



# A new species of *Bocoa* (Leguminosae-Swartzieae) from the Upper Essequibo region, Guyana

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## Key words

*Bocoa*  
Guayana Shield  
Guyana  
Leguminosae-Swartzieae  
taxonomy  
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**Abstract** A new species, *Bocoa marionii*, from the Upper Essequibo region, Guyana, is described and illustrated and its relationships with allied species are discussed. It is morphologically similar to *B. prouacensis*, from which it differs in its chartaceous leaflets, shorter inflorescences borne among leaves, longer pedicels, calyx that is strigose along the middle of the segments internally, and ovary densely yellow-sericeous. A key to the species of *Bocoa* is provided.

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## INTRODUCTION

*Bocoa* Aubl. is a small genus of slender trees found in a variety of habitats, from open canopy cerrado to tropical moist forest, distributed throughout northern South America. Until recently, it contained seven species (Cowan 1974, Cowan & Lindeman 1989), but evidence from several different sources, including morphology (Herendeen 1995), wood anatomy (Gasson 1996) and pollen (Ferguson & Schrire 1994), suggested that the genus was non-monophyletic, comprising elements of two separate and well-supported clades (Ireland et al. 2000, Kite & Ireland 2002, Ireland 2005). Ireland (2007) confirmed this division by a detailed morphological study and reinstated the generic name *Trischidium* Tul., into which five species of *Bocoa* were transferred: *T. alterna* (Benth.) H.E. Ireland, *T. decipiens* (R.S. Cowan) H.E. Ireland, *T. limae* (R.S. Cowan) H.E. Ireland, *T. molle* (Benth.) H.E. Ireland and *T. racemosum* (Huber) H.E. Ireland. She retained two species in *Bocoa* (*B. prouacensis* Aubl. and *B. viridiflora* (Ducke) R.S. Cowan) and in the same work she described a third species, *B. ratterii* H.E. Ireland. Ireland (2007) noted several characters that distinguish *Bocoa* from *Trischidium*, some of which had been overlooked by previous authors. For example, *Bocoa* species have no petals, whereas there is a single petal in all species of *Trischidium* (except *T. decipiens*); the anthers of *Bocoa* are dorsifixed, attached about 0.5 mm from the base of the anther, and are shorter than the filaments, whereas in *Trischidium* they are basifixed and as long as or longer than the filaments; the fruits of *Bocoa* have a woody wall with either a smooth or rough surface, in contrast to *Trischidium*, which has a chartaceous fruit wall with reticulate venation on the surface; and *Bocoa* has larger, arillate seeds. *Bocoa* is morphologically similar to *Swartzia* Schreb. and herbarium specimens are often misidentified. Indeed, *Bocoa* and *Swartzia* form a monophyletic group within the Swartzioideae clade (Ireland et al. 2000). *Swartzia* can be readily distinguished from *Bocoa* by its polymorphic rather than monomorphic stamens, and filaments that are usually as long as or shorter than the anthers, rather than filaments that are longer than the anthers.

One species of *Bocoa* (*B. viridiflora*) looks similar to the monospecific genus *Candolleodendron* R.S. Cowan (*C. brachystachyum* (DC.) R.S. Cowan), particularly in fruit and in the vegetative state, and both taxa share a similar geographical distribution in northern Brazil and French Guiana. Torke (pers. comm.) has confirmed this affinity in a cladistic analysis using combined data from trnL and atpB-rbcL sequences, which showed *C. brachystachyum* and *B. viridiflora* to be sisters. However, *C. brachystachyum* has 5–7 leaflets in contrast to the 1–3 of *B. viridiflora*, the flowers of *C. brachystachyum* are larger and more robust than those of *B. viridiflora*, with longer (c. 5 mm) anthers that are basifixed, a petal, and a densely pubescent ovary. The flowers of *B. viridiflora* differ in having smaller, dorsifixed anthers (1–1.5 mm long), no petal and a glabrous ovary.

There is much variation within the genus *Bocoa*. For example, the leaves of *B. viridiflora* are trifoliolate (occasionally unifoliolate) with opposite to subopposite leaflets, those of *B. ratterii* are pinnate with alternate leaflets, and those of *B. prouacensis* and *B. marionii* are unifoliolate. There is variation in stamen number: *B. viridiflora* has 25–30 stamens, *B. ratterii* 50–65, and *B. prouacensis* and *B. marionii* 7–10. With so much variation it is possible that the genus is not monophyletic. We propose that all species should remain in the genus *Bocoa* at present until more information becomes available, particularly about the poorly known species *B. ratterii* and *B. marionii*.

