

Abrahamia buxifolia

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3. *Abrahamia buxifolia* (H. Perrier) Randrian. & Lowry, **comb. nova** (Fig. 3).

≡ *Protorhus buxifolia* H. Perrier in Mém. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. Paris 18: 258. 1944.

Lectotypus (designated here): **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Toliara:** Mt. Belambana, bassin du Mananara (Sud), [22°08'S 46°21'E], 1000 m, VII.1910, *Perrier de la Bâthie* 5852 (P [P06775177]!; isolecto-: P [P00722637]!). **Syntypi:** **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Fianarantsoa:** massif de l'Andringitra, [22°13'S 47°01'E], c. 1800 m, IV.1921, fr., *Perrier de la Bâthie* 13696 (P [P00722638]!). **Prov. Toliara:** Mont Vohipolaka, N Betroka, [22°08'S 46°21'E], 1100-1300 m, XI.1933, ster., *Humbert 11637bis* (P [P06775327]!); *ibid. loco*, 1100-1200 m, *Humbert 11667bis* (P [P00722639]!).

Description

Trees 2-7 m tall, bark with white milky latex; young twigs pubescent or glabrescent, lenticellate or waxy. *Leaves* subopposite or opposite; blades obovate to elliptic, 1.5-6.8 × 1-2.7 cm, subcoriaceous, apex retuse or rounded, margin entire, base cuneate, adaxial surface glabrous, glaucous, often chocolate brown when dry, abaxial surface glabrous (except for sericeous indument on the midvein, and sometimes scattered indument elsewhere on the blade), venation craspedodromous, midvein prominent abaxially, secondary veins 15-25 pairs (rarely to 36 pairs), 1-3 mm apart, prominent on both surfaces, tertiary veins raised on both surfaces; petiole 5-7 mm long, c. 1-1.1 mm in diam., shallowly canaliculate on adaxial surface, glabrescent or pubescent. *Inflorescences* axillary and terminal, a thyrse, 1.5-4.5 cm long, pubescent. *Male and female flowers* 5-merous; pedicel c. 0.2-0.3 mm long, pubescent; calyx lobes deltate to widely depressed ovate, 1-1.2 × 1-1.5 mm, valvate, persistent on fruit, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent; corolla lobes ovate, 2-3 × 1.5-2 mm, pale yellow, imbricate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent. *Male flowers* with 5 or 6 stamens, filaments c. 1-1.5 mm long, glabrous or with sparse indument, white, anthers c. 0.8 mm long, obloid to slightly ovoid, yellow, glabrous; disk c. 2 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary rudimentary. *Female flowers* with 5 or 6 staminodes, filaments c. 1 mm long, glabrous, white, anthers c. 0.5 mm long, ovoid, sterile, yellowish, glabrous; disk c. 1.5 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary widely ovoid, 1-2 × 1-1.5 mm, pubescent; style shortly trifid, inserted apically, c. 1 mm long, pubescent, stigmas capitate. *Fruits* c. 1.5 × 1.1 cm, ellipsoid to slightly obovoid, surface smooth, velutinous when young, glabrescent.

Vernacular names

“Sohihy”.

Distribution, ecology and phenology

Abrahamia buxifolia occurs in the southern and southwestern parts of central Madagascar, with populations extending toward the western slopes and the eastern escarpment

(Map 1). It grows at elevation between 900-1800 m in areas where ecological conditions are harsh, including low rainfall and poor soils. It flowers in September and October, and sets fruits between November and February.

Conservation status

With an EOO of 37,259 km², a minimum AOO of 60 km², and 18 recorded localities, most of which are subjected to frequent burning and only 3 of which are within protected areas (Andringitra, Ibity, and Itremo), representing 11 locations, *A. buxifolia* is assigned a preliminary conservation status of “Near Threatened” [NT] using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2012).

Notes

Abrahamia buxifolia can easily be distinguished from its most similar congener, *A. itremoensis*, by its glaucous and subcoriaceous leaves (vs non-glaucous and coriaceous) that are somewhat larger in size (1.5-6.8 × 1-2.7 vs 2-6 × 0.6-2 cm), and by its flowers with a glabrous disk (vs with evident indument).

Of the four collections cited in the protologue that we examined, we have selected *Perrier de la Bâthie* 5852 as the lectotype because it is more complete than the other syntypes and is represented by two specimens, whereas each of the three other syntypes comprises only a single sheet, two of which (*Humbert* 11637bis and *Humbert* 11667bis) are sterile and one (*Perrier de la Bâthie* 13696) has just a few fruits. Two other collections were also mentioned in the protologue (*Decary* 13041 and *Humbert* 14048) but we have not been able to find these specimens (although a sheet of the latter is reported to be at US) and we have not listed them below in the material examined.

