

A new species of *Kopsia* (Apocynaceae, Rauvolfioideae) from Vietnam

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ABSTRACT

The new species *Kopsia vidalii* D.J.Middleton is described from a specimen collected in Vietnam. It is most clearly recognisable from other species of *Kopsia* which have the stamens inserted in the upper part of the corolla tube by the combination of short corolla tube, ≤ 15 mm long, and narrow corolla lobes, *c.* 6.5 times as long as wide. A key to the species of *Kopsia* in Vietnam is given.

RÉSUMÉ

Une nouvelle espèce de *Kopsia* (*Apocynaceae*, *Rauvolfioideae*) du Vietnam.

Une nouvelle espèce, *Kopsia vidalii* D.J.Middleton, est décrite à partir d'un spécimen du Vietnam. Elle se distingue clairement des autres *Kopsia*, dont les étamines sont insérées au sommet du tube de la corolle, par la combinaison des caractères suivants : corolle à tube court, ≤ 15 mm de long, et à lobes étroits, *c.* 6,5 fois aussi longs que larges. Une clé des espèces vietnamiennes de *Kopsia* est fournie.

MOTS CLÉS

Apocynaceae,
Rauvolfioideae,
Kopsia,
Vietnam,
nouvelle espèce.

The genus *Kopsia* has recently been revised (MIDDLETON 2004). Unfortunately a previously unidentified specimen of Apocynaceae, which proved to be a new species of *Kopsia*, was not seen until it was too late to be included in the revision.

This new species, *Kopsia vidalii*, is named for the collector of the type specimen, Jules Vidal.

Kopsia vidalii can be distinguished from other species of *Kopsia* native or widespread in Vietnam using the following key.

1. Stamens inserted very clearly around the middle or in lower half of corolla tube, < 0.6 of corolla tube length; sepals acuminate **K. harmandiana**
- 1'. Stamens inserted in upper half of corolla tube, > 0.6 of corolla tube length; sepals acute to rounded 2
2. Corolla tube ≤ 15 mm long, lobes $> 6 \times$ as long as wide **K. vidalii**
- 2'. Corolla tube > 20 mm long, lobes $< 5 \times$ as long as wide 3

3. Inflorescences with bracts as large as the sepals and flowers clustered at inflorescence branch ends; sepals mostly acute, more rarely obtuse; fruit without a spur or angle **K. arborea**
- 3'. Inflorescences with bracts somewhat obscure or smaller than sepals, if as large as sepals then flowers not clustered at inflorescence branch ends; sepals obtuse to rounded; fruit with a spur or angle on one side 4
4. Stamens inserted slightly above the middle of the corolla tube; ovary glabrous or with just a few isolated hairs; native **K. tonkinensis**
- 4'. Stamens inserted near corolla mouth; ovary clearly pubescent; cultivated **K. fruticosa**

Kopsia vidalii D.J.Middleton, **sp. nov.**

Frutex, ramulis glabris. Folia elliptica, 5-12 × 2-4 cm, nervis 14-18 paribus. Corollae tubus 12-15 mm, lobis 13 × 2 mm.

TYPUS. — *Vidal 681A*, Vietnam, Thua Thien-Huê, Mt Bach Ma, 9 Apr. 1944, fl. (holo-, P).

Shrub. Branchlets glabrous, densely lenticellate, terete. Leaves: petiole 7-8 mm long, glabrous; blade 5-12 × 2-4 cm, 2.2-3.7 times as long as wide, subcoriaceous, elliptic, apex acuminate with a blunt tip, base cuneate, glabrous above and beneath, midrib shallowly sunken above, secondary veins 14-18 pairs with