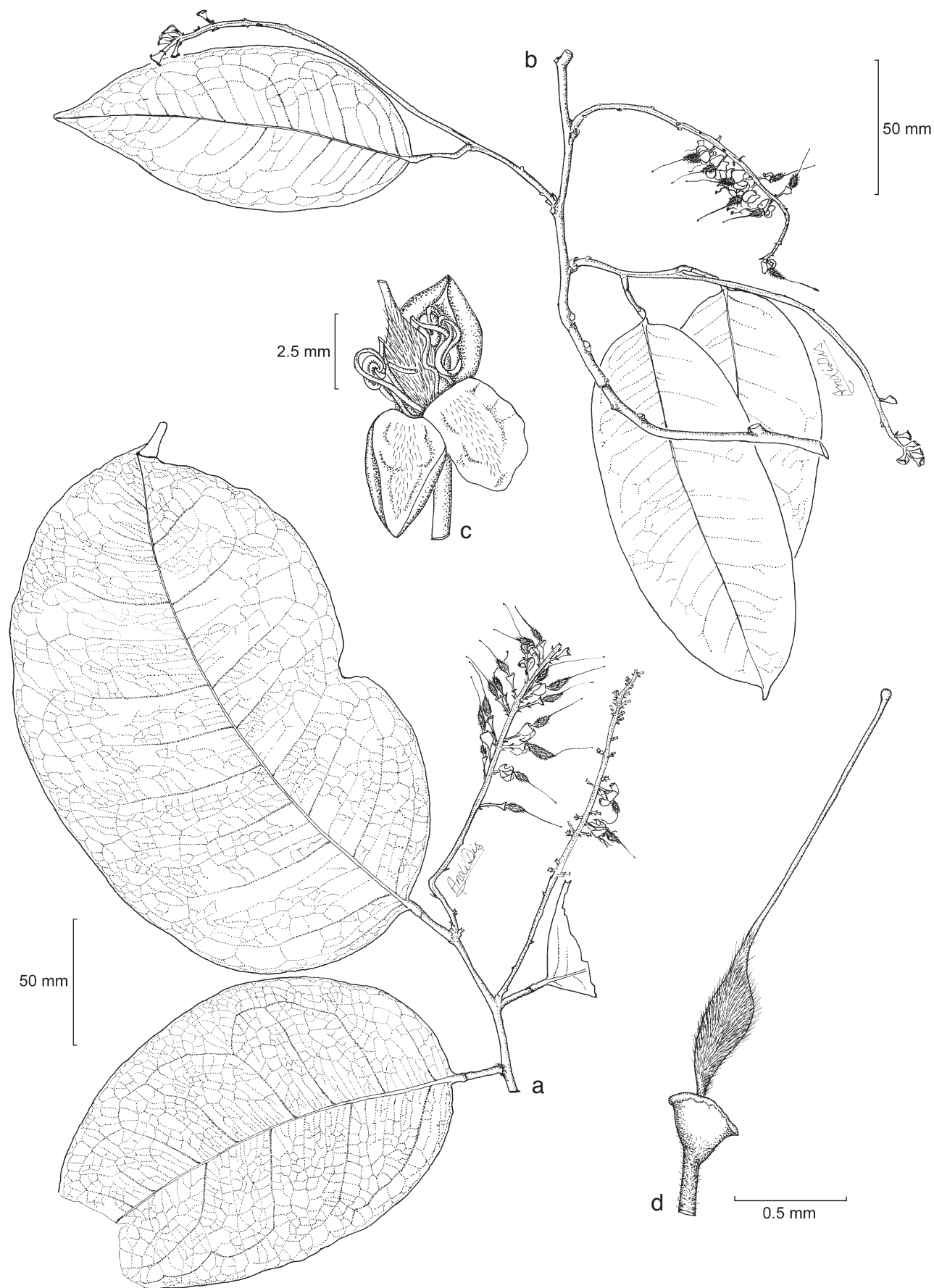
## *Bocoa marionii* Aymard & H.E. Ireland, sp. nov. — Fig. 1

*Bocoa prouacensis* Aubl., sed differt: foliolis chartaceis; inflorescentiis 10–15 cm longis, non ramifloris, pedicellis 4–8 mm longis, strigoso-pubescentibus, calycis segmentis intus strigosis, ovario dense luteo-sericeo pubescenti. — Typus: *M. Jansen-Jacobs et al.* 5676 (holo U (2 sheets); iso PORT), Guyana, Upper Essequibo region, Rewa River, Corona falls, 03° 10' N, 58° 40' W, 160 m, 31 August 1999.

