

**CRYPTOLEPIS LANCIFOLIA (ASCLEPIADACEAE: PERIPLOCOIDEAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM IRIAN JAYA**

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SUMMARY

Cryptolepis lancifolia spec. nov. is described from Irian Jaya, New Guinea. A key to *Cryptolepis* R. Br. in New Guinea is provided.

INTRODUCTION

An account of *Cryptolepis* R. Br. in Australia and New Guinea has been recently published (Forster, 1990), wherein a single species was recognised for Australia and two for New Guinea. Subsequent to that paper being accepted for publication I received a loan of undetermined New Guinea Asclepiadaceae from the Rijksherbarium (L). Included in that loan was material of an additional undescribed species of *Cryptolepis* which is named in this present paper.

TAXONOMY

***Cryptolepis lancifolia* P. Forster, spec. nov. – Fig. 1.**

Ad *C. papillatam* P. Forster affinis, a qua foliis lineari-lanceolatis et lobis corollae lanceolatis, 16–17 mm longis, ca. 5 mm latis, differt. — T y p u s: *Ridsdale, Henty & Galore NGF 31999* (L, holo; LAE, iso, n.v.), 17 July 1967, West Irian: Okwalimkan River headwaters, 15° 02' S, 140° 55' E.

Light vine, epiphytic, latex colour unknown. Stems cylindrical, up to 2 mm diameter; internodes variable in length to 8 cm, becoming lenticellate with age. *Leaves* petiolate; lamina linear to narrow-lanceolate, 5.5–8.5 cm long and 3–6 mm wide, secondary and tertiary venation absent, glabrous; tip acuminate; base cuneate; petiole 3–5 mm long and c. 0.4 mm wide, glabrous. *Cyme* up to 10 cm long, with 2 or 3 fascicles; bracts lanceolate-ovate, c. 1 mm long, 0.6–0.7 mm wide, glabrous; peduncle up to 3.5 cm long and 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous. *Flower* rotate, 5–6 mm long, 28–30 mm diameter; pedicels 32–35 mm long, c. 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous. *Sepals* lanceolate, c. 3 mm long and 0.8 mm wide, glabrous. *Corolla* deep purple-red; tube c. 3 mm long and 4 mm diameter; lobes lanceolate, 16–17 mm long and c. 5 mm wide, externally glabrous, internally with dense papillae 0.8–1 mm in length. Corolline corona consisting of small lobes fused to base of filaments and corolla tube, each lobe c. 0.1 mm long. *Stamens* 1.3–1.4 mm long; each filament

