

# Novitates Gabonenses 40.

## A new species of *Strombosiopsis* (Olacaceae) from Gabon

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### KEY WORDS

*Strombosiopsis*,  
Olacaceae,  
Gabon.

### ABSTRACT

*Strombosiopsis sereinii* from Gabon is described, illustrated and mapped. It is the third species of this genus. A key to the three species of *Strombosiopsis* is provided.

### RÉSUMÉ

*Novitates Gabonenses 40. Nouvelles espèces de Strombosiopsis (Olacaceae) du Gabon.*

### MOTS CLÉS

*Strombosiopsis*,  
Olacaceae,  
Gabon.

*Strombosiopsis sereinii* du Gabon est décrit, illustré et cartographié. Il s'agit de la troisième espèce du genre. Une clé pour les trois espèces de *Strombosiopsis* est donnée.

After the discovery of a new *Strombosiopsis* (Olacaceae) from Liberia (BRETELER 2001) now another new species from Gabon is described. It was first discovered during the "Opération Radeau des Cimes" which took place during the months of January-March 1999 in the heart of the "Forêt des Abeilles" in Central Gabon. As the material collected was only in fruit, it was difficult to establish whether it belonged to *Strombosiopsis* or *Ongokea*, although based on characters of the leaf and the sessile infructescence the former genus seemed more likely. A search in the herbaria of Libreville (LBV), Paris (P), and Wageningen (WAG) under these genera as well as *Diogoa* revealed a single aberrant specimen of *Strombosiopsis tetrandra*

(Arends *et al.* 400) that matched the new fruiting material (Breteler *et al.* 14829). Another fruiting collection (Breteler *et al.* 15540) was later made in the Monts de Cristal. Flowers were collected later from the same individual (Breteler *et al.* 15642). This made it possible to establish that all four specimens belonged to the same new taxon, which is described below.

### *Strombosiopsis sereinii* Breteler, *sp. nov.*

*Strombosiopsis tetrandra* Engl. *affinis*, sed differt ramunculis teretibus, calyce non lobato, petalis antherisque longe coalescentibus et fructu mesocarpium manifeste evolutum instructo.

