

# A new species of *Tapura* (Dichapetalaceae) from Cameroun

F.J. BRETELER

Herbarium Vadense, Foulkesweg 37,  
6703 BL Wageningen, Pays-Bas.  
f.breteler@hetnet.nl

**KEY WORDS**  
*Tapura*,  
Dichapetalaceae,  
Cameroun.

## ABSTRACT

*Tapura tchoutoi* from Cameroun is described and illustrated. It is the third species of *Tapura* known from this country and the second from the western Caesalpiniaceae forest.

**MOTS CLÉS**  
*Tapura*,  
Dichapetalaceae,  
Cameroun.

## RÉSUMÉ

*Une nouvelle espèce de Tapura (Dichapetalaceae) du Cameroun.*

*Tapura tchoutoi* du Cameroun est décrit et illustré. C'est la troisième espèce de *Tapura* connue de ce pays et la deuxième de la forêt à Caesalpiniaceae de l'ouest du pays.

Biodiversity research of the forests in the Campo Ma'an area in the South Province of Cameroun has revealed a new species of *Tapura*, which is described below. It is the third species known from this country and the second species that originates from the western Caesalpiniaceae forests. This new species brings the total number of African *Tapura* species to nine (BRETELER 1986, 1995).

### ***Tapura tchoutoi* Breteler, sp. nov.**

*Tapura neglectae* Hallé & Heine *affinis inflorescentia libera, compacta axillarique, sed differt stipulis longioribus, foliis multo majoribus textura tenui,*

*longiacuminatis, plurinervis et floribus majoribus petala nongeniculata habentibus.*

TYPUS. — *Tchouto & Elad 3288*, Cameroun, South Province, Campo Ma'an area, Bifa, 2°41'37"N, 10°16'23"E, 10 Oct. 2001, fl., y.fr. (holo-, WAG; iso-, K, P, SCA).

Small tree. Branches appressed-pubescent, glabrescent with age. Stipules narrowly triangular, 4-5(-6) mm long, appressed-pubescent, soon deciduous. Leaves: petiole semiterete, grooved above, (2-)3-6(-7) mm long, appressed-pubescent; lamina papery, (elliptic-) obovate, usually narrowly so, 2.5-3.5(-4) times as long as wide, (12-)15-24

