



Floristic records from Momase region, Papua New Guinea

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Abstract

Kairoa cromeana (Monimiaceae) is described from ultrabasic environments in the Momase region of Papua New Guinea. Distributional records are also reported for *Cryptocarya magnifolia* (Lauraceae), *Gleichenia peltophora* (Gleicheniaceae), *Paphia megaphylla* (Ericaceae), *Rhysotoechia applanata* (Sapindaceae), and *Steganthera hentyi* (Monimiaceae). *Cryptocarya cordifolia* is proposed as a synonym for *C. magnifolia*.

Key words: *Cryptocarya*, distributional records, *Kairoa*, new species, northeast New Guinea

Introduction

Steeped in scientific history and significance, the Momase region of Papua New Guinea (PNG) has one of the richest concentrations of endemic species in the Flora Malesiana (Balgooy *et al.* 1996). Previously unknown plants are continuously being discovered from the modern-day Momase provinces (*viz.*, Morobe, Madang, East Sepik, and West Sepik). Although originally established as political-administrative units, Momase jurisdictions are coincidentally linked by similar tectonic and biotic patterns. Many of its forest environments are dominated by the same species across the regional life zones.

An estimated 9,000 specimen numbers have accumulated in storage (since 2004) as a result of Harvard's exploratory surveys in New Guinea. These backlogged sets have not received previous attention because of higher-priority commitments to the Conservation International Rapid Assessment Program. With the author's recent retirement, all undistributed collections are finally being examined prior to operations shutdown. The following contribution is the first installment in a concluding series for dispensing with the backlog.

Methods

Unless otherwise noted, the taxonomic descriptions (including compilations in Table 1), refer only to 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.

New description

Monimiaceae

Kairoa cromeana Takeuchi, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–3)

Haec species a congeneris omnibus partibus glabris differt (bracteis masculinis minutissimo-puberulis glabrescentibus exceptis).