

Abrahamia antongilensis

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1. *Abrahamia antongilensis* Randrian. & Lowry, *spec. nova* (Fig. 1).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toamasina:** Rég. Analanjirofo, Anjanaharibe forest, 15°10'48"S 49°37'30"E, 860 m, 4.II.2003, fr., *Antilahimena* 1862 (holo-: MO-6671431!; iso-: G [G00341711]!, K!, NY!, P [P00580355]!, TAN [TAN002003]!).

Diagnosis *Abrahamia antongilensis* Randrian. & Lowry can be distinguished from the other members of the genus by the combination of its leaves with semicraspedodromous venation and a distinctly acuminate apex (10-15 mm long), and inflorescences that are very short (c. 1.8 cm) and terminal.

Description Trees 8-10 m tall; young twigs covered with dense, whitish sericeous indument. Leaves alternate, clustered at the end of branches; blade oblanceolate to obovate, 7-17 × 3-6 cm, chartaceous, apex abruptly acuminate, the acumen 10-15 mm long, margin undulate and very slightly revolute, base cuneate, adaxial surface glabrous or with scattered whitish sericeous indument, abaxial surface covered with dense whitish, appressed sericeous indument when younger, much less dense on older leaves, venation semicraspedodromous, midvein prominent abaxially, secondary veins 25-35 pairs, 2-7 mm apart, forming a wide angle with the midvein (almost perpendicular from the base to the leaf mid-section), raised on both surfaces, tertiary veins visible on both surfaces; petiole 10-18 mm long, c. 1.5 mm in diam., canaliculate on adaxial surface, covered with whitish sericeous indument. *Inflorescence* short, terminal, a panicle, c. 1.8 cm long, axes covered with dense, appressed indument. *Male flowers* unknown. *Female flowers* 5-merous, small, c. 3 mm long, subtended by a very small bract with dense indument; pedicel c. 3 mm long, densely sericeous; calyx lobes small, widely ovate, 1 × 1 mm, valvate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent; corolla lobes ovate, 2.5 × 1.5 mm, thick, imbricate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent; staminodes 5; disk cupuliform, c. 1.5 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary slightly ovoid to spherical, c. 1 × 1 mm, glabrous; style short, thick, c. 1 mm long, glabrous, stigmas capitate. *Fruits* 2.5-3.5 × 1.7-2 cm, ellipsoid, glabrous, with longitudinal striations.

Distribution, ecology and phenology This species is known only from the area around the northern end of the Baie d'Antongil in northeastern Madagascar (Map 1). Flowering material has been collected in November and fruiting specimens in February.

Conservation status With a minimum AOO of 8 km² and two known localities, one within the newly established Makira natural park and the other based on a historical collection that can be assumed to have come from within the buffer zone of Masoala national park,