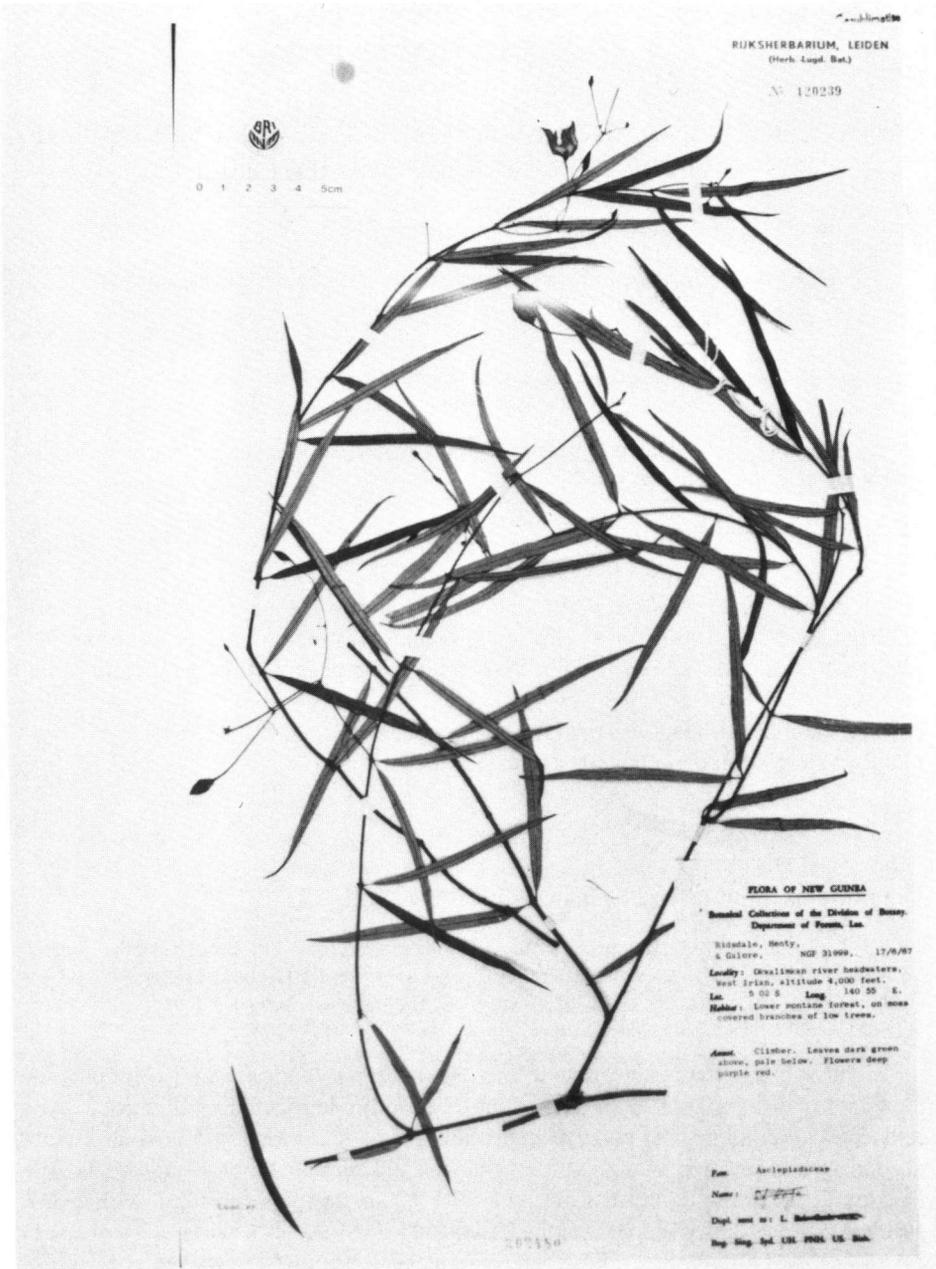


Fig. 1. Holotype of *Cryptolepis lancifolia* P. Forster.

c. 0.9 mm long and 0.1 mm wide; each anther c. 0.5 mm long and 0.3 mm wide; appendages lanceolate and twisted together, each c. 1 mm long and 0.6 mm wide. Style-head pentagonal, conical, c. 1.3 mm long and 0.9 mm diameter at apex. Translators and pollen not seen. Follicles and seed not seen.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality in Irian Jaya, New Guinea.

Habitat. This species is recorded from lower montane forest, on moss-covered branches of trees at 3300 m altitude.

Etymology. The specific epithet alludes to the linear to narrow lanceolate leaves of this taxon.

DISCUSSION

The new species described above appears to be most closely related to *Cryptolepis papillata* P. Forster from Papua New Guinea, on the basis of the papillose corolla and reduced corolline corona. However, it is markedly distinct from this species in terms of the linear to narrow-lanceolate leaves and the much larger rotate flowers with lanceolate corolla lobes. While *C. lancifolia* is a distinctive taxon unlikely to be confused with most other Asclepiadaceae known from New Guinea on account of the distinctive leaves, it could possibly be confused with sterile material of the superficially similar *Parsonsia brassii* Markgraf (Apocynaceae).

The three species of *Cryptolepis* presently known to occur in New Guinea may be identified using the following key:

- 1a. Lamina linear to narrow-lanceolate; corolla lobes 16–17 mm long **C. lancifolia**
- b. Lamina lanceolate or elliptic to ovate; corolla lobes 4–10 mm long 2
- 2a. Lamina lanceolate; corolla lobes papillate, 4–5 mm long **C. papillata**
- b. Lamina elliptic to ovate; corolla lobes not papillate, c. 10 mm long . **C. nymanii**

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REFERENCE

- FORSTER, P.I. 1990. Notes on Asclepiadaceae, 2. *Austrobaileya* 3: 273–289.