Slender tree 5–10 m tall; branchlets cylindrical, glabrous, the bark grey; stipules early deciduous. *Leaves*: unifoliolate, petiole 10–15 mm long, glabrous, rounded, pulvinule c. 2 mm long, glabrous; leaflets elliptic, elliptic-ovate to broadly ovate, 9–20 by 5–13 cm, chartaceous, glabrous above and beneath, base acute to obtuse, apex acute; secondary veins 7–13, convergent and anastomosing close to the margin, tertiary venation im-

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**Fig. 1** *Bocoa marionii* Aymard & H.E. Ireland. a, b. Branch with inflorescences; c. flower; d. post-anthesis gynoecium and calyx (a, c, d: Jansen-Jacobs et al. 5676 (PORT); b: Jansen-Jacobs 5734 (PORT)).

pressed beneath. *Inflorescence* axillary racemes, borne among leaves, 10–15 cm long, 1–2 mm wide, rachis quadrangular, glabrous, bracteoles triangular-ovate, c. 2 by 0.5–1 mm, glabrous, ciliolate at the apex; pedicels 4–8 by c. 0.5 mm, strigose pubescent. Flower bud ellipsoid; calyx c. 5 mm long, splitting near base into three segments, the segments equal, 3–4 by c. 3 mm, straight, oblong-elliptic, glabrous externally, medially strigose internally; petal absent; stamens 7–10, monomorphic, filaments 6–8 by c. 0.2 mm, glabrous, anthers c. 1.5 by c. 1.5 mm, oblong; ovary 5–10 by 3–5 mm, densely yellow-sericeous pubescent, style 6–10 mm long, filiform, glabrous, stigma capitate, stipe 2–3 by c. 0.2 mm wide, glabrous, fruit not seen.

*Distribution* — Guyana: Rewa River, Upper Essequibo region.

*Habitat & Ecology* — In riparian forest, on loamy or sandy soils. At elevations of 160 m.

*Phenology* — Flowers known from August and September.

*Etymology* — The epithet honors the collector of the type specimen, Marion Jansen-Jacobs, an authority on neotropical *Verbenaceae*, and editor of the *Flora of the Guianas*.

*Note* — *Bocoa marionii* is known from only two collections, and therefore, little is known about its full distribution and morphological variation. *Bocoa marionii* is most similar to *B. prouacensis*. The two species are unique among species of *Bocoa* in having unifoliate leaves and 7–10 stamens. However, *B. marionii* differs from *B. prouacensis* principally in its chartaceous leaflets (vs coriaceous), shorter, axillary inflorescences borne among the leaves (vs larger, ramiflorous inflorescences), pedicels 4–8 cm long, strigose (vs 0.5–2 cm long, glabrous), calyx segments strigose internally (vs glabrous), and densely yellow-sericeous ovary (vs glabrous). The close relationship between *B. marionii* and *B. prouacensis* is significant because *B. prouacensis* is the type species of *Bocoa*, and if the genus is found to be non-monophyletic, *B. marionii* will probably stay in *Bocoa*.

*Paratype*. M. Jansen-Jacobs, B.J.H. ter Welle, P.P. Haripersaud, O. Muller & M. van der Zee 5734 (PORT, U), Guyana, Upper Essequibo region, Rewa River, Corona falls, 03° 10' N, 58° 40' W, 160 m, 2 September 1999.

## KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *BOCOA*

(Based on Ireland 2007)

1. Leaves unifoliate; stamens 7–10 . . . . . 2
1. Leaves pinnate, rarely with an occasional unifoliate leaf; stamens 25–65 . . . . . 3
2. Inflorescences axillary racemes; pedicels 4–8 mm long, strigose; ovary densely yellow-sericeous. — Guyana . . . . . *B. marionii*
2. Inflorescences ramiflorous, pedicels 0.5–2 mm long, glabrous; ovary glabrous. — French Guiana, Suriname . . . . . *B. prouacensis*
3. Leaves 3-foliolate (occasionally unifoliate), the leaflets opposite, glabrous above and beneath; stamens 25–30; tree 15–30 m tall. — Brazil: Pará and Amazonas, French Guiana, Suriname . . . . . *B. viridiflora*
3. Leaves 5- or 6-foliolate, leaflets alternate, white sericeous above, densely sericeous beneath in immature leaves (mature leaves not known); stamens 50–65; small tree about 2.5 m tall. — Brazil: Maranhão . . . . . *B. ratteri*

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