

Abrahamia delphinensis

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7. *Abrahamia delphinensis* Randrian. & Lowry, *spec. nova* (Fig. 6).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toliara:** Rég. Anosy, Vinanibe, W de Fort-Dauphin, [25°03'S 46°56'E], 7.XII.1968, fr., *Service Forestier* 28606 (holo-: P [P06774807]!; iso-: G [G00341712]!, K!, MO-5056712!, NY!, P [P00580305, P00580306]!, TEF [TEF000883]!).

Diagnosis *Abrahamia delphinensis* Randrian. & Lowry is easily distinguished from its congeners by its semicraspedodromous secondary veins, its thin petiole, and its fruits densely covered with short indument.

Description Trees 5-12 m tall, 20-21 cm DBH, bark with white latex; tips of young twigs with short, appressed indument. *Leaves* opposite or sub-opposite; blade obovate, 2.8-5.8(6) × 1-3 cm, chartaceous, apex retuse, margins entire, base broadly cuneate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface sparsely strigose on midvein, venation semicraspedodromous, midvein prominent abaxially, secondary veins 18-25 pairs, 2-3 mm apart, raised and prominent abaxially, slightly raised adaxially, tertiary veins visible only on abaxial surface; petiole 7-15 mm, c. 0.5-1 mm in diam., usually glabrous but sometimes with very sparse short, appressed indument. *Inflorescence* axillary or terminal, a panicle, 1.5-5.5 cm long, pubescent. *Male* and *female flowers* small, 4-merous, c. 2 mm long; calyx lobes 0.5 × 1 mm, triangular, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent; corolla lobes c. 2 × 1-1.2 mm, ovate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface pubescent. *Male flowers* with filaments 1-1.2 mm long, pubescent or sometimes glabrous, anthers c. 0.5-0.8 mm, subglobose, glabrous; disk slightly cupuliform, c. 1.5 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary completely absent. *Female flowers* with vestigial stamens, filaments c. 1 mm long, pubescent, anthers very small, c. 0.2 mm, sterile; disk glabrous, cupuliform, c. 1.5 mm in diam.; ovary c. 0.6-0.8 × 1 mm, depressed ovoid, completely covered with indument; style very short, inserted apically, partly covered with indument, stigmas capitate. *Fruits* 2.3-2.5 × 1.2-1.4 cm, ellipsoid, densely covered with short, appressed and slightly tangled indument, with longitudinal striations.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Abrahamia delphinensis* occurs in low elevation humid forest, including littoral forest on sand, and is restricted to the area around Fort Dauphin (Map 2). It flowers between September and November, and fruits between October and December.

Conservation status With an EOO of 1442 km², a minimum AOO of 48 km², and 12 known localities representing a total of 7 locations, 3 of which are situated within protected areas (Andohahela, Mandena, and Sainte Luce) while the others are variously subjected mining as well as fire and land clearing leading to a projected decline in all 5 sub-criteria, *A. delphinensis* is assigned a preliminary conservation status of “Vulnerable” [VU B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)] using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2012).

Notes *Abrahamia delphinensis* most closely resembles *A. lenticellata* but can be distinguished by its retuse (vs short acuminate to acuminate) leaf apex and the complete absence (vs presence) of a rudimentary ovary in male flowers.

Paratypes MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toliara:** Andohahela PN, NW of Tolagnaro, 24°45'S 46°51'E, 250-500 m, 17-20.X.1992, fl., *Malcomber et al.* 1678 (BM, CAS, G, K, MO [2 sheets], NY, P, TAN, US, WAG); N of Fort-Dauphin, near Ste. Luce, 24°47'S 47°10'E, 10 m, 21.X.1989, y. fr., *McPherson* 14196 (MO, P, TAN, TEF); Mandena, botanical garden, 24°57'S 47°00'E, 25 m, 25.X.1989, fl., *McPherson et al.* 14244 (MO, P, TAN, TEF); Ste. Luce, N de Mahatalaky, 0-10 m, 28.IV.1989, ster., *Rabevohitra* 1959 (MO, P, TAN); Andohahela PN, Isaka-Ivondro, 24°47'S 46°50'E, 0-500 m, 10-27.IX.1993, fl., *Randriamampionona* 631 (A, BM, BR, BRIT, CAS, F, G, K, MO [2 sheets], NY, P [2 sheets], PRE, S, TAN, US, W, WAG, Z); Andohahela PN, Andranolava, 24°41'S 46°45'E, 28.VIII.1996, ster., *Randriamampionona* 1338 (MO, P, TAN); Mandena forestry station, 24°57'S 47°00'E, 0-10 m, 18.XI.1996, ster., *A. Randrianasolo* 546 (MO, P, TAN); N of Tolagnaro, Ste. Luce area, [24°47'S 49°09'E], 0-10 m, 19.XI.1996, ster., *A. Randrianasolo* 569 (MO, P, TAN); Bevoay, Androranga, [24°29'39"S 47°05'39"E], 171 m, 18.XI.2009, fr., *Razakamalala* 4680 (G, MO, P, TAN); Ifarantsa, Ivorona, 24°29'09"S 47°04'43"E, 35 m, 10.XII.2010, fr., *Razakamalala* 5033 (G, K, MO, P, TAN); Mandena, [24°57'S 47°00'E], 16.XI.1948, fl., *Réserves Naturelles* 1348 (G, MO, P); *ibid. loco*, 18.IX.1950, *Service Forestier* 1545 (P, TEF); Marofanenitra, 25.IX.1951, *Service Forestier* 4043 (P, TEF); Mandena, [17°30'S 48°38'E], 29.X.1953, fl., *Service Forestier* 7826 (P, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 3.IX.1953, fl., *Service Forestier* 8170 (MO, P, TEF); Col du Maningotry, 300-400 m, 27.IX.1953, fl., *Service Forestier* 8510 (G, MO, P, TEF); Mandena, 15.XII.1954, fr., *Service Forestier* 15622 (MO, P, TEF).