



Dracaena rosulata (Asparagaceae)—a new species from D.R. Congo

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Dracaena Linnaeus (1767: 229) comprises about 46 species in Africa (Bos 1984, Mwachala 2005). The genus is closely related to *Sansevieria* Thunberg (1794: 65) and both genera form the Dracaenoid clade within Convallariaceae (APG 1998). Later Rudall et al. (2000) pointed out that the name Ruscaceae has priority over Convallariaceae. According to APG III (2009) Ruscaceae are considered a synonym of Asparagaceae. While preparing a revision of *Dracaena* for Tropical Africa and the treatment for “Flore d’Afrique Centrale” several unidentified specimens came to light which proved to represent new species. Two of them have been described recently (Mwachala et al. 2007, Mwachala & Cheek 2012). One new species is described in the present paper.

Dracaena rosulata Mwachala & Eb.Fischer sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Dracaena phrynoidi et *D. phanerophlebia* habitu rosulato similis sed petiolis brevissimis vel nonnullis et inflorescentias elongatis paniculatis valde differt. *Dracaena braunii* inflorescentia similis sed habitu caulibus elongatis et floribus basim breviter connatis differt.

Type:—D.R.CONGO: Bas Congo (III), Kisantu, Zongo, 13 July 1953, *H. Callens* 4158 (holotype BR!).

Perennial rosulate herb. Rhizome creeping, up to 12 cm long and 0.5 cm in diameter, covered in the upper part by brownish hypophylls up to 0.28–0.30 × 0.14–0.15 cm. Leaves in a dense basal rosette, petiole very short or lacking, if present broadly winged and not exceeding 1 cm in length, lamina broadly elliptic, widest at middle, acuminate at apex, herbaceous, 12–14 × 4.5–7 cm, parallel main veins and secondary anastomosing veins obscure on upper surface and conspicuous on lower surface. Inflorescence 19–25 cm long, erect, arising from the centre of the rosette, basal leaves on peduncle 1.5–2 × 0.5 cm, sterile bracts 2–3 along middle of peduncle, upper part of inflorescence paniculate, with up to 19 glomerules of flowers (lateral partial inflorescences), each glomerule composed of 5–8 flowers. Bracts of glomerules minute, 0.1 × 0.1 cm, pedicel 0.18–0.2 cm long. Flowers with white perianth, 1.4–1.6 cm long, fused over basal 0.2–0.3 cm, lobes 6, narrow, linear, 1.2–1.4 × 0.1 cm. Stamens 6, 1.1–1.2 cm long, anthers 0.2 × 0.1 cm. Ovary ovoid, 0.2 × 0.15 cm. Fruit not known.

Habitat:—The herbarium label states “sousbois”. Thus, the species probably grows in the understorey of lowland rainforest.

Distribution:—This species is only known from the type collection made in 1953. The locality Zongo is situated in the phytogeographical unit Bas-Congo near Mbanza Ngungu at S 04°47' E 14°54' (Bamps 1982). This area is just south of the Lower Guinea Centre of endemism (Linder 2001). The vegetation is described as a mosaic of Guineo-Congolian rainforests and secondary savanna (White 1983). The discovery of this species demonstrates the need of further field research.