



Article

A new local variety of *Crepidomanes minutum* (Hymenophyllaceae) in the Mascarene Archipelago (Indian Ocean) and a new record for Mauritius

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Abstract

Crepidomanes minutum (Hymenophyllaceae) is here identified and recorded from Mauritius for the first time. The Mauritian specimens, in addition to those of La Réunion observed at low to middle elevations, are easily distinguished from populations observed outside the Mascarene Archipelago by their dwarfed size and rarity of the stipe proliferation that usually characterizes this species. We thus describe a new variety in this species for the Mascarene Islands.

Résumé

Crepidomanes minutum (Hymenophyllaceae) a été identifié et récolté pour la première fois sur l'île Maurice. Les spécimens mauriciens ainsi que les populations observées à basses et moyennes altitudes à La Réunion sont facilement distinguables des populations observées en dehors des Mascareignes via leur taille naine et la rareté de la prolifération du pétiole qui caractérise habituellement cette espèce. Nous proposons donc de décrire une nouvelle variété locale pour ce taxon.

Introduction

The filmy fern *Crepidomanes minutum* (Blume) Iwatsuki (1985: 524) (Hymenophyllaceae) is a complex of highly morphologically variable populations with a distribution that encompasses the entire distribution of the genus: from Western Africa to the Pacific Islands (including Hawaii), according to Yoroi & Iwatsuki (1977), Ebihara *et al.* (2006), and recently demonstrated by Nitta *et al.* (2011) who revealed a complex reticulate evolution. Therefore, it includes African *C. mannii* (Hook.) Roux (2000: 155) as a synonym of *C. minutum* and all the African-Madagascan representatives of *C.* section *Gonocormus sensu* Ebihara *et al.* (2006).

Crepidomanes minutum is known from La Réunion (the largest island of the Indian Ocean Archipelago of the Mascarenes), but under the name *C. mannii*, as reported on most collections (including those at P and REU), and was *a priori* absent in Mauritius (another Mascarene Island). Roux (2009) reported the species (as *C. mannii*) from Mauritius, but its presence was not officially referenced by collections from there (Lorence 1978) or considered as doubtful (Grangaud 2010), before its recent (re)discovery (see hereafter). The species is absent from the third main Mascarene Island, Rodrigues, because that island does not have the preferred wet rainforest habitat (Lorence 1976).

The species was observed and collected in October 2010 in some localities in Mauritius, Vallée d'Osterlog, Brise Fer and Macchabé, Fig. 1. *A posteriori* investigations of the collections at MAU revealed