

## ANAKASIA, A NEW GENUS OF ARALIACEAE FROM WEST NEW GUINEA

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Four specimens of an Araliaceous species collected in the Vogelkop Peninsula and a neighbouring area of SW. New Guinea are so distinctive as to require a new genus. The large, simple, oblanceolate leaves clustered at the ends of the branches recall the habit of *Meryta*, but the flowers do not share the highly distinctive features of that genus: in particular, they are hermaphrodite, the calyx is well-defined, and a distinct articulation occurs below the ovary. The technical floral and fruit characters are not unlike those of *Polyscias* (e.g. there is an articulation below the flower, the style arms are free, and the endosperm is smooth), but their general facies is unlike that genus, and this, together with the distinctive inflorescence and leaf, makes the plant quite different from any species of *Polyscias*.

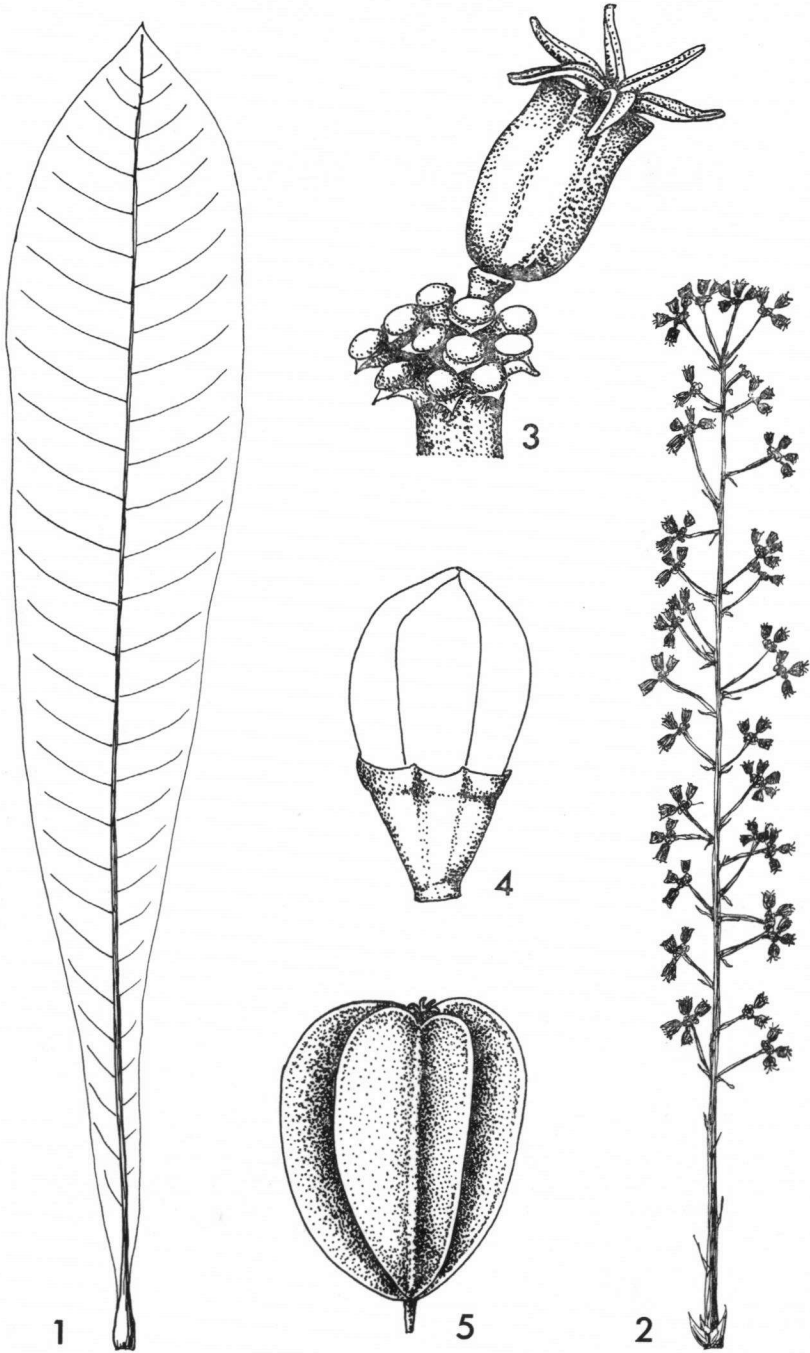
### ANAKASIA Philipson, *gen. nov.*

Frutex foliis grandibus simplicibus exstipulatis. *Inflorescentiae* axillares. Rhachis umbellulis racemosis praedita. Pedicelli brevissimi infra flores articulati. *Calyx* annuliformis, lobis minutes. *Petala* 5 vel 6, valvata, deltoidea. *Stamina* 5 vel 6, filamentis crassis, antheris amplis, dorsifixis. *Ovarium* inferum, late obconicum, (4) 5 vel 6-loculatum. *Discus* crassus, stylis (4) 5 vel 6 coronatus. *Fructus* late obovoideus in sicco prominenter sulcatus. *Exocarpium* carnosum. *Pyrenae* compressae crustaceae. Endospermium laeve.

