Island is at about 11°42'S 166°50'E in its central position.

Freycinetia santacruzensis seems to be the first species of *Freycinetia* described from the Santa Cruz Islands. Although its occurrence in these islands was reported some years ago (HUYNH, 1996: 540), it is described for the first time in the present paper.

Freycinetia santacruzensis is noteworthy by its leaves which are armed in a short apical part only, and by its floral bracts which are entirely unarmed. These two features are not common in *Freycinetia*.

Freycinetia santacruzensis is a species of sect. *Oligostigma* sensu Warburg (1900), non STONE (1968: 367). In Stone's classification, it has its position in sect. *Filiformicarpae* (STONE, 1968: 366). This latter section may be recognized by the following characteristics: berries filiform;

stigmas mostly 2 and opposite, sometimes 4; in particular, the berries have long fibre-strands extending in a single stretch from the apex to the base. These fibre-strands were to date observed in sect. *Filiformicarpae* only.

Freycinetia santacruzensis appears closest to *F. tessellata* (Solomon Islands) and *F. filiformis* (Bismarck Archipelago) - which also belong to sect. *Filiformicarpae* (HUYNH, 1996: 539) - , considering in particular the size of their leaves and the length of their mature syncarps. *F. tessellata* differs from *F. santacruzensis* in its leaves which are tessellate and armed in the basal part and the apical part of the margins; its syncarp peduncles are scabrid; in particular, its syncarps are clavato-cylindric (MERRILL & PERRY, 1939: 149), a rare feature in the genus *Freycinetia*. *F. filiformis* differs from *F. santacruzensis* in its leaves which are tessellate, rigid-coriaceous, and armed in the basal part and the apical part of the margins; its leaf auricles are striate between the longitudinal veins; its pileus is 2 mm long for a berry of 13 mm (HUYNH, 1996: 537).

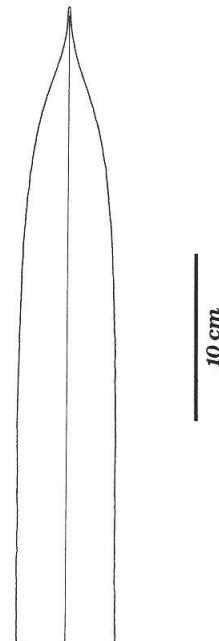


Figure 1: *Freycinetia santacruzensis* (*Yen 804*): Upper part of leaf flattened horizontally, viewed at the adaxial face.

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