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A new species of Strombosiopsis (Olacaceae) from Gabon

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ABSTRACT
Strombosiopsis sereinii from Gabon is described, illustrated and mapped. It is the third species of this genus. A key to the three species of Strombosiopsis is provided.

RÉSUMÉ

KEY WORDS
Strombosiopsis, Olacaceae, Gabon.

MOTS CLÉS
Strombosiopsis, Olacaceae, Gabon.

After the discovery of a new Strombosiopsis (Olacaceae) from Liberia (Breterel 2001) now another new species from Gabon is described. It was first discovered during the “Opération Radeau des Cimes” which took place during the months of January-March 1999 in the heart of the “Forêt des Abeilles” in Central Gabon. As the material collected was only in fruit, it was difficult to establish whether it belonged to Strombosiopsis or Ongokea, although based on characters of the leaf and the sessile infructescence the former genus seemed more likely. A search in the herbaria of Libreville (LBV), Paris (P), and Wageningen (WAG) under these genera as well as Diogoa revealed a single aberrant specimen of Strombosiopsis tetrandra (Arends et al. 400) that matched the new fruiting material (Breterel et al. 14829). Another fruiting collection (Breterel et al. 15540) was later made in the Monts de Cristal. Flowers were collected later from the same individual (Breterel et al. 15642). This made it possible to establish that all four specimens belonged to the same new taxon, which is described below.

Strombosiopsis sereinii Breterel, sp. nov.
Strombosiopsis tetrandrae Engl. affinis, sed differt ramunculis teretibus, calyce non lobato, petalis antherisque longe coalescentibus et fructu mesocarpium manifeste evolutum instructo.
Fig. 1. — Strombosiopsis sereinii Breteler: A, part of flowering branch; B, petiole; C, leaf apex; D, inflorescence; E, flower bud; F, flower in longitudinal section cut lengthwise; G-H, petal with adnate anther; I, young fruit; J, mature fruit seen from above; K, fruit in transverse section. (A, D-H, Arends et al. 400; B, C, I-K, Breteler et al. 14829). Drawing by H. Vrees.
New species of *Strombosiopsis* (Olacaceae) from Gabon


Tree to c. 20 m tall, trunk to c. 40 cm diam., glabrous throughout; bark ≥ 1 cm thick, fibrous, reddish in section. Branchlets slightly flattened when very young, soon (sub)terete, green. Leaves: petiole subterete, shallowly and often narrowly canaliculate (or groove ± closed) above, (12-)15-25(-30) mm long, slightly swollen at distal end or not; blade ± soft-leathery, brittle, elliptic to oblong-ovate, 16-30 × 6-12(-15) cm, 2-3 times as long as wide, broadly rounded and/or shortly cuneate at base, obtuse to acutish at apex (mucronate-apiculate when young); midrib and the (8-)9-10(-12) pairs of main lateral nerves ± plane above, prominent beneath, the veins between the lateral nerves plane to very slightly impressed on both sides, ± parallel, 2-4 mm apart, ± indistinct above, ± distinct beneath. Flowers 4-merous, in a subaxillary fascicle of up to ± 35 flowers; bracts minute, triangular-ovate, ± 1 mm long, apex rounded to lobulate; bracteoles much narrower and slightly shorter. Pedicel terete, 3-4 mm long; calyx cupular, ± 1 mm long with a thin undulate margin; petals pale-green to cream-coloured, thick, free, sometimes slightly adnate at base, narrowly elliptic, 6 × 1.5-2 mm, apex acute; stamens slightly shorter than petals, anthers (sub)sessile, adnate to petals for at least 3/4 of their length or even entirely so, apex

![Distribution map of *Strombosiopsis sereinii* Breteler.](image-url)
acute; disc indistinct; pistil ± conical, style obscurely 4-lobed. Mature fruit pale green with paler stripes, ± smooth, globose to slightly ovoid, c. 3 cm diam., stipe 3-5 mm long; calyx rim-like in fruit, strongly widened, leaving free the fruit apex (see Fig. 1); exocarp (including the ± fleshy calyx) 2-2.5 mm thick with an inner hard layer of c. 1 mm thick; mesocarp c. 3 mm thick, fleshy; endocarp indistinct. Seed globose, ± 1.5 cm diam., with a thin, brown testa. — Figs. 1, 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION. — Rain forest of Gabon, alt. up to c. 500 m.


This species is named after Jean-Yves Serein, co-collector of the type specimen and an excellent tree climber.

The three species of Strombosiopsis may be distinguished as follows:

1. Shrub or treelet up to 3 m tall; leaves (7-)9-15 × 3-5 cm, with 5-7(-8) pairs of main lateral nerves; petiole 0.5-1.6 cm long; fruit up to 2 × 1.5 cm without widened calyx. Liberia .................................................. S. nana Breteler
1’. Tree to c. 30 m tall, trunk to 100 cm diam., rarely a flowering treelet of c. 4 m; leaves (7-)11-30 × (4-)5-12(-15) cm, with 6-10(-12) pairs of main lateral nerves; petiole 1-2.6(-3) cm long; fruit 2.5-3.5 × 2-3 cm with a distinctly widened calyx. Nigeria to Uganda and Angola .................................................. 2
2. Branchlets (sub)terete; main lateral nerves (8-)9-10(-12) pairs; calyx entire with an undulate margin, rim-like in fruit; anthers completely adnate to petals or nearly so; fruit with very distinct mesocarp c. 3 mm thick. Gabon ................................................................. S. sereinii Breteler
2’. Branchlets angular or narrowly winged; main lateral nerves 6-8(-11) pairs; calyx distinctly lobed, usually also in fruit; anthers adnate to petals only at base; mesocarp indistinct in fruit. Nigeria to Uganda and Angola ................................................................. S. tetrandra Engl.

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REFERENCES


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