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A NEW SPECIES OF COCCINIA (CUCURBITACEAE) FROM WEST AFRICA

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SUMMARY

A new *Coccinia* species from the forests of Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana is described.

Key words: *Coccinia,* Cucurbitaceae, Africa, 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 *Coccinia longicarpa* described below. Both Keay (1954: 216) and Jeffrey (1964: 87) were, when they prepared a key to the Cucurbitaceae species from West Africa, left with undescribed *Coccinia* species. These species were at that time insufficiently known. The publication of *C. keayana* by Fernandes (1959: 191) solved part of the problems left by Keay. More recent collections from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana made the publication of *C. longicarpa* possible. The new species is easily recognised by its urceolate flowers and long cylindrical fruits, a combination found in no other *Coccinia* species so far.

Coccinia longicarpa Jongkind, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1

> Herba scandens, usqua 2 m alta. Cirrhi simplices. Flores masculi racemosi. Corolla urceolata, 5-lobata. Antherae in capitulo globoso connatae; filamenta coalita. Fructus cylindriformis. *Coccinia subhastata* Keraudren affinis. — Typus: *De Koning 1965* (holo WAG; iso K), Côte d'Ivoire, Forêt du Banco, 20 July 1965.

Coccinia spec. B, Keay (1954) 216, p.p. (*Vigne 1735*).
Coccinia spec. A, C. Jeffrey (1964) 87, p.p. (*Vigne 1735* & *Linder 576*).

Slender climber up to 2 m high. Tendrils simple. Leaves long-angular-ovate to more or less deeply tri-lobed, up to 12 cm long and 11 cm wide, with many small glands on the blade above and with prominent pale markings (glands) on teeth of the leaf-margin; petiole up to 4.5 cm long. Male flowers in a raceme of up to 5 cm long, female flowers usually solitary. Filaments and anthers united, anthers orange. Corolla urceolate, 1–1.5 cm long, yellow-orange, with many small hairs on the outside especially more common to the top. Calyx lobes c. 3 mm long. Pedicel with a joint ± halfway. Fruit cylindrical, long and slender, up to 20 cm long and c. 1 cm in diameter, glabrous, with many small flat seeds.

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Fig. 1. *Coccinia longicarpa* Jongkind, flowering plant (*De Koning 5904*).

Distribution — Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana.

Habit — Open places in forest and forest margin.

Notes — 1. The *Coccinia* spec. B from Keay, and the *Coccinia* spec. A from Jeffrey are possibly more than one species. The species described here is not including related specimens from Nigeria because this material is slightly different and the characteristic cylindrical fruits of *C. longicarpa* are not yet known from that country.

2. The illustration of the flower of *C. keayana* with the original publication (Fernandes, 1959: t. 3) is quite different from the one in the Flore du Cameroun made after *W. de Wilde 3726* (Keraudren, 1967: 133): the corolla in the first illustration is not urceolate but long-campanulate. I expect the specimen from the second illustration belongs to a different species and the real *C. keayana* is restricted to western Africa (Upper Guinea).

Additional specimens examined:

LIBERIA: *Linder 576* (K), Gbanga, Sept. 1926. — CÔTE D'IVOIRE: *J.J.F.E. de Wilde 183* (WAG), Adiopodomé, Aug. 1956; *Geerling & Bokdam 829* (WAG), near Abidjan, Sept. 1967; *De Koning 4077* (WAG), Forêt du Banco, Oct. 1974; *Van der Burg 551* (WAG), Forêt du Banco, June 1975; *De Koning 5904* (WAG), Forêt du Banco, Aug. 1975. — GHANA: *Lock GC 43991* (K), Atewa Range Forest Reserve, near Kibi, June 1976; *Vigne 1735* (K) Nsuta, May 1929.

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