

A NEW SPECIES OF UVARIA (ANNONACEAE) FROM WEST AFRICA

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SUMMARY

A new *Uvaria* species from the forests of Côte d'Ivoire is described.

Key words: Annonaceae, *Uvaria*, Côte d'Ivoire, taxonomy.

When going through the herbarium collections from western Africa for the ECOSYN Project (see acknowledgement) we came across several not yet published new species. Among them was *Uvaria sassandrensis* described below. Specimens of this new *Uvaria* species found in the herbaria were sometimes identified as *U. thomasi* Sprague & Hutch., the only other species in the area with long dark bristly hairs on twig and petiole (Keay, 1954: 35). Both species also have a cordate leaf-base and calyx-lobes that are already distinct in bud. However, the fruit of the new species is smooth whereas the fruit of *U. thomasi* is spiny and the flowers of the two species are clearly different as well, the petals in *U. thomasi* are about 3 times as long as wide while the petals of the new species are almost circular. *Uvaria thomasi* is found in forests from Senegal to Côte d'Ivoire, *U. sassandrensis* is until now only known from Côte d'Ivoire.

Uvaria sassandrensis Jongkind, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1

Liana. Ramuli petioli denso pilis fasciculatis. Folium petiolo 3–6 mm longo; lamina < 17 cm longa, < 5 cm lata. Petala subaequalia, 2 cm in diametra. Stamina numerosa. *Uvaria thomasi* Sprague & Hutchinson affinis. — Typus: *J. de Koning 1347* (holo WAG; iso BR, MO, P), Côte d'Ivoire, Sassandra River, near Louga, 9 April 1973.

Large liana. Stem dark violet-brown. Branchlets with many, c. 1 mm long, erect, fasciculate, brownish hairs. Leaf-blade slender, gradually widening, up to 17 cm long and 5 cm wide, base narrowly cordate, apex acuminate, coriaceous, glabrous or hairy on the nerves, midrib impressed above, with 9–13 pairs of laterals; petiole 3–6 mm long, brown pilose. Flowers single and terminal; pedicel c. 1 cm long; sepals 6–9 mm long and 10–13 mm wide, completely covered by a very short fasciculate indumentum; petals almost circular, subequal, 2–2.5 cm in diameter, with very short fasciculate hairs, pinkish with base red inside. Stamens numerous, 1.5–2.5 mm long, yellow. Stigmas brown and sticky, with pale and more or less curly hairs. Monocarps up to 8, angular-globose, up to 1.5 cm long, apex attenuate, completely covered by very short, fasciculate, yellowish hairs; stipe shorter than monocarp. No mature seeds seen.

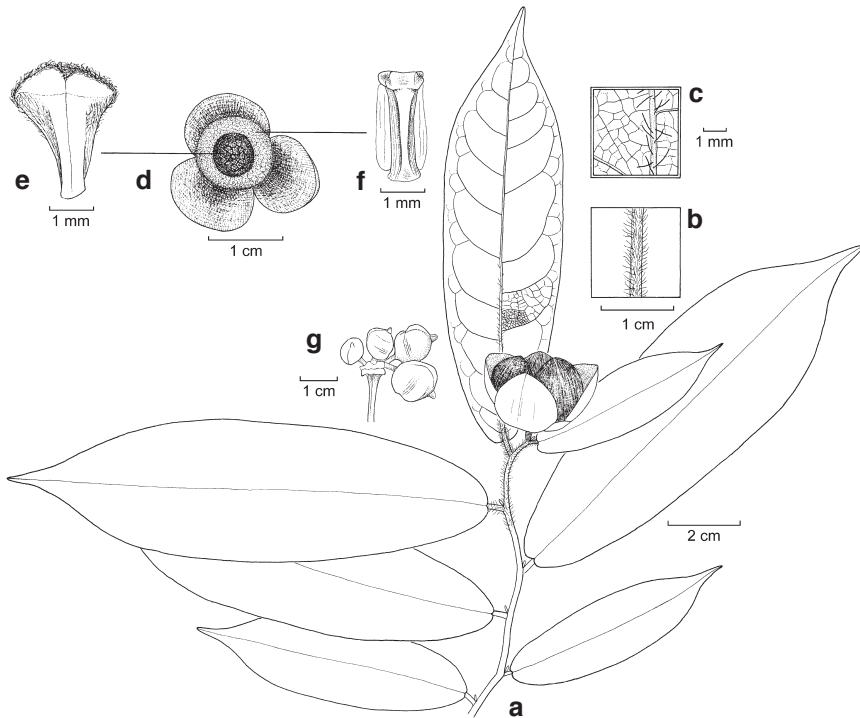


Fig. 1. *Uvaria sassandrensis* Jongkind. a. Habit with flower; b. twig; c. midrib from beneath; d. flower from above; e. style; f. stamen; g. fruit (a–c, g: *De Koning 1347*; d–f: *Geerling & Bokdam 2450*).

Distribution & Habit — Only known from the forest of south Côte d'Ivoire.

Note — It proved to be a common species found on several locations during recent expeditions. It does never seem to flower or fruit abundantly and this might be the reason it is not discovered earlier.

Additional specimens examined:

CÔTE D'IVOIRE. *W.J. van der Burg 241* (WAG), 14 km WSW of Kpata-Aidou, 9 May 1975; *Geerling & Bokdam 2450* (WAG), 5 km NE of Monogaga, 2 April 1968; *Hall & Aké Assi GC 45437* (GC), 2 mile E of Sakre, 15 Aug. 1975; *Hall & Abbiw GC 45577* (GC), 30 km NNW of San Pedro, 22 Aug. 1975; *Jongkind 4118* (WAG), FC de Monogaga, 2 Dec. 1997; *Jongkind & Assi-Yapo 5050* (WAG), close to Prolo, 10 April 2000; *Jongkind & Assi-Yapo 5064* (WAG), along Tabou – Pata-Idié road, 11 April 2000.

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REFERENCE

Keay, R.W.J. 1954. Flora of West Tropical Africa, second edition, part 1 (1).