

A NEW SPECIES OF COELOSPERMUM (RUBIACEAE)  
FROM NEW CALEDONIA

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*Coelospermum crassifolium* J.T. Johansson, *spec. nov.*

Affinis *C. monticoli* Baillon ex Guill. sed vulgo fruticosa foliis crassis, plerumque retusis vel emarginatis, calycibus brevibus. - Frutex ad 3 m altus, raro scandens ad 7 m altus. Stipulae 1,3-4,1 mm longae. Folia 2 ad nodos. Petiolus 3-31 mm longus. Lamina 2,3-15 cm longa, 1-7 cm lata, oblonga vel anguste oblonga vel anguste ad late obovata vel elliptica vel late elliptica, coriacea, infra pallide viridis vel glauca; basis anguste cuneata; margo plus minusve reflexa; apex obtusus vel retusus vel emarginatus vel acuminatus acumine ad 3 mm longo; nervi secundarii (4-)5-9(-10); domatia absentia. Inflorescentia corymbosa vel breviter paniculata, 1-4 cm longa, nodis tumidis, (1-)5-20-flora; inflorescentiae partiales 3-7, 1-4-florae; pedicellus simplex vel raro biconnatus, (0-)0,5-9 mm longus et 0,9-1,3 mm latus (florens). Calycis tubus 0,8-1,9 mm longus et 2,4-3,2 mm latus, intus colleteribus numerosis; dentes ad 0,3 mm longi. Corollae tubus 3-7 mm longus et 2,2-2,9 mm latus; lobi 10-16 mm longi et 2,3-4,1 mm lati. Filamenta 3,4-8 mm longa; antherae 5-8 mm longae. Ovarium simplex. Stylus 7,5-11 mm longus; stigma 3,3-6 mm longum. Drupa 15-18 mm longa et 13-15 mm lata, globosa vel obovoidea, lutescens. - Typus: *Johansson 107*, New Caledonia, Pic du Pin, 400 m alt., 30 Dec. 1983 (S, holo).

Usually a shrub up to 3 m, sometimes a liana up to 7 m. Stipules 1.3-4.1 mm long. *Leaves* 2 at each node; petiole 3-31 mm long; lamina 2.3-15 x 1-7 cm, usually oblong or obovate or elliptic, sometimes narrowly oblong or narrowly or broadly obovate or broadly elliptic, coriaceous and thick, green or yellowish green on adaxial side, paler green to glaucous on abaxial side; base narrowly cuneate; margin reflexed; apex usually obtuse and rounded or broadly acute, sometimes retuse or emarginate or acuminate with acumen up to 3 mm long; pairs of secondary veins (4-)5-9(-10); venation yellowish green to yellow; domatia lacking; cuticle striate. *Inflorescence* a corymb or a short panicle, 1-4 cm long, with 5-20 flowers (flowers rarely single in an axillary reduced cyme); partial inflorescences 3-7, dichasia, each with 1-4 flowers; nodes of branches swollen; lowermost inflorescence branches 0.6-2 cm long; branches opposite; pedicels usually simple, rarely partially connate, (0-)0.5-9 mm long and 0.9-1.3 mm in diam. in flower, up to 11 mm long and up to at least 2 mm in diam. in fruit; calyx tube 0.8-1.9 mm long, 2.4-3.2 mm in diam.; colleters abundant along base of adaxial side; calyx teeth up to 0.3 mm long; corolla tube 3-7 mm long, 2.2-2.9 mm in diam.; corolla lobes 10-16 mm

long, 2.3–4.1 mm wide, 2.1–3.3 times longer than tube; filaments 3.4–8 mm long; anthers 5–8 mm long; pollen grains: P = 39–46  $\mu\text{m}$ ; E = 44–60  $\mu\text{m}$ ; ovaries simple; style 7.5–11 mm long; stigma 3.3–6 mm long. *Fruit* 15–18  $\times$  13–15 mm, globose to obovoid, yellow.

*Distribution.* Southern parts of New Caledonia.

*Ecology.* Virgin and secondary forest and maquis, forest margins, roadsides, along small streams and ditches, and different types of open vegetation; restricted to ultrabasic soils, often on stony or rocky, more or less damp ground, at altitudes of 30–1000 m. Flowering the whole year.

*Notes.* *Coelospermum crassifolium* is usually a shrub, although it sometimes develops into a liana. It resembles *C. monticolum* mainly in the few-flowered inflorescences which are usually corymbs. The calyx tube is shorter and narrower and has colleters on the inside. The leaves are usually thicker and very often retuse or emarginate.

Specimens of *C. crassifolium* have usually been determined as '*C. billardieri*' or '*C. nigrescens*'. However, *C. billardieri* Däniker is a new name for *C. corymbosum* (Labill.) Baillon ex K.Schum., nomen illeg., which is a synonym of *C. balansaeum* Baillon. I have not been able to trace the type material of *C. nigrescens* (K.Krause) Guill.