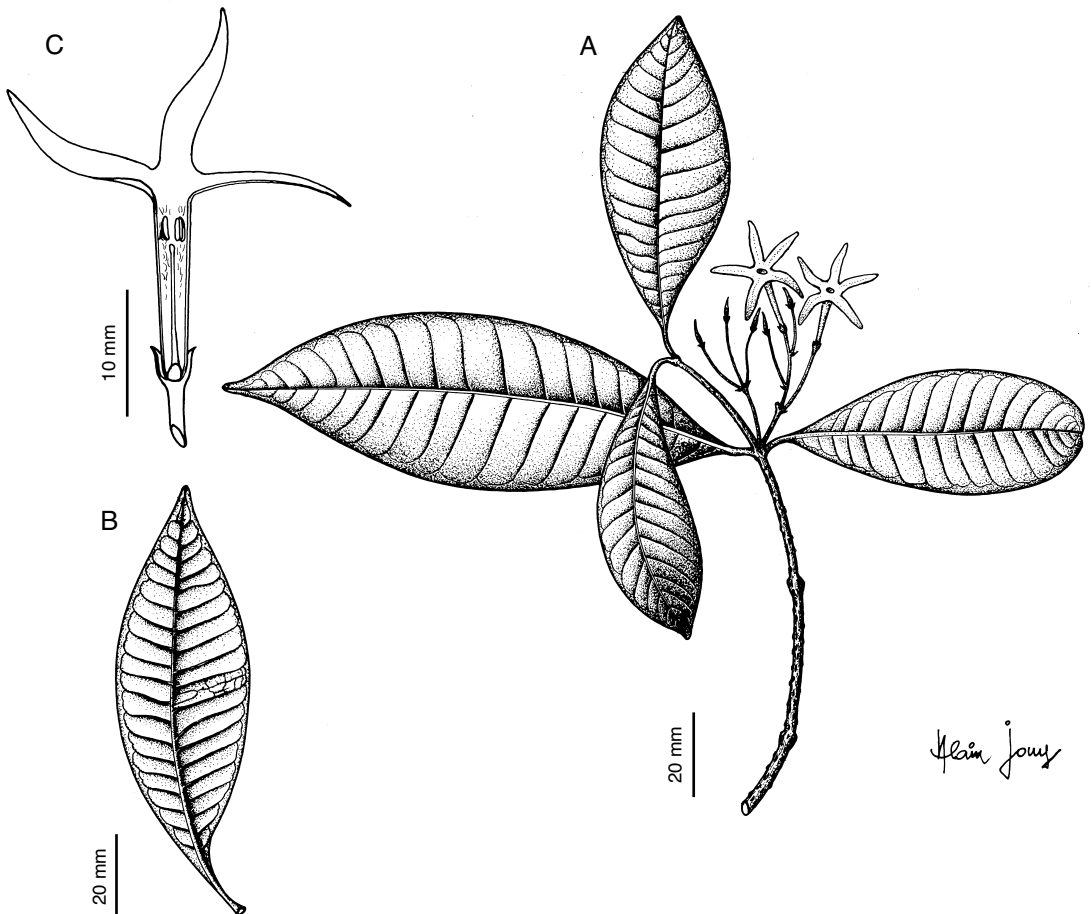


FIG. 1. — **Kopsia vidalii** D.J.Middleton: **A**, habit; **B**, leaf, abaxial face; **C**, flower, longitudinal cross section. *Vidal 681A*.

2.5-9 mm spacing, 70° from midrib, slightly prominent above and beneath, clearly distinguishable from tertiary venation above and beneath, straight, tertiary venation prominent above, prominent or flat beneath, reticulate, intramarginal vein almost straight, slightly inset from margin. Inflorescence delicate, lax, dichasial, *c.* 4 cm long with axes *c.* 2 cm long and branches 0.7 mm wide, glabrous; peduncle 0.3-0.4 cm long, 1 mm diameter, glabrous; pedicels 9-15 mm long, glabrous, subtending bracts small, persistent, 2 or 3 small bracts on pedicels. Sepals 1.1 × 0.9 mm, 1.2 times as long as wide, ovate, apex obtuse to acute, ciliate, glabrous. Corolla tube 12-15 mm long, 2 mm diameter, 0.9 times as long as lobes, 10.1 times as long as calyx, pubescent around stamens and more sparsely so below stamens inside, glabrous outside, densely pubescent in throat; lobes 13 × 2 mm, 6.5 times as long as wide, narrowly oblong, apex acuminate, glabrous outside and inside. Stamens inserted at 10.5 mm from corolla base which is 0.8 of tube length in the rehydrated flowers measured; anthers 1.2 × 0.4 mm, 3 times as long as wide, apex 0.5 mm from corolla throat; filaments *c.* 0.6 mm long. Disk 0.8 mm long, as long

as ovaries, glabrous, awl-shaped, apex acute. Ovaries 0.8 mm high, glabrous; style 10 mm long; style head 0.9 mm long. Fruit unknown. — Fig. 1.

Only known from the type collection. Unfortunately no information on this species' ecology is available. Its conservation status is also difficult to assess because of lack of data but it may be vulnerable due to a very restricted distribution.

ETYMOLOGY. — The species is named in honour of Jules Vidal, the collector of the type specimen.

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