Shrub with large, simple, exstipulate leaves. *Inflorescences* axillary. Rachis bearing racemously arranged umbellules. Pedicels very short with an articulation below the flower. *Calyx* a short rim with minute lobes. *Petals* 5 or 6, valvate, triangular. *Stamens* 5 or 6, filaments thick, anthers large, dorsifixed. *Ovary* inferior, broadly obconic, (4)5— or 6-celled. *Disc* fleshy with (4)5 or 6 stylar arms. *Fruit* broadly obovoid, strongly ribbed when dry. *Exocarp* fleshy. *Pyrenes* compressed, crustaceous. Endosperm smooth.

### *Anakasia simplicifolia* Philipson, *sp. nov.*

Frutex glaber, 5 m. altus. Rami lenticellis prominentibus notati. *Folia* ad apices ramorum congesta, sessilia vel petiolo brevi. Lamina lanceolata, usque ad 135 × 18 cm., base attenuata, apice acuminata, margine integro vel undulato, costa prominenti, nervis lateralibus arcuato-ascendentibus, reticulo aliquantum indistincto. Rhachis simplex vel divisa, usque ad 70 cm. longa, ubi matura 5 mm. crassa, bracteas parvas lanceolatas ferens. Pedunculi bractearum axillis (inferioribus exceptis) exorientes, 3—4 mm. longi (in fructu usque ad 15 mm.). Umbellulae circa 11 bracteis minutis. Alabastra in sicco 3—4 mm. longa. *Calyx* brevis annularis dentibus 6 minutis. *Petala* leviter carnosae, 2 mm. longa. *Stamina* filamentis latis, antheris 0.75 mm. longis, 4-locularibus. *Ovarium* glabrum. *Discus* umbone centrali formato arcte appressis subulatis ramis mox ultra calycem pandentibus. *Fructus* c. 2 × 1.5 cm, in sicco sulcis (4) 5 vel 6 prominentibus, styli ramis persistentibus in depressione terminali.



*Anakasia simplicifolia* 1. Leaf,  $\times 0.15$ ; 2. inflorescence,  $\times 0.3$ ; 3. a single umbellule, bearing one immature fruit,  $\times 6$ ; 4. flower bud,  $\times 12$ ; 5. mature fruit,  $\times 2$ . (1—4: Beccari P. P. 282.)

Glabrous shrub, 5 m. high, with branches marked with prominent lenticels. *Leaves* crowded at the ends of the branches, sessile or with a very short petiole, lanceolate, up to 135 × 18 cm, narrowed gradually to the base, apex acuminate, margin entire or undulate, mid-rib prominent, lateral veins arching upwards, reticulation rather indistinct. Rachis simple or forked, to 70 cm long, at maturity 5 mm thick, bearing small lanceolate bracts. Peduncles arising from the axils of all but the lowest bracts, 3—4 mm long, elongating to ca. 15 mm in fruit. Umbellules with about 11 minute bracts. Flower buds when dry about 3 mm long. *Calyx* rim with 5 or 6 minute teeth. *Petals* slightly fleshy, 2 mm long. *Stamens*: filaments broad; anthers 4-celled, 0.75 mm long. *Ovary* glabrous. *Disc* with a central boss formed by closely appressed subulate arms which soon spread beyond the calyx. *Fruit* with (4) 5 or 6 prominent ridges when dry, about 2 × 1.5 cm, with the persistent stylearms in a terminal depression.

NEW GUINEA. Vogelkop Pen. Ramoi, 1872, *Beccari P.P. 282* (FI, type); road between Steenkool and Temboeni, ca. 65 m, 1954, *van Royen 4023* (L); Wersar, south of Teminaboean, ca. 10 m, 1958, *Kalkman BW 6312* (L). — Southwest. *Anakasia*, near Babo, ca. 50 m, 1941, *Aët 98* (L).

*Notes.* A shrub with stout branches bearing tufts of 40—50 large simple leaves. Beccari described the inflorescence branches as erect in flower and reflexed in fruit. He noted that the outer flowers of the umbellules are probably male and those at the centre female, though he could not be certain of this. His observations cannot be confirmed from the material available. Evidently all flowers are structurally hermaphrodite, but all developing fruits seen are attached to central pedicels. The corolla is green and soon falls, the disc yellow, the anthers cream, and the mature fruit blue (azure-violet) and aromatic. It occurs in primary forest near sea level.

The generic name is derived from one of the localities.