

A new inland species of *Canavalia* (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae) from New Caledonia

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the pantropical genus *Canavalia*, *C. veillonii*, is described from New Caledonia, where it is endemic. It is characterised by its acute to obscurely acuminate leaflets, which have rusty puberulous major veins beneath; the calyx tube not constricted behind the lip; and the hilum of the seeds which is more than half as long as the seed.

KEY WORDS

Papilionoideae,
Canavalia,
New Caledonia.

RÉSUMÉ

Une nouvelle espèce de *Canavalia* (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae) de l'intérieur de la Nouvelle-Calédonie.

Une espèce endémique néo-calédonienne du genre pantropical *Canavalia*, *C. veillonii*, est décrite. Elle est caractérisée par ses folioles aiguës à très faiblement acuminées, à nervures principales pubérulentes ferrugineuses au-dessous ; le tube calicinal non rétréci derrière la lèvre ; et le hile couvrant plus de la moitié de la graine.

MOTS CLÉS

Papilionoideae,
Canavalia,
Nouvelle-Calédonie.

In 1993 a new and large-flowered species of the tropical and subtropical genus *Canavalia*, *C. favieri* I.C. Nielsen (NIELSEN 1993), was described from New Caledonia bringing the total number of species recognised from the island up to five: *C. ensiformis* (L.) DC., *C. favieri*, *C. rosea* (Sw.) DC., and *C. sericea* A.Gray, of which the first is introduced and cultivated. Two years earlier material of an-

other species collected by J.-M. VEILLON at Bourail, at an inland locality, was received. As it has not been possible to match it with any of the species hitherto described from the area or to key it out in the early (GUILLAUMIN 1936, 1948) or in more recent accounts for New Guinea (VERDCOURT 1979), Fiji (SMITH 1985) or in the revision by SAUER (1964), it is therefore described as new.