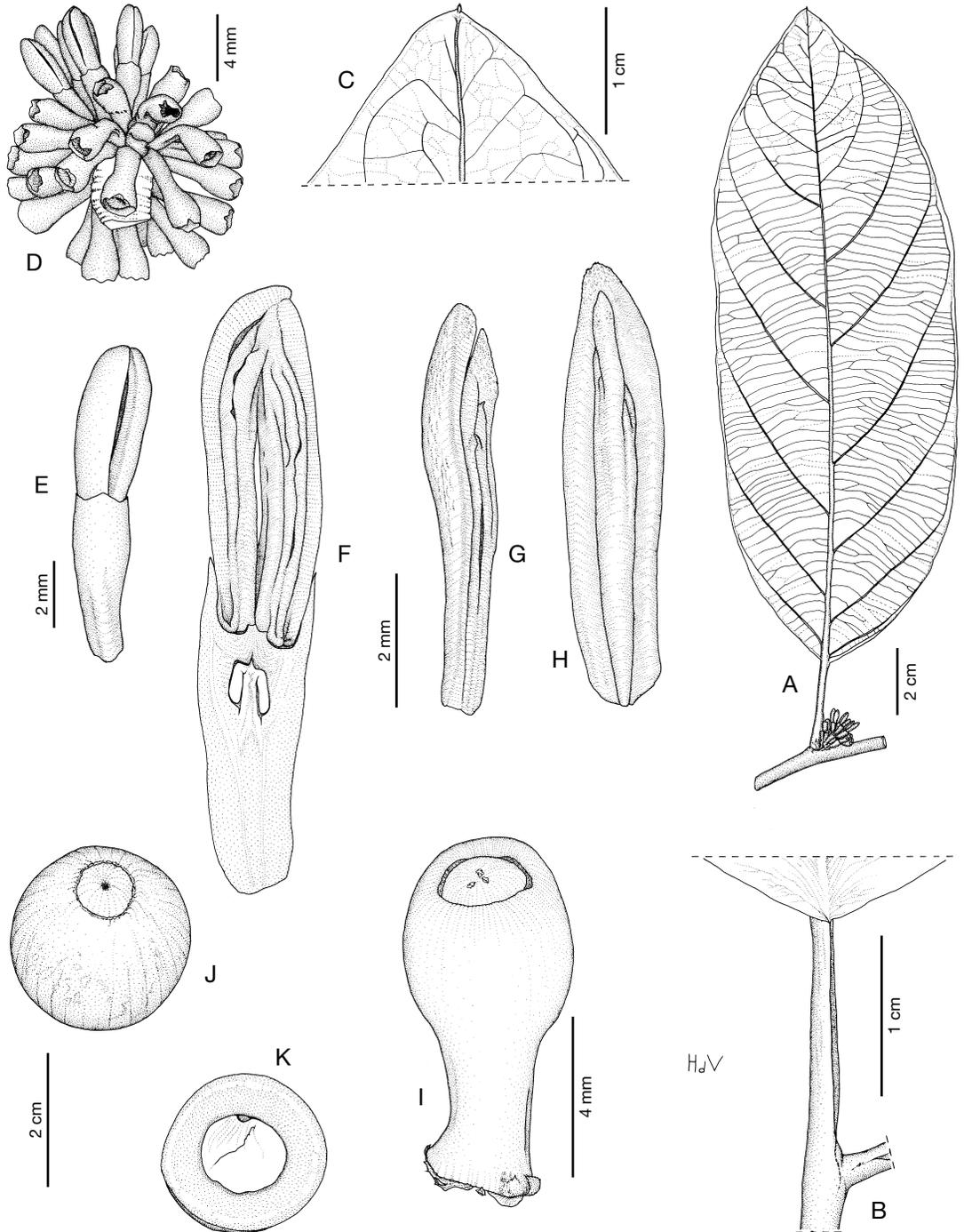


Fig. 1. — *Strombosiopsis sereinii* Breteler: **A**, part of flowering branch; **B**, petiole; **C**, leaf apex; **D**, inflorescence; **E**, flower bud; **F**, flower in longitudinal section cut lengthwise; **G-H**, petal with adnate anther; **I**, young fruit; **J**, mature fruit seen from above; **K**, fruit in transverse section. (A, D-H, Arends et al. 400; B, C, I-K, Breteler et al. 14829). Drawing by H. DE VRIES.

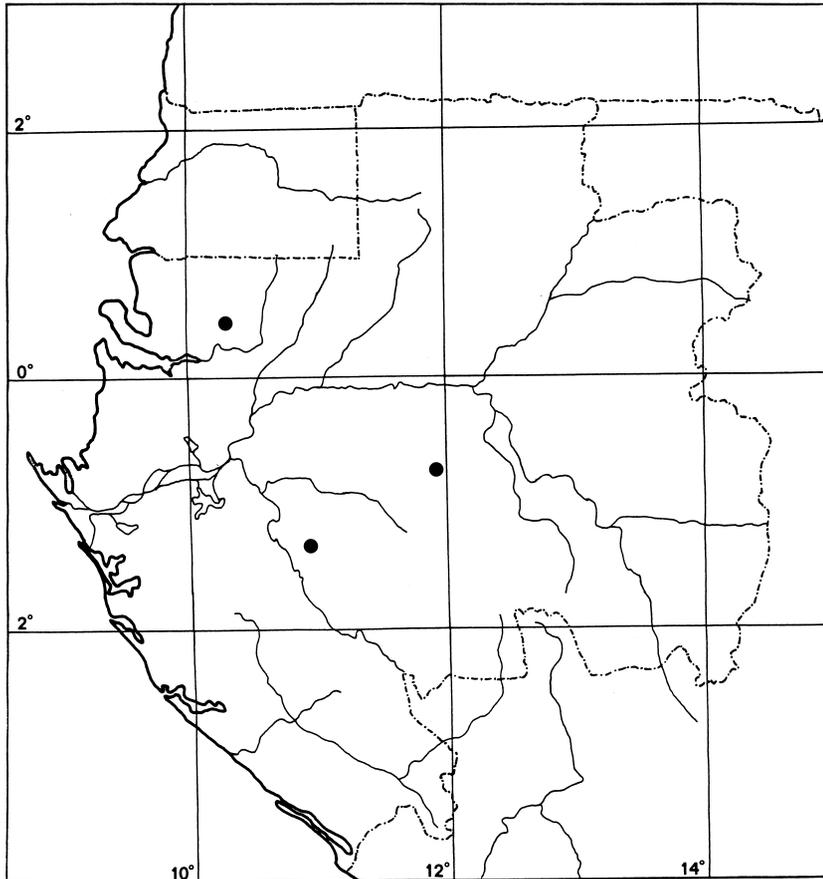


Fig. 2. — Distribution of *Strombosiopsis sereinii* Breterel.

