

A NEW SPECIES OF ATELEIA (LEGUMINOSAE) FROM THE BAHAMAS

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IN RECENT YEARS the Bahama flora has been the subject of intensive investigation. One of the results of careful field study has been the discovery or elucidation of several localities where rare or unusual species occur. These localities are believed to represent refugia where survival has been possible for these plants despite what may be—or may previously have been—an otherwise unfavorable environment. *Wallenia laurifolia* Sw. on Grand Bahama, *Tabernaemontana citrifolia* L. on Eleuthera, *Celtis iguanaea* (Jacq.) Sarg. on South Andros, and *Ctenitis hirta* (Sw.) Copel. on New Providence are examples of such presumed refugia species. The plant now being described not only survives in such a refuge area, but also apparently is a species previously unknown in *Ateleia* (Moç. & Sessé ex DC.) D. Dietr., a very distinct and natural genus.

Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock, who monographed *Ateleia* in 1962, was sent material of this plant but declined to advance an opinion regarding its identity. It is more closely related to such species as the Cuban *Ateleia apetala* Griseb. than to the only other species of this genus known from the Bahamas, *A. gummifera* (DC.) A. Dietr.

Ateleia popenoei Correll, sp. nov.

FIGURE 1.

Arbor ad 5 m. alta, corona lata ramorum gracilium. Truncus erectus glaber, cortice cineraceo ad fumeo; rami et ramuli cineracei, pilis brevibus adpressis porrectis et lenticellis conspicuis. Foliola 5 ad 11, tenui-herbacea, alterna vel subopposita; petioluli graciles, 3–4 mm. longi, circa 0.5 mm. crassi, puberuli; laminae typice orbiculo-ovatae ad elliptico-lanceolatae, ad circa 6 cm. longae et 2.5 cm. latae, plerumque multo breviores, vulgo oblique ad basem rotundatae et ad apicem obtusae ad acutae, integrae, prasinae, nervo medio prominente, venatione minute reticulata. Flores et fructus generis typici.

TYPE: Bahamas, Great Exuma, on a high, coppice-covered rocky ridge above roadway west of Moss Town, saplings and trees to 5 m. tall, October 3, 1980. *D. S. Correll & John Popenoe 51420* (A, holotype; F, FTG, NY, US, isotypes).

Tree to 5 meters tall, with widespreading crown of slender branches. Trunk erect, smooth, with light gray to grayish brown bark; branches and branchlets grayish, with short, appressed, porrect hairs and conspicuous lenticels. Leaves exstipulate, alternate or subopposite; petioles slender, to about 3 cm. long;

