



Additions to the flora of the southern mountains of Papua New Guinea: *Begonia chambersiae* sp. nov. (Begoniaceae), *Kibara renneriae* sp. nov. (Monimiaceae), and distributional records of four rarely seen taxa

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Abstract

Begonia chambersiae (Begoniaceae) and *Kibara renneriae* (Monimiaceae) are described from the southern mountains of Papua New Guinea. The first species is apparently a limestone endemic. Distributional records are also reported for *Alyxia pugio* (Apocynaceae), *Aporosa decipiens* (Phyllanthaceae), *Glochidion urceolare* (Phyllanthaceae), and *Kibara archboldiana*.

Key words: *Alyxia*, *Aporosa*, *Begonia*, doline karst, *Glochidion*, *Kibara*

Introduction

The southern ranges of Papua New Guinea (PNG) were recently targeted by an intensive series of multidisciplinary expeditions. At least 10 bivouacs were established in support of the exploration itineraries, at elevations ranging from 210 to 2860 m. Herbarium study of the resulting collections has uncovered (as of January 2010) at least 48 new species and 2 new genera.

The latest undertaking (4–24 September 2009, to the Strickland basin) was the most logistically-challenging study of the karst biome by any modern operation. With the exception of a few minor families, taxonomic appraisal of the Strickland collections has been completed. The current contribution will be one of the closing papers in the series of publications based on the Conservation International (CI) surveys of PNG.

Methods

The following text is organized into two sections, the first introducing the new species *Begonia chambersiae* and *Kibara renneriae*, and the second presenting distributional records of four taxa which were identified after the Strickland expedition volume (Richards & Gamui 2011) had already gone to press.

Unless otherwise noted, the descriptions of new species refer only to the attributes on dried specimens. Characters determined in situ from living plants are reported separately as 'field characters'.

Descriptive or annotational entries are based on examination of all duplicate sheets from the author's cited numbers. For collections not made by the author, the duplicates at A and LAE have been seen, but not those lodged at other herbaria.