

ECUA, A NEW GENUS OF APOCYNACEAE FROM MALESIA

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INTRODUCTION

Whilst examining the specimens of Apocynaceae in Herbarium Bogoriense I came upon two unknown specimens which appeared to be species of *Parsonsia*. On further examination they turned out to belong to a new genus related to *Parsonsia* but differing from it in the stamens which are included within the corolla tube and the shape of the corolla, filaments and anthers. This is the second new genus recently discovered in Malesia, the first being *Baharuia* D.J. Middleton described from plants collected in Borneo and Sumatra.

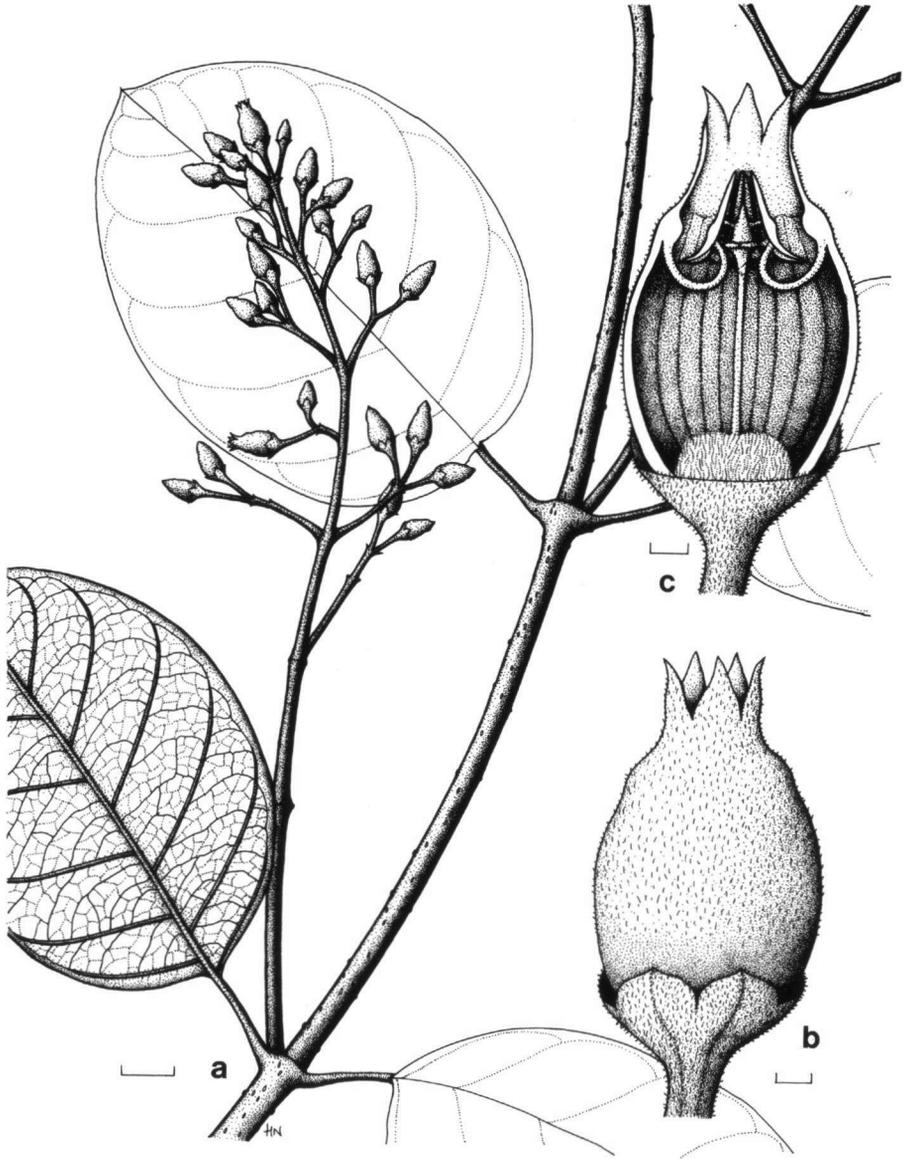
The name of the genus is a somewhat tongue-in-cheek reference to the funding for my work on Malesian Apocynaceae, the European Currency Unit or ECU. The genus was launched during the opening of the Van Steenis Building by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on June 11, 1996.

