Vantanea ovicarpa (Humiriaceae), a new species from French Guiana

DANIEL SABATIER

Research for the treatment of the Humiriaceae for the Flora of the Guianas suggested that the woody endocarps of the fruits collected from forest floor and leaves collected by Jean-Jacques de Granville in 1980 and 1989 represented a new species related to Vantanea paraensis Ducke. Although known only from these two collections in central and western French Guiana, this new species was locally conspicuous because of the large quantities of big, woody, egg-shaped endocarps of fruits that persist under mother trees for long periods.

A recent botanical expedition to central French Guiana provided two flowering collections of this new species, which is described below.

Vantanea ovicarpa D. Sabatier, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

TYPE: FRENCH GUIANA. Pic Matécho, ca. 22.5 km NE of Les Eaux Claires, 3°44.85'N, 53°02.20'W, ca. 515 m, 7 Sep 2000 (fl), S. A. Mori & N. P. Smith 25047 (HOLOTYPE: NY; ISOTYPES: CAY, MG, MPU, E US).

Species habitu Vantanea paraensis Ducke optime congruens, sed praesertim differt floribus majoribus, staminibus duplo usque ad quadruplo numerosis et disco piloso, ab V. parviflora Lam. differt floribus majoribus, fructibus magnis endocarpio non ru- goso, foliis majoribus obovatis, ab speciebus congeneris alteris differt praesertim disco crasso piloso.

Trees, to 30 m tall, 50 cm dbh; bole with small buttresses; bark scaly, reddish brown, the inner bark red; branchlets stout, terete, 4–5 mm diam., finely lenticellate, longitudinally fissured, glabrous. Leaf blades oblanceolate to obovate-elliptic, ca. 8–15 × 4–7 cm, sparsely punctate-glandulose, glabrous, rigid-coriaceous, cuneate or attenuate at base, rounded and emarginate at apex, sometimes shortly acuminate; secondary veins in 7–9 pairs, ascendant, arcuately anastomosed, the basal ones running along margin, the apical ones loop-connected; petioles sulcate, thickened at base, 8–10 mm long. Inflorescences paniculate-cymose, terminal or axillary, shorter than leaves, the rachis to 12 cm long, axes minutely pubescent; pedicels ca. 2 mm long, minutely pubescent; bracts deciduous. Flower buds ca. 12 mm long, green, sometimes tinged with pink at apex. Calyx 5-lobed; lobes ca. 2 mm long, minutely pubescent ab- and adaxially, ciliate at margin, often glanduliferous; petals linear-triangu- lar, 9–13 × 3.5 mm, greenish white, sparsely appressed pubescent abaxially, white, glabrous adaxially; stamens ca. 120–200, united at base; filaments ca. 6–12 mm long, white; anthers lanceolate, 1.1 mm long, orangish yellow, the 2 theca bilocular, 0.35 mm long, basal on thick connective acute at apex; disk thick, cupular, dentate, 1.2 mm high, densely crisp-pubescent ab- and adaxially; ovary turbinate-globose, ca. 2.5 mm high, densely crisp-pubescent, 6- or 7- locu- lar, the style ca. 6–7 mm long, sparsely


ISSUED: 16 April 2003
FIG. 1. *Vantanea ovicarpa*. A. Habit of a branchlet. B. Detail of part of stem, petiole, and base of leaf. C. Flower buds and partially open flower. D. Flower at anthesis. E. Views of stamens. F. Flower with petals and part of stamens removed to show densely pubescent disk. G. Medial section of pistil and part of stamens to show filaments fused at bases. H. Transverse section (left) and lateral view of endocarp of individual with larger fruit. I. Lateral view (left) and medial section of endocarp (right) of individual with smaller fruit. (A–H, Mori & Smith 25047; I, Mori & Smith 25159.)