

Abrahamia littoralis

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18. *Abrahamia littoralis* Randrian. & Lowry, *spec. nova* (Fig. 15).

Typus: MADAGASCAR. **Prov. Toamasina:** Rég. Analanjirofo, Fénérive-Est, Tampolo forestry station, along the “Grand Layon”, just 20 m before the first bridge going toward the Indian Ocean, 0-5 m, 25.X.1996, fl., A. Randrianasolo 509 (holo-: MO-04895278!; iso-: G!, K!, P [P06775163]!, TAN [TAN001996]!, WAG!).

Diagnosis *Abrahamia littoralis* Randrian. & Lowry is easily distinguished from its congeners by its medium sized (4-17 × 1.3-5.2 cm), oblanceolate leaves bearing scattered, very often obscure tertiary venation, its long petiole (10-30 mm), and its axillary inflorescences.

Description *Trees* 4-15 m tall, 12-18 cm DBH, bark with white milky or translucent latex; young twigs pubescent or ferruginously scabrous. *Leaves* alternate; blades oblanceolate, 4-17 × 1.3-5.2 cm, coriaceous to subcoriaceous, apex very often shortly acuminate, rounded, retuse or emarginate, margin entire, base acute, adaxial surface sericeous when young, later glabrescent, abaxial surface sericeous when young, glabrescent, venation craspedodromous, slightly prominent adaxially, midvein prominent abaxially, secondary veins c. 25 pairs, more or less parallel, 2-10 mm apart, prominent abaxially, forming an acute angle with the midrib, tertiary veins widely spaced, often obscure on adaxial surface; petiole 10-30 mm long, canaliculate on adaxial surface, pubescent when young, later glabrescent. *Inflorescence* axillary, a panicle, 2-5 cm long, axes, strigose. *Male and female flowers* 5-merous; pedicel 0.3-0.5 mm long, with short, appressed indument; calyx lobes triangular, 1.5 × 1 mm, imbricate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface with short appressed indument, persistent on fruit; corolla lobes narrowly ovate, 2-3 × c. 1 mm, imbricate, adaxial surface glabrous, abaxial surface strigose, pale yellow, whiter inside; stamens 5. *Male flowers* with filaments 1.2-1.5 mm long, glabrous, white, anthers 0.8-1 mm long, obloid to slightly ovoid, white, glabrous; disk cupuliform, c. 1.5 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary rudimentary. *Female flowers* with filaments c. 1 mm long, glabrous, white, anthers c. 0.2-0.3 mm long, subglobose, sterile, white, glabrous; disk c. 1.5 mm in diam., glabrous; ovary widely ovoid to obovoid, c. 1.5 × c. 1 mm, glabrous, placentation subapical; style very shortly trifid, apical, c. 1-1.1 mm long, glabrous, stigmas capitate. *Fruits* 2-2.5 × 1-1.5 cm, ellipsoid, slightly asymmetrical, glabrous, with longitudinal striations.

Vernacular names “Hazombarorana”, “Tarantana”.

Distribution, ecology and phenology *Abrahamia littoralis* is found in eastern littoral or sublittoral forests near sea level on sandy substrates (Map 7). It flowers in October and very young fruits have been collected in November.

**Fig. 15.***Abrahamia littoralis* Randrian. & Lowry.**A.** Flowering branch; **B.** Infructescence; **C.** Fruit; **D.** Detail of female flower; **E.** Detail of male flower. [A. Randrianasolo 509, M0] Drawings: B. Alongi

Conservation status With an EOO of 18,722 km², a minimum AOO of 56 km², and 10 recorded localities, with a subpopulation in a single protected area (Agnalazaha), comprising 8 locations subjected to pressure from habitat degradation due to forest exploitation and land clearing, *A. littoralis* is assigned a preliminary conservation assessment of “Vulnerable” [VU Blab(iii)+2ab(iii)] using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2012).

Notes With its oblanceolate leaf blade, craspedodromous venation, axillary inflorescence, presence of a rudimentary ovary in male flowers, and glabrous fruit, *A. littoralis* most closely resembles *A. elongata* but differs by its much smaller leaves (4-17 × 1.3-5.2 vs 8.5-26.5 × 2.5-6.5 cm), fewer secondary veins (25 vs 25-50), and obscure (vs prominent) tertiary venation on the abaxial surface.

