



Distrianthes exxonmobilensis (Loranthaceae), a new species in a formerly monotypic genus from Papua New Guinea

WAYNE TAKEUCHI

Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA; email: wtnewguinea@hotmail.com

Abstract

Distrianthes exxonmobilensis is described from karst environments along the PNG LNG Pipeline in southern New Guinea. It is the second species in a genus previously regarded as monotypic. The new loranth is distinguished by an inflorescence reduced to a single flower or triad, and by the geographic disjunction from previous generic localities.

Key words: environmental surveys, karst, PNG LNG Pipeline

Introduction

The Loranthaceae are collectively among the most distinctive elements in the Papuanian epiphytic flora. With 27 species, *Amyema* Tiegham (1894: 506) is by far the largest component (Barlow 1974, 1981, 1997). Two genera (from a total generic conspectus of 12) are endemic to the New Guinea mainland.

The family was comprehensively revised for Malesia by Danser (1929, 1931) and subsequently by Barlow (1997). A phylogeny including most of the Malesian genera has been established by Vidal-Russell and Nickrent (2008).

No additions have been made to the Loranthaceae of New Guinea in the last 22 years (only 3 species added after 1974). Despite indications that a complete accounting is close at hand, a new mistletoe was recently discovered during environmental surveys for the PNG LNG Pipeline. The previously unknown species is presented in the following narrative as *Distrianthes exxonmobilensis*.

Methods

Taxonomic descriptions are based on the attributes from dried specimens. Characters determined in situ from living plants are reported separately as ‘field characters’.

Corolla tube measurements are given as: length × basal diameter × apical diameter. Bottled flowers in leak-proof vials have been inserted with the A and LAE duplicates for *Takeuchi, Gambia & Jisaka 23094*. Although silica-dried leaf samples were prepared from the type gathering, the material was unfortunately lost during field shipments to the PNG National Herbarium.

Description

Distrianthes exxonmobilensis W.N.Takeuchi, sp. nov. (Figs. 1–3)

Ab D. molliflorae (K.Schum.) Danser floribus 1 vel 3 (nec 6) differt.

Type:—PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Western Province: Juha South, mossy montane forest on limestone, 5°53.951’S, 142°26.037’E, 975 m, 18 February 2008, *Takeuchi, Gambia & Jisaka 23094* (holotype A!; isotypes CANB!, LAE!).