



Pandanus belepensis (Pandanaeae), a new species from the Belep Archipelago (New Caledonia)

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Abstract

A new species of *Pandanus* from the Belep Archipelago, northwestern New Caledonia, is described: *Pandanus belepensis*. This new species can be distinguished by the dimension of its leaves, the shape of its syncarp and drupe apex, and the arrangement of its stigmas. A description of the new species is provided, with illustrations, a discussion of its morphological affinities, and a conservation assessment based on the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

Résumé

Une nouvelle espèce de *Pandanus* de l'archipel des Belep au nord-ouest de la Nouvelle-Calédonie est décrite: *P. belepensis*. Cette nouvelle espèce se distingue par la dimension de ses feuilles, la forme de son syncarpe et de l'apex de sa drupe ainsi que l'arrangement de ses stigmates. La nouvelle espèce est fournie avec des illustrations, une discussion sur ses affinités morphologiques, ainsi qu'une analyse du statut de conservation suivant les Catégories et les Critères de la Liste Rouge de l'UICN.

Introduction

Pandanaeae are a family of arborescent or lianoid, dioecious plants, traditionally circumscribed to comprise four genera: *Pandanus* Parkinson, *Freycinetia* Gaudich., *Martellidendron* (Martelli) Callm. & Chassot, and *Sararanga* Hemsl. (in decreasing order of species diversity) confined to the Paleotropics (Callmander *et al.* 2003). *Pandanus* has the broadest geographical distribution of the four, ranging in the tropics from Hawaii to West Africa, and includes approximately 600 species of trees and shrubs. *Freycinetia*, with a more limited range (SE Asia, Pacific Islands and Oceania), comprises nearly 300 species of lianas, whereas *Martellidendron* is confined to Madagascar and the granitic Seychelles (Mahé and Praslin) and comprises seven tree species. Finally, *Sararanga*, which is restricted to the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, has two species of large trees.

In New Caledonia Pandanaeae are represented by *Freycinetia* and *Pandanus*. In 1972, Stone recognized 17 New Caledonian species of *Pandanus* when revising the genus, all but one endemic (except *P. tectorius* Parkinson), and mentioned that several new species remained to be described from the island. Four species were subsequently described respectively, three by St. John (1982) and one by Stone (1984). St. John (1989) published a revision of the genus in New Caledonia, recognizing 42 new species, many of which were based on a single collection. A draft manuscript of Pandanaeae intended for eventual publication in the *Flore de la*