Paratypes **MADAGASCAR. Prov. Fianarantsoa:** Farafangana, Mahabo, forêt littorale d'Apoakafo, 23°11'02"S 47°41'38"E, 34 m, 19.IX.2003, fl., *Ludovic et al.* 435 (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'10"S 47°43'02"E, 30 m, 5.VIII.2004, fl., *Ludovic et al.* 880 (G, MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'S 47°41'E, 21 m, 29.X.2004, fr., *Ludovic et al.* 928 (MO, TAN); Mahabo, Baboaka, forêt d'Andranomainty, 23°10'S 47°44'E, 21 m, s.d., fr., *Ludovic & Emilson 1006* (G, K, MO, P, TAN); near Mahabo village, 23°10'51"S 47°42'29"E, 30 m, 5.XI.2001, fr., *McPherson & Rabenantoandro 18338* (G, K, MO, NY, P, TEF, WAG); Fokontany Mahabo, Firaisana Mahabo-Mananivo, 23°11'01"S 47°42'44"E, 17 m, 6.XI.2001, fr., *Rabenantoandro et al. 701* (MO, P, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'01"S 47°42'44"E, 17 m, 6.XI.2001, y. fr., *Rabenantoandro et al. 706* (MO, P, TAN, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 23°10'39"S 47°43'06"E, 10 m, 25.IX.2002, fr., *Rabenantoandro et al. 1011* (G, MO, P, TEF); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'26"S 47°43'17"E, 11 m, 1.IX.2007, bud, *Rakotoarivelo 198* (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 23°11'13"S 47°42'27"E, 22 m, 26.VIII.2003, fl., *Razakamalala et al. 708* (G, K, MO, P, TEF); Farafangana, Nosiala, [23°12'00"S 47°42'30"E], 19.XI.1955, fr., *Service Forestier 16211* (P, TEF). **Prov. Toamasina:** Fénérive-Est, Station forestière de Tampolo, 17°16'52"S 49°24'44"E, 0-15 m, 24.I.1995, ster., *Raholivelo et al. 150* (MO); *ibid. loco*, 0-5 m, 1.VIII.1996, ster., *A. Randrianasolo 467, 467a* (MO, P, TAN); *ibid. loco*, 25.X.1996, y. fr., *A. Randrianasolo 510* (MO, P, TAN); Brick-aville, Vohibola forest, 18°33'39"S 49°14'33"E, 27 m, 28.XI.2002, fl., *A. Randrianasolo et al. 737* (G, K, MO, P); Ambila Lemaitso, [18°49'S 49°08'E], 26.X.1950, y. fr., *Service Forestier 1583* (G, MO, P, TAN, TEF); Tampolo, [17°17'00"S 49°23'30"E], 15.X.1954, fl., *Service Forestier 11071* (MO, P [2 sheets]); *ibid. loco*, [17°17'00"S 49°23'30"E], 19.X.1955, fl., *Service Forestier 15187* (MO, P, TEF); *ibid. loco*, [17°17'S 49°23'E], 28.IX.1957, fl., *Service Forestier 17797* (G, MO, NY, P, TEF); forêt sublittorale de Vohibola, W de Tampina, [18°31'S 49°17'E], 12-14.VIII.1957, y. fr., *Service Forestier 18086* (G, MO, P [2 sheets]); forêt sublittorale, entre Foulpointe et l'embouchure de l'Onibe, [17°40'30"S 49°29'30"E], 29.IX.1963, fl., *Service Forestier 22764* (P). **Prov. Toliara:** Tolagnaro (Fort-Dauphin), Mandena Forest, along road SW of QIT Fer et Titane work camp, 24°57'S 47°00'E, 0-10 m, 19.IV.1989, ster., *Gereau et al. 3393* (MO, P, TAN); Tolagnaro, Ambinanibe, port d'Ehoala, 25°03'S 46°56'E, 2 m, 5.III.2007, ster., *Rabenantoandro et al. 1777* (MO). **Sine loco:** s.d., fl., *Humblot 358* (P); s.d., fl., *Louvel 147* (P).