



A new species of *Psydrax* (Vanguerieae, Rubiaceae) from Luzon, Philippines

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Abstract

Psydrax puberula, a new species from the Philippines, is here described and illustrated. It can easily be distinguished from currently recognized Malesian *Psydrax* species by its puberulent, compound-umbellate inflorescences with 14–25 flowers as well as the puberulent fruit stalk and fruit. *Psydrax puberula* is the second species of *Psydrax* known from the Philippines.

Introduction

The tribe Vanguerieae is a monophyletic group within the Rubiaceae characterized by a combination of the following characters: absence of raphides, axillary inflorescences, valvate corolla aestivation, swollen stylar knob that functions in secondary pollen presentation, pendulous ovules and drupaceous fruits (Razafimandimbison *et al.* 2009). In the course of revising the Philippine Vanguerieae as a result of recent nomenclatural changes within the tribe (Lantz *et al.* 2002, Lantz and Bremer 2004, 2005, Razafimandimbison *et al.* 2009), several undetermined herbarium sheets were encountered and examined. This paper focuses on a new species of *Psydrax* collected from the Philippines.

Initial morphological observation of our material showed close affinity with *Keetia* E. Phillips (1926: 587) and *Psydrax* Gaertn. (1788: 125) due to the presence of the following features: stipules glabrous inside, style at least twice the length of the corolla tube, stigmatic knob distinctly longer than wide, disks glabrous or pubescent and cotyledons oriented parallel to the ventral seed face (Bridson 1985, 1992). In contrast to the strictly African genus *Keetia*, our material closely resembles the widely distributed *Psydrax* in having coriaceous leaf blades, keeled stipules, reflexed anthers, cartilaginous seed and a very shallow to nearly inconspicuous apical crest without a lid-like area in the pyrene (Bridson 1985, Cheek and Sonke 2004). Interestingly, after a thorough evaluation of our material, examination of other available herbarium specimens, and consultation of various protologues and databases, we found no exact match with any currently recognized Philippine or Malesian *Psydrax*. Therefore, a new species of *Psydrax* is herein proposed, described and illustrated.

Materials and Methods

The study was based on direct examinations of herbarium specimens from L and PNH. Vegetative structures were measured using a vernier caliper (Disston) and reproductive parts were examined under a dissecting microscope (LW Scientific). Measurements and colors were based on field notes and data on herbarium sheets. Conservation status was assessed applying the 2001 IUCN Red list Categories and Criteria version 3.1.

TABLE 1. Morphological differences between of *P. puberula* and *P. amplifolia*.

	<i>P. puberula</i>	<i>P. amplifolia</i>
Stipule (length of the apex)	10–12 mm	2–3 mm
Leaf blade Size	7–9.5 × 4.5–5 cm	7–12 × 5.5–7.5 cm
Leaf apex	Cuspidate	Shortly acute
Domatia	Absent	Present
Inflorescences		
Type	compound umbel	simple umbel
Number of flowers	14–25	6–8
Presence of hair	puberulent	glabrous
Presence of bracts	absent	present
Fruit stalk	Puberulent	Glabrous
Fruit		
Size	5 × 9–10 mm	5 × 8 mm
Presence of hair	Puberulent	Glabrous

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