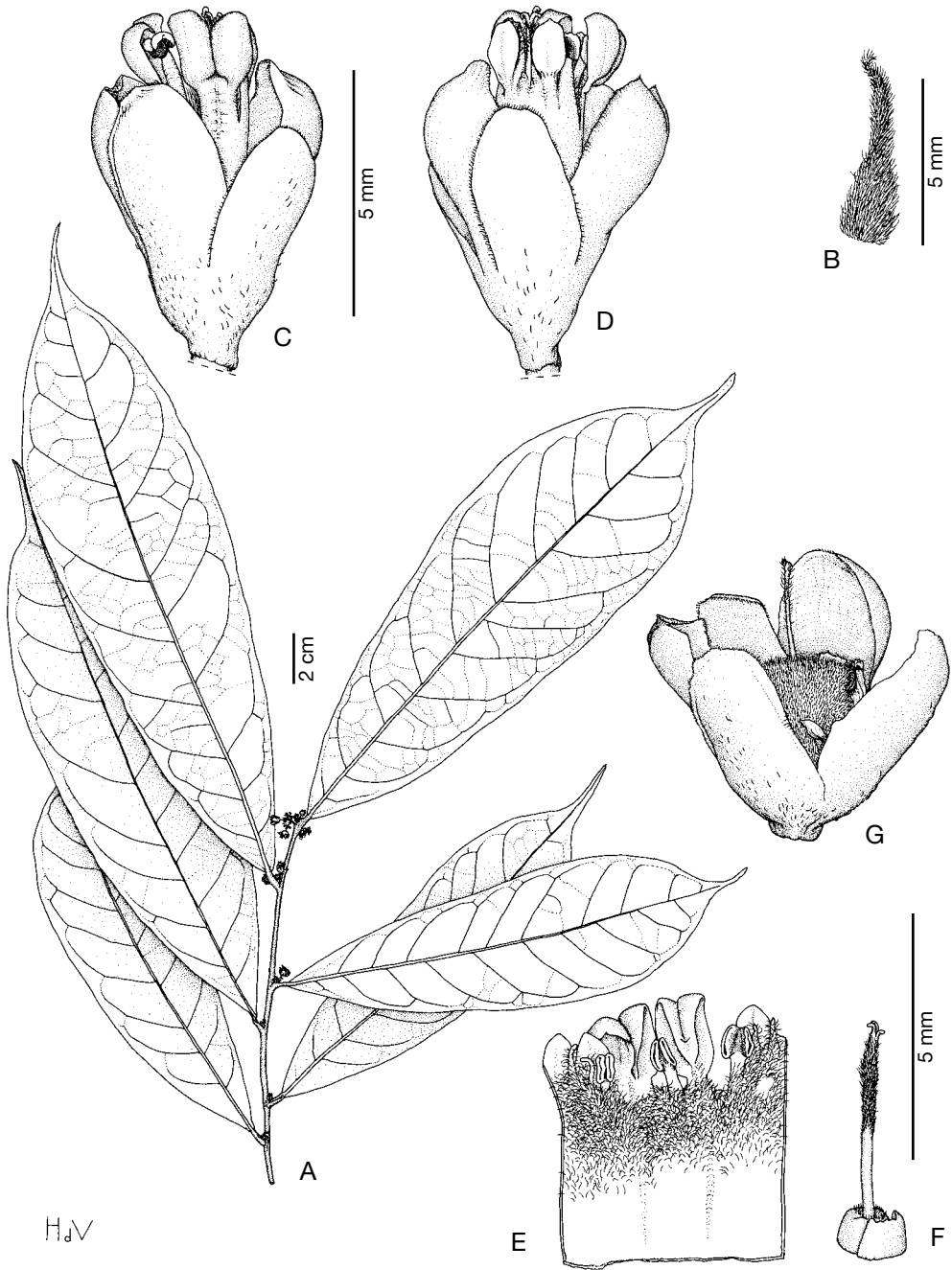


Fig. 1. — *Tapura tchoutoi* Breteler: **A**, flowering branch; **B**, stipule; **C-D**, flower, respectively abaxially and adaxially; **E**, staminal tube inside; **F**, pistil with basal staminode; **G**, calyx with young fruit. (A-G, *Tchouto & Elad* 3288). Drawing by H. DE VRIES.

(-28) × (4-)5-6(-8) cm, cuneate to ± rounded and sometimes slightly unequal-sided at base, ± abruptly acuminate at apex, the acumen (0.5-)1.5-3 cm long, rounded to acute apically; upper surface glabrous, subappressed-pubescent on midrib and main lateral nerves beneath, sometimes (in young leaves) with remnants of an arachnoid indumentum as well, midrib impressed above, prominently raised beneath, the (7-)9-11 pairs of main laterals slightly prominent above, more distinctly so beneath; glands small, usually on the lower surface, on either side of the midrib, near leaf base only or ± well distributed alongside the midrib and at some distance from the midrib towards the margins. Inflorescence a ± sessile, indistinctly branched, up to c. 25-flowered, pubescent dichasium; bracts and bracteoles triangular, 0.5-1.5 mm long, appressed-pubescent outside, glabrous inside. Pedicel articulate, up to 1.5 mm long, the lower part c. 1 mm long, pubescent, the upper part c. 0.5 mm long, ± glabrous. Flowers 6 mm long. Sepals 5, unequal in length, oblong-elliptic, sparsely hairy outside and with ciliate margins, glabrous inside, the outer two ± 3 mm long, the inner 4-5 mm long. Petals five, 5-5.5 mm long, fused with the stamens basally forming a 3 mm long tube, apical parts free, 2-2.5 mm long; tube and free parts glabrous outside, tomentose inside on upper part of tube and on basal part of lobes; large petals 2, free part 2.5 mm long, not genicu-

late, apex 1 mm bilobed; the 3 minor petals entire, with a ± ovate, 1 mm long apical part. Stamens 3 fertile, and 2 sterile, lacking anthers; the fertile ones distinctly shorter than the petals, the two lateral ones at one side (proximal to minor petals) provided with a small filiform lobe, anthers 0.6 mm long, connective smooth; free part of sterile stamens ± filiform, pubescent. Basal staminode 1, across the large petals, subquadrate, ± 1 × 1 mm, glabrous. Pistil 3-merous, 5- 5.5 mm long; ovary ± 1 mm long, apex velutinous; style pubescent in upper half, 3-lobed; lobes ± glabrous. Young fruits velutinous. — Fig. 1.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION.** — Caesalpiniaceae rain forest in South Cameroun, alt. up to c. 100 m.

**PARATYPE.** — CAMEROUN: *Tchouto & Elad T2 X 131*, South Province, Campo Ma'an area, Bibabimvoto, 2°13'36"N, 9°56'28"E, 19 July 2000, ster. (WAG).

This species is named after the first collector of the type specimen.

*Tapura tchoutoi* is most closely related to *T. neglecta* Hallé & Heine from Gabon. Both species are characterized by a compact, ± sessile inflorescence which is free from the petiole of the supporting leaf. The two species may be distinguished from one another as follows.

Stipules 3(-3.5) mm long; leaves coriaceous, 2-3 times as long as wide, 7-12 × 2.5-5 cm, acumen 0.5-1 cm long; lateral nerves 4-7 pairs; flowers 4-5 mm long; large petals geniculate below the bicuculate upper part ..... *T. neglecta*

Stipules 4-5(-6) mm long; leaves papery, 2.5-3.5(-4) times as long as wide, (12-)15-24 (-28) × (4-)5-6(-8) cm; acumen (0.5-)1.5-3 cm long; lateral nerves (7-)9-11 pairs; flowers 6 mm long; large petals not geniculate ..... *T. tchoutoi*

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to H. DE VRIES for his drawing and to my wife B.J.M. BRETELER - KLEIN BRETELER for the electronic version of the manuscript. R.H.M.J. LEMMENS is kindly acknowledged for the translation of the species diagnosis into Latin.

## REFERENCES

- BRETELER F.J. 1986. — The African Dichapetalaceae IX. *Agricultural University Wageningen Papers* 86-3: 43-74.  
 BRETELER F.J. 1995. — Novitates Gabonenses 22. *Tapura arachnoidea* (Dichapetalaceae) a new species from Gabon. *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. B, Adansonia* 2-4: 321-323.

*Manuscript received 10 July 2002;  
 revised version accepted 6 September 2002.*