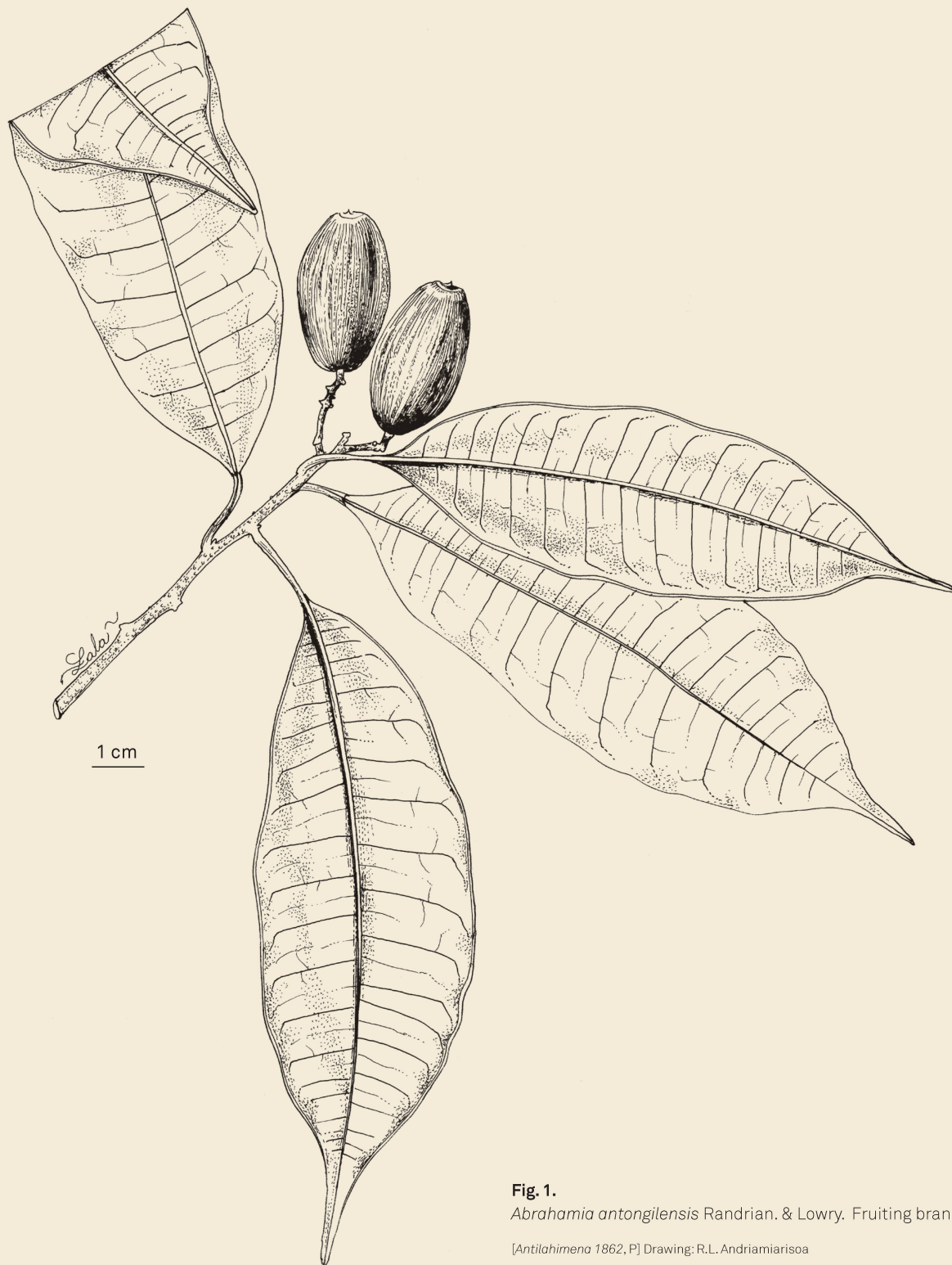


Fig. 1.
Abrahamia antongilensis Randrian. & Lowry. Fruiting branch.

[Antilahimena 1862, P.] Drawing: R.L. Andriamiarisoa

comprising 2 locations, the latter of which is subjected to projected decline in habitat quality, *A. antongilensis* is assigned a preliminary conservation status of “Endangered” [EN B2ab(iii)] using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2012).

Notes *Abrahamia antongilensis* most closely resembles *A. lenticellata* and *A. viguieri* but differs by having the abaxial leaf surface covered with whitish appressed indument (vs glabrous in *A. lenticellata* and with reddish lanate indument in *A. viguieri*). Moreover, *A. antongilensis* can be distinguished from *A. lenticellata* by having glabrous fruits (vs velutinous) and from *A. viguieri* by its leaves with semicraspedodromous (vs craspedodromous) venation.

Abrahamia antongilensis is only known from two collections, both from the area around the Baie d’Antongil in northeastern Madagascar. The type collection (*Antilahimena* 1862), from northwestern of Maroantsetra, has older leaves with less indument on the abaxial surface than on the much younger leaves of the second collection (*Service Forestier 8770*) from the northern part of the Masoala Peninsula, approximately half way between Antalaha and Maroantsetra.

Paratypes **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Toamasina:** Rég. SAVA, S du Col d’Ambatondradama, [15°16’S 50°04’E], c. 750 m, 17.XI.1953, fl., *Service Forestier 8770* (MO, P [2 sheets], TEF).