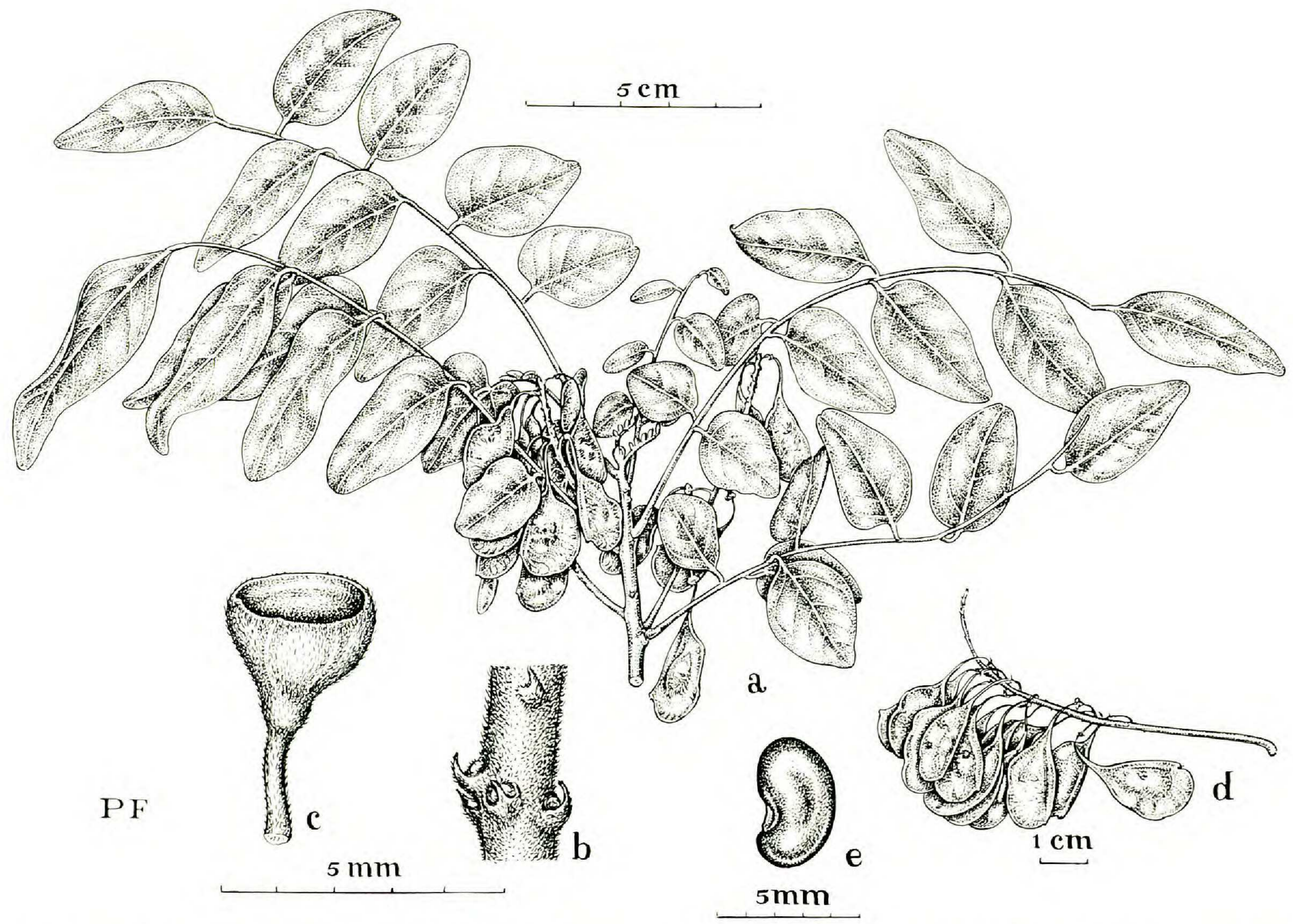


FIGURE 1. *Ateleia popenoei*: a, fruiting branchlet; b, section of fruiting rachis; c, pedicel and calyx; d, fruiting inflorescence; e, seed. (Solitary petals, stamens, and pistils too disfigured by insects to be drawn.) Drawn by Priscilla Fawcett.

blades odd-pinnate, oblong-elliptic, to about 20 cm. long; rachis slender, terete, with short, appressed, porrect hairs. Leaflets 5 to 11, thin-herbaceous, alternate or subopposite; petiolules slender, 3–4 mm. long, about 0.5 mm. thick, puberulent; blades typically orbicular-ovate to elliptic-lanceolate, to about 6 cm. long and 2.5 cm. wide, mostly much smaller, usually obliquely rounded at base and obtuse to acute at apex, entire, bright green, with prominent central vein and faint, minute reticulations. Flowers cream, in rather dense axillary racemes to about 10 cm. long; floral bracts triangular-subulate, acute, incurved, mostly less than 1 mm. long; pedicels slender, to about 3 mm. long. Calyx cup shaped, about 2 mm. high, with an even, truncate apex. Petal 1; claw about 3 mm. long; blade about 3 mm. long, cucullate, about 4 mm. wide when spread out. Stamens 10, free; filaments 3 mm. long; anthers ovate to elliptic, about 1.3 mm. long. Fruit with slender, glabrous stipe 6–8 mm. long that is expanded into the 1-seeded, obliquely semiorbicular to semicordate legume; legume glabrous, flattened, reticulate veined, about 2 cm. long and 1.3 cm. wide, narrow wing along upper suture about 1.5 mm. wide and extending to within 2–3 mm. of apex. Seed reniform-elliptic, turgid, 4–5 mm. long, dark reddish brown.

The small, thin-herbaceous leaflets with slender, elongate petiolules and typically ovate to ovate-elliptic, weakly reticulate-veined, basally broadly rounded blades are most characteristic. Those species of *Ateleia* most closely allied to *A. popenoei*, especially *A. apetala* of Cuba, have rather large, subcoriaceous to thick-membranaceous leaflets with thick, shortened petiolules, and typically elliptic-lanceolate, strongly reticulate-veined blades that are cuneate or very narrowly rounded at base.

It is a pleasure to name this species for Dr. John Popenoe, Director of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, whose broad knowledge of the flora of the Bahama Islands enabled him to recognize the uniqueness of this plant.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to the National Science Foundation for a grant (No. DEB-7402135) in support of my work on the flora of the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands. The excellent drawing is that of Priscilla Fawcett, Staff Artist of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, to whom I am most grateful. I also wish to thank my wife and colleague, Dr. Helen B. Correll, for her contributions to my research.

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