

Novitates Gabonenses 48. A new species of *Paropsia* (Passifloraceae) from Gabon

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KEY WORDS

Paropsia, Passifloraceae,
Gabon.

ABSTRACT

Paropsia gabonica from Central Gabon is described and illustrated. A key to the Central African species of the genus is presented.

RÉSUMÉ

Novitates gabonenses 48. Une nouvelle espèce de *Paropsia* (Passifloraceae) du Gabon.

MOTS CLÉS

Paropsia, Passifloraceae,
Gabon.

Paropsia gabonica du Gabon Central est décrit et illustré. Une clé pour les espèces d'Afrique Centrale est donnée.

Paropsia is an Old World genus of eleven species, one in Asia and ten in Africa, including four on the mainland and six in Madagascar (SLEUMER 1970). Of the four mainland species three occur in Central Africa (SLEUMER & BAMPS 1976) and the fourth is East-African. The new species described here is endemic to Gabon.

Paropsia gabonica Breteler, sp. nov.

Paropsiae brazzeanae Baill. et *P. grewioides* Welw. ex Mast. *affinis inflorescentiis axillaribus paucifloris et ovario piloso, sed ab eis differt indumento echinato ramuncolorum, foliorum calycumque, fructibus echinatis, seminibus majoribus et polline tricollato.*

TYPUS. — *Breteler, Caballé, Issembé, Moussavou & Pascal 15134*, Gabon, Ogooué - Lolo, near Makandé, c. 65 km SSW of Booué, 0°41'S, 11°55'E, fl., Feb. 1999 (holo-, WAG; iso-, G, K, LBV, MA, MO, P, PRE).

Shrub-treelet, up to 2.5 m tall. Branchlets hispid, subappressed or not. Stipules minute, triangular, ≤ 0.5 mm long, mostly hidden by the indumentum. Leaves: petiole subterete, (2-)4-8 mm long, hispid; lamina papery, obovate to elliptic, 2-3(-4) times as long as wide, (11-)16-20 \times (4-)5-7(-8) cm, cuneate to rounded at base, acuminate at apex, the acumen acute, (0.5-)1.5-2(-2.5) cm long; hispid on the prominent midrib