The label data for *Service Forestier* 23500 and 23501 indicate a trunk diameter of 0.5 m, a value that far exceeds any observation we have made in the field. We therefore regard this as a label error and have not included this information in the description.

Additional material examined

MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antananarivo: Antsirabe, Betafo, Antakoboka, 20°03'46"S 46°49'30"E, 1807 m, 17.IX.2004, y. fl., *Andriamihajarivo* 371 (G, MO, P, TAN, TEF); forêt d'Analandraisoa (SW Tsiroanimandidy), [19°09'S 45°49'E], 1200-1300 m, 17-20. XI.1952, fr., *Leandri* 1852 (G, MO, P [2 sheets], TAN); Mont Ibity, E slope of Kibory, 20°06'S 46°59'E, 1600 m, 2.X.1996, ster., *A. Randrianasolo* 488 (MO, P, TAN); Tsiroanomandidy, forêt d'Analandraisoa, [18°59'30"S 45°41'30"E], c. 1100 m, XI.1952, fr., *Service Forestier* 6726 (G, MO, P, TEF). **Prov. Fianarantsoa:** Ambatofinandrahana, Itremo, forêt d'Antsirakambiaty, 20°35'42"S 46°33'55"E, 1605 m, 11.XII.2003, fr., *Andriamihajarivo* 258 (G, MO, P, TAN); Lovokaloha, 20°29'58"S 46°51'37"E, 1411 m, 2.XI.2004, fr., *Andriamihajarivo* 408 (G, MO, P, TAN); Ambatofinandrahana, 10 km N de RN 35, Antanimena, 20°31'05"S 46°34'02"E, 1541 m, 24.VIII.2010, fr., *Andrianaivoravelona et al.* 363 (K, MO, TAN); entre Ambatofinandrahana et Itremo, [20°33'S 46°45'E], IX.1956, bud, *Bosser* 10037 (MO, P [3 sheets], TAN); Itremo, [20°32'S 46°33'E], 1600 m, IX.1956, bud, *Bosser* 10075 (P, TAN); Inselbergs, PK 475, W of Ambalavao, 950-1050 m, 1.II.1975, fr., *Croat* 30326 (MO); N of Sendrisoa, c. 1200 m, 23.II.1975, fr., *Croat* 32165 (MO, P, TAN); Itremo massif, along Ambaloranogolana creek, 20°34'31"S 46°34'50"E, 1500 m, 9.XI.2002, y. fr., *Lowry et al.* 5861



Fig. 3. *Abrahamia buxifolia* Randrian. & Lowry. **A.** Fruits and upper leaf surfaces, from above; **B.** Inflorescences and flowers, from above [Lowry et al. 5861].

Photos: G. Schatz

(G, MO, P, TAN); Itremo massif, montane forest on quartz, 20°34'40"S 46°34'53"E, 1550 m, 29.X.1997, fl., *Malcomber et al.* 2849 (G, MO, P, TAN); Anja Parc, Inselberg Ambohilady, 21°51'11"S 46°51'14"E, 1224 m, 10.XII.2010, fr., *Ramahefaharivelo* 272 (G, MO, P, TAN); Itremo chain, W of Itremo village, 20°35'00"S 46°36'10"E, 1500 m, 4.X.1996, fl., *A. Randrianasolo* 489 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 1450 m, 6.X.1996, bud, *A. Randrianasolo* 493 (G, MO, P, TAN); Ambalavao, Sendrisoa, [22°07'S 46°49'E], 15.XI.1953, fr., *Réserves Naturelles* 5858 (P, TEF); Ivohibe, [Ivohibe RN], Antambohobe, 12.IX.1962, bud, *Réserves Naturelles* 12154 (P); forêt Ambondrozana, Ihosy, [21°57'S 46°36'E], 17.II.1955, bud, *Service Forestier* 13771 (P, TEF); massif granitique d'Ifandana, entre Ankaramena et Ihosy, [22°01'00"S 46°22'30"E], 1300-1400 m, 7.X.1964, fl., *Service Forestier* 23500 (G, MO, P [2 sheets], TEF); *ibid. loco*, *Service Forestier* 23501 (G, MO, NY, P, TEF); massif d'Iandrambaky, SW d'Iarintsena (Ambalavao), [21°51'S 46°51'E], 4.XI.1967, y. fr., *Service Forestier* 27830 (G, MO, P, TEF); rocher de l'Ifandana, N de Zazafotsy, [22°01'00"S 46°22'30"E], 2.XII.1968, fr., *Service Forestier* 28473 (G, K, MO, NY, P [2 sheets], TEF); Ambatofinandrahanana, Andranomivoaka, 18.III.1952, ster., *Service Forestier* 45-R-207 (P); Ambalavao, forêt d'Amboandrozana, 9.VI.1954, ster., *Service Forestier* 63-R-141 (P).