



A new species of *Kosteletzkya* (Hibisceae, Malvoideae, Malvaceae) and notes on a second species, both from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

ORLAND J. BLANCHARD, JR.

University of Florida Herbarium, Florida Museum of Natural History, 379 Dickinson Hall, P. O. Box 110575, Gainesville, FL 32611-0575, USA, e-mail: oblancha@liu.edu

Abstract

A new species, *Kosteletzkya rotundalata*, is described from northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. A second species, *K. borkouana*, originally characterized as endemic to northern Chad, is here documented from several localities in the Albertine Rift of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Introduction

Kosteletzkya Presl (1835: 130; Hibisceae, Malvoideae, Malvaceae) is a genus of 17 species that are distributed mainly in Africa and the northern Neotropics, with outliers in the southeastern United States and the Philippines. The plants are mostly herbaceous perennials or subshrubs with small *Hibiscus*-like flowers and a tendency toward locally moist habitats. *Kosteletzkya* falls within the complexly paraphyletic *Hibiscus* Linnaeus (1753: 693; Pfeil & Crisp 2005), but it has depressed, pentagonal capsules that disintegrate at maturity and contain one seed per locule. These characters combine to uniquely distinguish the genus within the tribe Hibisceae. Chromosome numbers, all of which are based on $x = 19$, support the morphological circumscription of the genus. Recent counts have identified a polyploid series in Africa that suggests that the genus originated there (Blanchard 2012). Several other taxa described under *Kosteletzkya*, and especially those unique to Madagascar, have their true affinities elsewhere (Blanchard unpublished data; Koopman & Baum 2008).

Recent studies of *Kosteletzkya* (see Blanchard 2008, 2009, 2012) have revealed specimens of an undescribed species from northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since this species is included in ongoing studies of the cytogenetics and molecular phylogeny of the genus, it is provided here with a formal name.

Taxonomic treatment

Kosteletzkya rotundalata O. J. Blanch., *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2A)

A *K. begoniifolia pedicellis brevioribus, foliis latioribus, fructibus parvioribus, petalis angustioribus et praesertim marginibus valvarum capsularum aspectu laterale rotundatis vice angulosis differt.*

Type:—DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. Prov. Orientale: Saga-Saga (grotte), rég. Mt. Hoyo, elev. 1200 m, 22 July 1955, *van Schuytbroeck* in *de Witte 12579* (holotype, BR!).