TYPUS. — Breterel, Caballé, Issembe, Moussavou, Pascal & Serein 14829, Gabon, Forêt des Abeilles, Makandé (0°41'S, 11°55'E), 28 Jan. 1999, fr. (holo-, WAG; iso-, BR, G, K, LBV, MA, MO, NY, P, PRE).

Tree to c. 20 m tall, trunk to c. 40 cm diam., glabrous throughout; bark  $\geq 1$  cm thick, fibrous, reddish in section. Branchlets slightly flattened when very young, soon (sub)terete, green. Leaves: petiole subterete, shallowly and often narrowly canaliculate (or groove  $\pm$  closed) above, (12-)15-25(-30) mm long, slightly swollen at distal end or not; blade  $\pm$  soft-leathery, brittle, elliptic to oblong-obovate, 16-30  $\times$  6-12(-15) cm, 2-3 times as long as wide, broadly rounded and/or shortly cuneate at base, obtuse to acutish at apex

(mucronate-apiculate when young); midrib and the (8-)9-10(-12) pairs of main lateral nerves  $\pm$  plane above, prominent beneath, the veins between the lateral nerves plane to very slightly impressed on both sides,  $\pm$  parallel, 2-4 mm apart,  $\pm$  indistinct above,  $\pm$  distinct beneath. Flowers 4-merous, in a subaxillary fascicle of up to  $\pm 35$  flowers; bracts minute, triangular-ovate,  $\pm 1$  mm long, apex rounded to lobulate; bracteoles much narrower and slightly shorter. Pedicel terete, 3-4 mm long; calyx cupular,  $\pm 1$  mm long with a thin undulate margin; petals pale-green to cream-coloured, thick, free, sometimes slightly adnate at base, narrowly elliptic, 6  $\times$  1.5-2 mm, apex acute; stamens slightly shorter than petals, anthers (sub)sessile, adnate to petals for at least 3/4 of their length or even entirely so, apex

acute; disc indistinct; pistil ± conical, style obscurely 4-lobed. Mature fruit pale green with paler stripes, ± smooth, globose to slightly obovoid, c. 3 cm diam., stipe 3-5 mm long; calyx rim-like in fruit, strongly widened, leaving free the fruit apex (see Fig. 1J); exocarp (including the ± fleshy calyx) 2-2.5 mm thick with an inner hard layer of c. 1 mm thick; mesocarp c. 3 mm thick, fleshy; endocarp indistinct. Seed globose, ± 1.5 cm diam., with a thin, brown testa. — Figs. 1, 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION. — Rain forest of Gabon, alt. up to c. 500 m.

PARATYPES. — GABON: *Arends et al.* 400, Waka, Nov., fl. (BR, LBV, WAG); *Breteler et al.* 14829, Forêt des Abeilles, Makandé, Jan., fr. (BR, G, K, LBV, MA, MO, NY, P, PRE, WAG), type; *Breteler et al.* 15540, Monts de Cristal, Assok Rd., Aug., fr. (WAG); *Breteler et al.* 15642, Oct., fl. (LBV, WAG).

This species is named after Jean-Yves SEREIN, co-collector of the type specimen and an excellent tree climber.

The three species of *Strombosiopsis* may be distinguished as follows:

1. Shrub or treelet up to 3 m tall; leaves (7-)9-15 × 3-5 cm, with 5-7(-8) pairs of main lateral nerves; petiole 0.5-1.6 cm long; fruit up to 2 × 1.5 cm without widened calyx. Liberia ..... **S. nana** Breteler
- 1'. Tree to c. 30 m tall, trunk to 100 cm diam., rarely a flowering treelet of c. 4 m; leaves (7-)11-30 × (4-)5-12(-15) cm, with 6-10(-12) pairs of main lateral nerves; petiole 1-2.6(-3) cm long; fruit 2.5-3.5 × 2-3 cm with a distinctly widened calyx. Nigeria to Uganda and Angola ..... 2
2. Branchlets (sub)terete; main lateral nerves (8-)9-10(-12) pairs; calyx entire with an undulate margin, rim-like in fruit; anthers completely adnate to petals or nearly so; fruit with very distinct mesocarp c. 3 mm thick. Gabon ..... **S. sereinii** Breteler
- 2'. Branchlets angular or narrowly winged; main lateral nerves 6-8(-11) pairs; calyx distinctly lobed, usually also in fruit; anthers adnate to petals only at base; mesocarp indistinct in fruit. Nigeria to Uganda and Angola ..  
..... **S. tetrandra** Engl.

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