

Noronhia lowryi

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47. *Noronhia lowryi* Hong-Wa, **spec. nova** (Fig. 31B, 32).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Fianarantsoa:** Amoron'i Mania, Itremo massif, W of Ambatofinandrahana, along road to Col d'Itremo, c. 2 km before (NE of) bridge over Ambalarangolana creek, 20°33'58"S 46°35'35"E, 1450 m, 10.XI.2002, *Lowry et al.* 5906 (holo-: MO-6615550!; iso-: BR!, G [G00341613]!, K!, P [P03532782]!, TAN!, US!, WAG!).

Diagnosis *Noronhia lowryi* Hong-Wa can be distinguished from other members of the genus in Madagascar by its small, elliptic leaf blades, its white, tubular flowers and its pear-shaped fruits.

Description *Shrubs* up to 1.5 m tall; young twigs 1-2 mm diameter, glabrous; bark light brown, rugose, with scattered lenticels. *Leaves* opposite, persistent; bud scales rarely persistent; blades medium green above, lighter below, elliptic, 2-5 × 1.5-2.5 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, domatia absent, base rounded, margin flat to slightly revolute, apex rounded, midrib slightly sunken above, flat below, secondary veins inconspicuous, 6-10 per side, 4-11 mm apart, looping 1-2.5 mm from the margin; petiole yellowish, 1-3 × 1-2 mm, not woody, glabrous. *Thyrse*s solitary to geminate, pauciflorous, compact; peduncle 1-3 mm long, moderately pubescent; pedicel 1.5-3 mm long, moderately pubescent; calyx moderately pubescent outside, glabrous inside, lobes triangular, 1.5-1.8 × 1.5-2 mm; corolla white, tubular, 8-13 mm long, glabrous on both sides, the tube 7-12 mm long, lobes triangular, apex acute; corona absent; stamens 1.5-2.2 mm long, anthers oblong to obovate, 1.2-1.4 mm long; pistil 1.6-2 mm long, stigma capitate. *Fruiting* pedicel 2-8 × 2-2.5 mm; young fruits green, brownish to blackish when mature, ovoid to pyriform, 21-27 × 15-18 mm, covered with white dots, apex flat to bluntly pointed; dry pericarp 0.8 mm thick; endocarp woody; seed 10 × 12.5 mm.

Etymology This species is dedicated to Porter P. Lowry II, Senior Curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, who collected the type specimen and provided many detailed and helpful suggestions that improved this revision, and whose work and leadership continuously advance our knowledge of the Malagasy flora.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Noronhia lowryi* occurs in high-elevation woodlands on marble-quartzite and basaltic rocks in the Itremo massif, in central Madagascar (Fig. 27). It produces flowers and fruits from October to November.

Conservation status *Noronhia lowryi* is currently known only from three collections representing three localities. With an EOO of 26 km², an AOO of 8 km², and two subpopulations representing two locations, it is assigned a preliminary status of "Endangered"