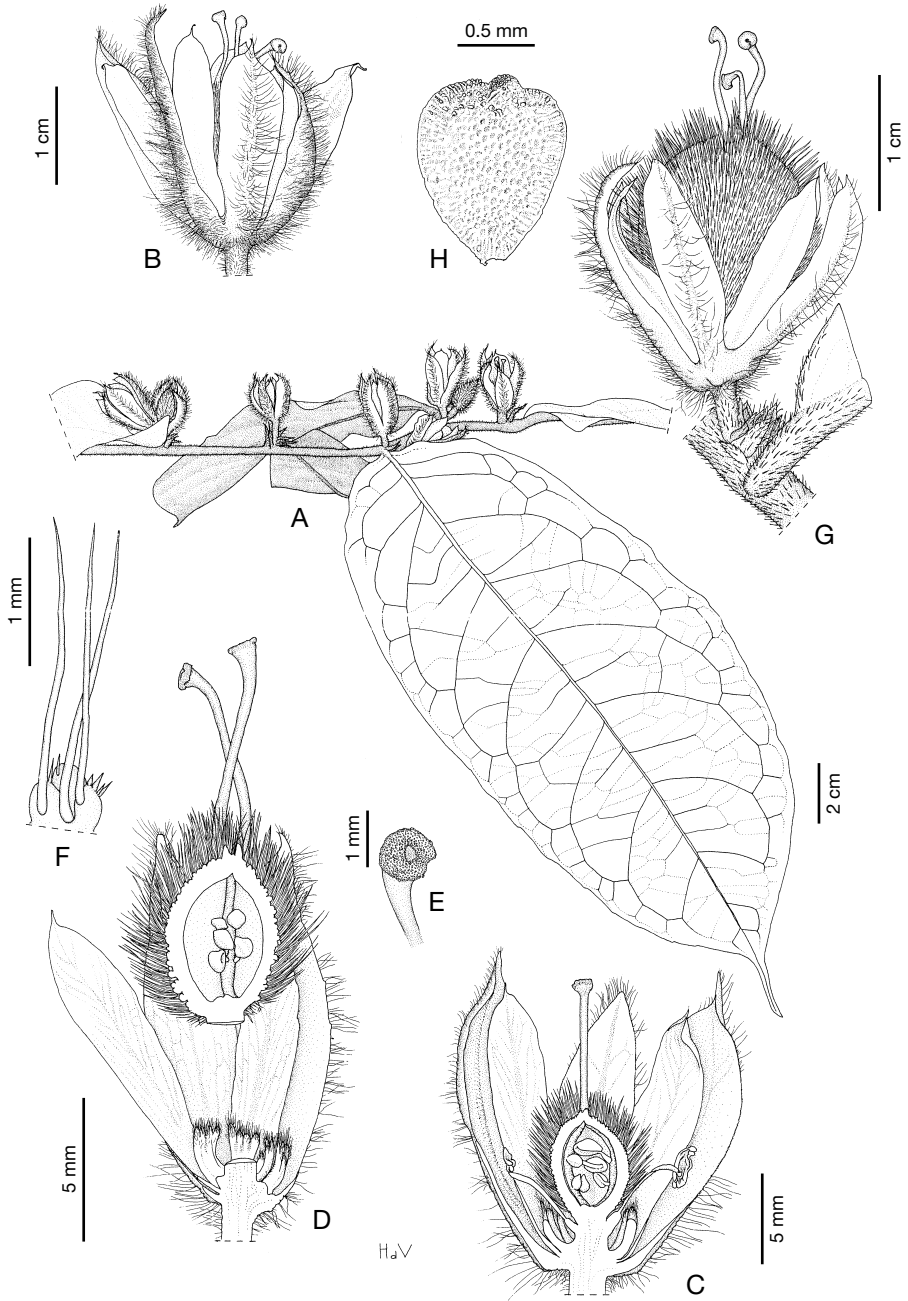


Fig. 1. — *Paropsia gabonica* Breteler: **A**, flowering branch; **B**, flower; **C**, flower with withered stamens and some fruit development sectioned lengthwise; **D**, idem., the pistil lifted to show corona; **E**, stigma; **F**, ovary tubercle with indumentum; **G**, young fruit; **H**, seed. (A-D, F, Breteler et al. 15134; E, G, Breteler et al. 14800; H, McPherson 16161. Drawing by H. DE VRIES.

above, beneath mainly hispid on the midrib and the (6-)7-9(-11) pairs of main lateral nerves, leaf margin usually dentate, mainly so in the upper half. Flowers ± white, axillary, 1-2(-3) together; bracts and bracteoles triangular, up to 5(-7) mm long; pedicel 4-6 mm long; sepals narrowly obovate-oblong, 15-16 × 4 mm, apiculate, hispid outside, sparsely subappressed-puberulous inside; petals narrowly oblong-obovate, 13-16 × 2.5-3 mm, usually apiculate, puberulous outside, ± glabrous inside; corona c. 2.5 mm high, lobate, the lobes ± free to the base or partly united in groups of 2-4, pubescent outside and on apical part inside; stamens 5, c. 10 mm long, glabrous, the filaments at base adnate to the c. 2 mm long,

glabrous gynophore, anthers 2-2.5 mm long, ovary 2-2.5 mm long, ± tuberculate, hispid; styles 3, slender, 5-7 mm long, glabrous or pubescent; stigma ± flat. Fruit subglobose to ellipsoid, 2.5-3.5 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm in diam., sparsely puberulous mixed with sparse, long, hispid hairs; seed ± flat, obtriangular to obcordate, 10 × 8-9 mm. — Fig. 1.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION. — Rain forest in Central Gabon, up to c. 650 m altitude.

PARATYPES. — GABON: *Breteler et al. 14800*, Makandé, c. 65 km SSW of Booué, fl., Jan. (K, LBV, MO, P, WAG); *McPherson 16161*, NE of Lopé - Okanda Res., fr., Feb. (LBV, MO).

Key to the species of *Paropsia* in Central Africa

1. Ovary and styles glabrous. West and Central Africa ***P. guineensis*** Oliv.
- 1'. Ovary hairy, styles glabrous or pubescent 2
2. Branches, leaves, sepals outside, and ovary hispid; seed obtriangular to obcordate, 10 × 8-9 mm. Gabon
..... ***P. gabonica*** Breteler
- 2'. Branches, leaves, sepals outside, and ovary pubescent to tomentose; seed elliptic to obovate in outline, 5-7.5 × 4-5 mm 3
3. Leaves ± glabrous or ± soon glabrescent; pedicel 10-20(-30) mm long. Central Africa
..... ***P. grewioides*** Welw. ex Mast. var. ***grewioides***
- 3'. Leaves with a persistent and ± dense pubescence on the lower surface; pedicel 0-5(-10) mm long. Central and South tropical Africa. Not yet collected in Gabon ***P. brazzeana*** Baill.

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