ECUA D.J. Middleton, *gen. nov.*

Frutices scandentes. Folia opposita, coriacea. Cymae elongatae, puberulae, laxae. Corolla urceolata, lobi contorti, dextrorsum obtegentes. Stamina inclusa, antherae triangulares, basi sagittatae, pistillo adhaerentes. Discus 5-lobus, basi connatus. Ovarii carpella 2, connata. Fructus ignotus. — Type species: *Ecua moluccensis* D.J. Middleton.

Climbers or scramblers. Branches lenticellate, possibly becoming corky. Leaves opposite; those of a pair equal in size; petiolate, with a ring of glands in the axils and between petiole bases; blade coriaceous, entire, lateral veins ascending towards margins, tertiary venation conspicuous and reticulate, glabrous. Inflorescence an axillary elongated cyme, brown puberulent, lax. Flowers 5-merous, actinomorphic, small. Sepals free, colleters fused together on the inside at the base. Corolla: lobes in bud slightly overlapping to the right; mature corolla urceolate, consisting of an inflated tube, thickened throat and small lobes; lobes triangular; pubescent outside, glabrous inside. Stamens included within the corolla tube, attached in a ring to the pistil head; filaments attached near corolla throat, curving downwards and then up again; anthers narrowly triangular, apex acuminate, base sagittate and strongly curved outwards, sterile at apex and base. Disc of 5 cupped lobes, fused at base. Ovary of 2 connate carpels, superior, flat-topped, pubescent; ovules many; style columnar. Fruit unknown.

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Ecuca moluccensis D.J. Middleton. a. Habit; b. flower; c. flower dissection (a–c: *Main & Aden 706*, BO). Scale bars: a = 1 cm; b, c = 1 mm.

Ecuca moluccensis* D.J. Middleton, *spec. nov.

Folia elliptica, apice acuminata, basi obtusa usque rotundata, usque 28.5 × 17 cm. Cymae 17–37 cm longae. Lobi calycini ovati, apice rotundati, 2.1–2.5 × 2.2–2.5 mm, puberuli. Tubus corollae 9.8–10 mm longus, lobi 2–2.3 mm longi. — Typus: *Main & Aden 706* (BO holo).

Branches lenticellate or with large corky thickenings; branchlets glabrous. Leaves: petioles 1.7–6 cm long; blade coriaceous, elliptic, apex acuminate or suddenly acuminate, base rounded to obtuse, 11.1–28.5 by 7.6–17 cm, 1.5–1.7 × as long as wide, 7 or 8 pairs of lateral nerves, prominent or not beneath, tertiary venation reticulate, glabrous. Inflorescence an elongated cyme, brown puberulent higher up, 17–37 cm long; pedicels 6.5–8.5 mm long. Sepals ovate, apex rounded, 2.1–2.5 by 2.2–2.5 mm, 1 × as long as wide, puberulent, ciliate. Corolla bud ovoid; open corolla urceolate; tube 9.8–10 mm long, 3.9–4.8 × as long as sepals; lobes triangular, apex acute, 2–2.3 mm long, 0.2 × as long as tube, 1–1.4 mm wide; densely short brown puberulent outside, glabrous inside. Stamens inserted at 7.4 mm from corolla base, which is 0.7 of tube length; filaments 2.1 mm long, strongly curved; anthers with bases strongly curved outwards, 4.5 by 1.5 mm, 3 × as long as wide. Disc 1.2 mm long, shorter than ovary. Ovary 1.8 mm long; style 4.3 mm long; pistil head 1.8 mm long.

Distribution — Indonesia: Morotai and Halmahera in the Moluccas.

Ecology — From the two collections known, growing below 100 m in thickets.

Vernacular name — Kore hara (Halmahera).

Note — A note on the BO specimen of *Beguia* 2266 suggests that there is a duplicate of this specimen in the Leiden herbarium but I have been unable to find it there.

Specimens studied. — INDONESIA. Maluku province: Halmahera, West Pitoe, 25-11-1922 (fl.), *Beguia* 2266 (BO); Morotai s.l., 10-5-1949 (fl.), *Main & Aden* 706 (BO holo).

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