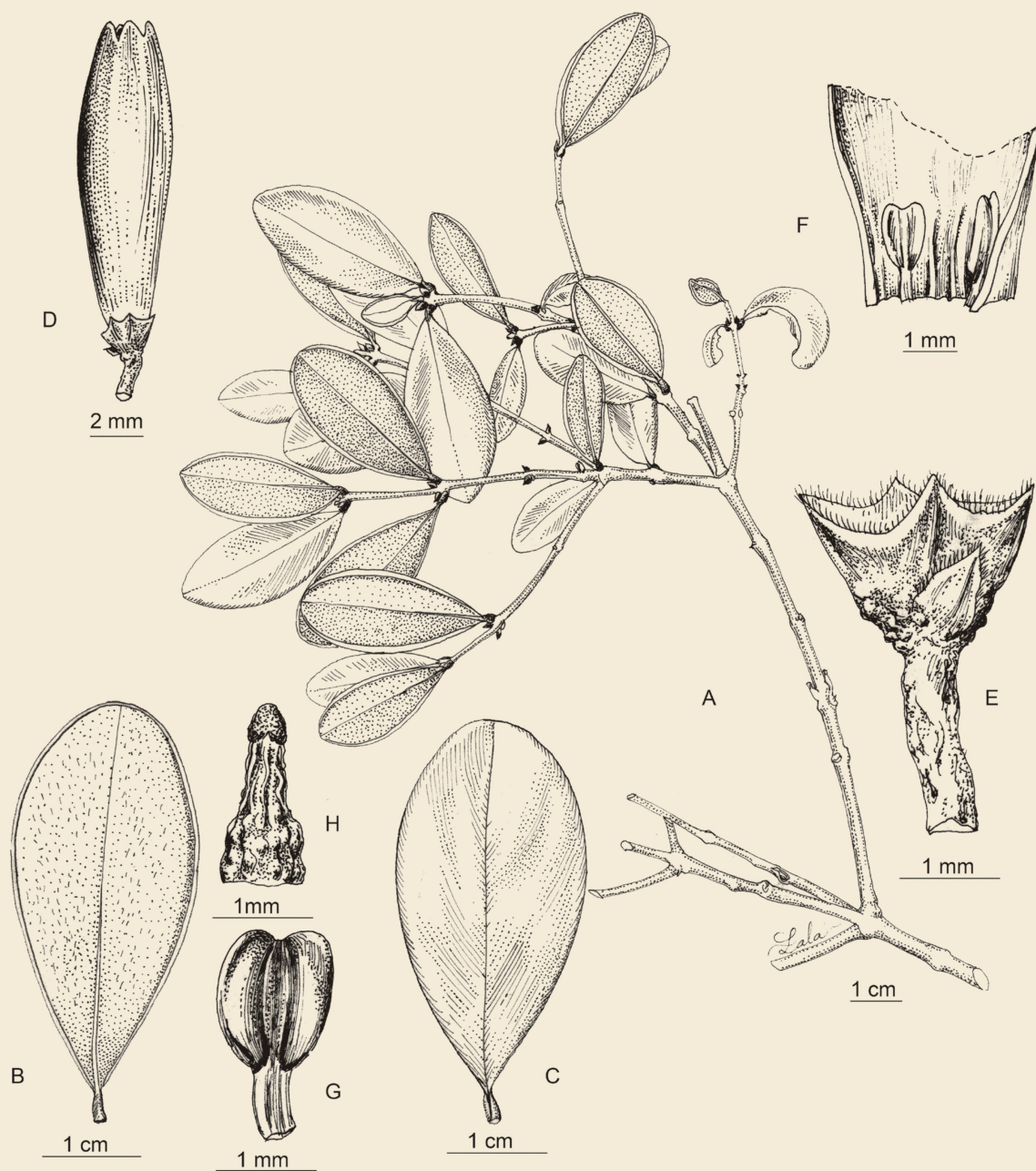


Fig. 32. *Noronhia lowryi* Hong-Wa.

A. Branch; **B.** Abaxial side of leaf blade; **C.** Adaxial side of leaf blade;
D. Flower; **E.** Calyx; **F.** Inner side of corolla; **G.** Stamen; **H.** Pistil.

[*Andriamihajarivo* 398, TAN] Drawings: R.L. Andriamiarisoa

[EN B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)]. Although a new protected area has recently been established in the area where this species occurs (Itremo), it actually does not encompass the currently known subpopulations of *N. lowryi*, which are thus still subject to the effects of habitat degradation and habitat loss resulting from wildfires and grazing.

Notes *Noronhia lowryi* is very distinctive, generally resembling a *Comoranthus*, whose fruit is a capsule instead of a drupe. It has the second largest flowers within the genus, after *Noronhia humbertiana*, and differs from any other species of *Noronhia* by its long tubular corolla, the tube of which measures 7-12 mm long.

Paratypes MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Fianarantsoa:** Ambatofinandrahana, Andraikita, Saronara, Ambalambony, 20°29'25"S 46°49'10"E, 1443 m, 31.X.2004, *Andriamihajarivo* 398 (MO, TAN); Ambatofinandrahana, Ranomafana, 20°35'S 46°36'E, 1450 m, 6.X.1996, A. *Randrianasolo* 490 (K, MO).