

**A NEW DICHAPETALUM FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
(DICHAPETALACEAE)**

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***Dichapetalum scorpioideum* Leenh., nov. sp.**

Liana dioica (?). Ramuli dense fulvo-tomentosi, glabrescentes, in partibus vetustioribus purpureo-brunnei, passim lenticellati. *Folia* c. 1 cm longe petiolata, elliptica, 16—20 cm longa, 9—11 cm lata, chartacea, juniora in costa nervisque fulvo-pilosa, matura subglabra, subtus sparse minute glandulosa, basi rotundata parum attenuata, apicem versus gradatim late acuminata, apice ipso obtusa, nervis utroque latere 6—8, curvatis, 2 vel 3 superioribus ante marginem conspicue arcuato-conjunctis. *Inflorescentiae* breviter (2—5 mm) crasseque pedunculata, ramis 2 scorpioideis c. 1½ cm longis, densifloris, breviter denseque fulvo-pilosis. *Flores* unisexuales, gemmis femineis tantum visis. *Calyx* 5-merus, sepalis 2½—3 mm longis, extus dense fulvo-pilosis, intus sparse appresse breviter pilosis. *Petala* sat profunde bifida, extus parce appresse pilosa. *Staminodia* libera, glabra. *Disci lobi* breves, lati, irregulariter bi- vel trilobati, margine lanati. *Ovarium* dense fulvo-lanatum, bicarpellatum; stylus 1, brevis, stigmatibus 2 patentibus. *Fructus* (1-ovulatus) applanato-semiellipsoideus, 20 mm longus, 13 mm latus, 9 mm crassus, dense fulvo-velutinus, sutura lata praedita.

Type: Solomon Islands, Treasury Group, Mono Island, T. C. Whitmore BSIP 4175, 28-4-1964 (holotype in L, isotype in BSIP), 'Secondary forest on rocky sandstone slope behind village. Woody climber with the forest canopy. Flowers cream. Fruits pink-orange, containing a single orange seed.'

Notes. The relationships of this species are uncertain. Its most distinguishing character is provided by the inflorescence. I know of no other species in Asia or the Pacific with circinnate inflorescences; some African species have at least the ultimate branches of the inflorescence circinnate.

The new species can be inserted in the key, published in the Flora Malesiana I, 5 (1957) 307, as follows:

8(b)

8A. Inflorescences scorpioid. **D. scorpioideum**

8A. Inflorescences not scorpioid.