



A new species of *Grossera* (Euphorbiaceae) from Equatorial Guinea

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Abstract

Grossera angustifolia, a new species of Euphorbiaceae from Equatorial Guinea, is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to sect. *Grossera* and it is most similar to *G. paniculata*, but the two species can be readily distinguished by several leaf characters. A key for the species of sect. *Grossera* is provided.

Keywords: Aleuritideae, Crotonoideae, Grosserinae, Litoral province, riverside

Introduction

Grossera Pax (1903: 281) is a dioecious genus of Euphorbiaceae with an Afro-Malagasy distribution, including one species in Madagascar and the remaining ones in West and Central Tropical Africa, from Ivory Coast to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola (Govaerts 2014, Barberá *et al.* 2014). The genus is currently classified in subfamily Crotonoideae, tribe Aleuritideae, and subtribe Grosserinae (van Welzen & Stuppy 1999, Radcliffe-Smith 2001, Wurdack *et al.* 2005, APG 2009), and it is divided in three sections based on morphological characters: sect. *Grossera*, sect. *Eglandulosae* Léonard (1955: 318) and sect. *Columnella* (Cavaco 1949: 274) Barberá (in Barberá *et al.* 2014: 506). The most recent taxonomic revision of *Grossera* recognized eight species of trees and shrubs occurring in a wide range of habitats, from primary to degraded forest and from sea level to 1350 m elevation (Barberá *et al.* 2014). Here we describe and illustrate a new species growing along the Wele River in Equatorial Guinea, which we assign to sect. *Grossera*.

Material and methods

Dried herbarium specimens were examined according to standard procedures. Fifty-five quantitative characters were recorded using a Mitutoyo CD-15DCX digital vernier caliper (Tokyo, Japan). Inflorescence width was calculated by measuring the length of the lowest branch and multiplying it by two. Quantitative and qualitative characters were used in the key and descriptions. A suite of morphological characters served to distinguish the new species of *Grossera* from the rest of the species revised by Barberá *et al.* (2014). Acronyms of cited herbaria followed Index Herbariorum (Thiers 2014, continuously updated). The distribution map was generated using ArcGis v. 9.3 software.

Taxonomic treatment

Grossera angustifolia Barberá & Riina, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2B–C)

The species is similar to *Grossera paniculata* Pax but it differs from the latter mainly in having shorter petioles and narrowly elliptic leaves that are spirally arranged. *Grossera angustifolia* has also smaller inflorescences and fruits than *G. paniculata*.

Type:—EQUATORIAL GUINEA. Litoral: Bata-Senye, estrada km 40, chegada a Senye á ponte sobre Rio Benito, 24 October 1991, M. Carvalho 4909 (holotype MA!; isotypes K!, L!, MA!, MO!).