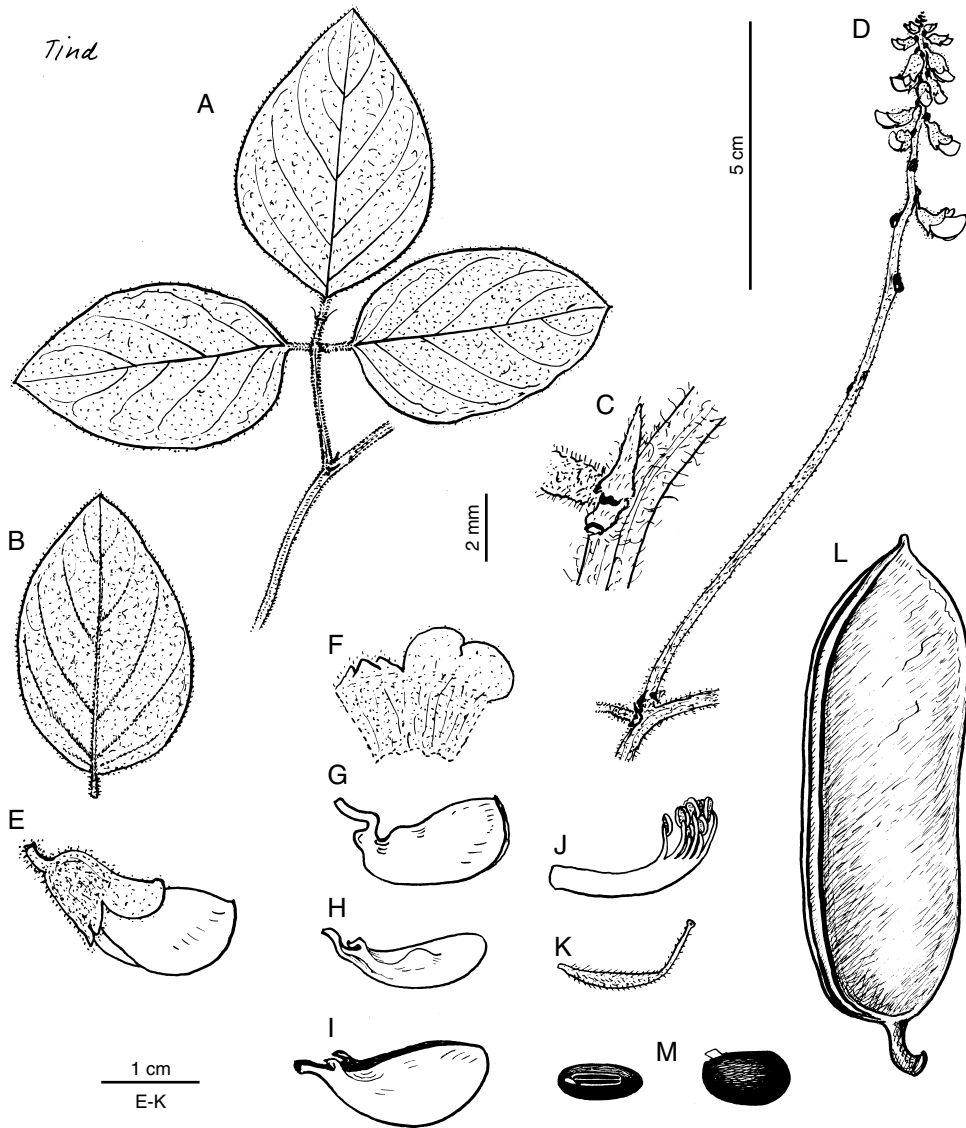


FIG. 1. — *Canavalia veillonii* I.C. Nielsen: **A**, distal part of young stem with leaf; **B**, leaflet seen from beneath; **C**, detail of stem with basal pulvinous and stipule; **D**, young raceme; **E**, flower; **F**, calyx opened; **G**, standard; **H**, wings; **I**, keel; **J**, filament tube; **K**, gynoecium; **L**, pod; **M**, seed hilar view (left), lateral view (right). *Veillon 7287* (P).

***Canavalia veillonii* I.C. Nielsen, sp. nov.**

Species nova combinatione characterum sequentium unicorum recognita: foliola chartacea, acuta-obscure acuminata, infra venis majoribus ferrugineo-puberulatis, lobus superior calycis tubo calycis aequans, ante lobum non constrictus, non apiculatus, dentes infernes calycis

subaequantes, petala 1.5-1.7 cm longa, semina non natantes, hilo dimidium longitudinis seminis longiore.

TYPUS. — *J.-M. Veillon 7287*, Nouvelle-Calédonie, Bourail, Colline (Pic 139) au nord de l'embouchure de la Déva vers 130 m, forêt sclérophylle secondarisée, 11 Dec. 1990, fl., fr. (holo- P; iso-, NOU).

Climbing herb. Stipules triangular, acute, *c.* 3 mm long. Leaflets chartaceous, ovate, 4.5-7.5 × 2.5-5 cm, terminal leaflet symmetric, the two lateral ones slightly unequal-sided, base broadly cuneate to rounded; apex acute to obscurely acuminate; adaxial surface with a few scattered hairs, lower abaxial surface with scattered rusty hairs and strigose by rusty hairs on the major veins: petiole 2.2 cm long; petiolule 4-5 mm long, strigose. Young raceme *c.* 14 cm long, nodose in the distal part. Flowers pendent, pedicel *c.* 2 mm long, densely puberulous; calyx obliquely campanulate, not constricted, puberulous, 1.2 cm long, upper lip 0.5 cm long, rounded, not apiculate, emarginate, lower teeth triangular acute, *c.* 1 mm long, the central lower one, equalling the lateral ones. Petals pink, clawed and unguiculate, standard slightly curved backwards, *c.* 1.6 cm long, claw 0.4 cm long; wings 1.5 cm long; keel 1.7 cm long; stamens *c.* 1.7 cm long; ovary 1 cm long, puberulous, curved into the style, which is *c.* 0.5 cm long, puberulous. Pod greenish and tinged by brown when dry, oblong, straight, 9 × 3 cm, probably tardily dehiscent, sutural rib *c.* 1 mm high, running 2-3 mm from the ventral suture. Seeds not buoyant, dark brown, elliptic in outline, 17 mm long by 10 broad by 7 mm thick, slightly biconvex; hilum 10.5 mm long. — Fig. 1.

DISTRIBUTION. — Endemic to New Caledonia, only known from the type collection.

HABITAT. — Secondary forest on limestone, alt. *c.* 130 m.

NOTES. — *Canavalia veillonii* belongs to subgenus *Canavalia* as defined by SAUER (1964), but

does not key out in that monograph because of the unique combination of characters: leaflets chartaceous, acute-obscurely acuminate, rusty puberulous on major veins beneath, upper lip of calyx equalling the tube and not constricted behind the lip, not apiculate, lower calyx teeth more or less equal; petals 1.5-1.7 cm long, seeds not buoyant, with hilum more than half as long as the seed. It is named in honour of Dr J.-M. VEILLON, who collected the type specimen.

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