

Two new species of *Hypselodelphys* (Marantaceae) from West Africa

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ABSTRACT

Hypselodelphys triangularis Jongkind and *Hypselodelphys velutina* Jongkind, two new species from the forests of West Africa, are described and illustrated. *Hypselodelphys triangularis* is characterized by its acute triangular fruits and c. 5 mm long inflorescence internodes. *Hypselodelphys violacea* (Ridl.) Milne-Redh., the only other *Hypselodelphys* species with acute triangular fruits in the area where *H. triangularis* is found, has inflorescence internodes about twice as long. The second new species, *H. velutina*, is characterized by its completely velutinous inflorescence internodes and rounded lobed fruits. *Hypselodelphys poggeana* (K.Schum.) Milne-Redh., the only species with comparable fruits in the same area, has an inflorescence with a distinctly different indumentum.

KEY WORDS

Marantaceae,
Hypselodelphys,
West Africa,
new species.

RÉSUMÉ

Deux nouvelles espèces d'*Hypselodelphys* (Marantaceae) d'Afrique de l'Ouest. *Hypselodelphys triangularis* Jongkind et *Hypselodelphys velutina* Jongkind, deux nouvelles espèces d'Afrique de l'Ouest, sont décrites et illustrées. *Hypselodelphys triangularis* est caractérisé par ses fruits triangulaires aigus et ses entrenœuds inflorescentiels longs d'environ 5 mm. *Hypselodelphys violacea* (Ridl.) Milne-Redh., espèce sympatrique présentant le même type de fruits, en diffère par ses entrenœuds deux fois plus longs. L'autre espèce, *H. velutina*, est caractérisée par ses entrenœuds inflorescentiels complètement veloutés et ses fruits arrondis et lobés. Elle se distingue de l'espèce sympatrique *H. poggeana* (K.Schum.) Milne-Redh., par son trichome complètement différent.

MOTS CLÉS

Marantaceae,
Hypselodelphys,
Afrique de l'Ouest,
espèce nouvelle.

INTRODUCTION

When going through the literature and the herbarium collections from West Africa preparing the *Woody Plants of Western African Forests* (Hawthorne & Jongkind 2006), a guide to all woody plants of Upper Guinea, we came across several not yet published new species. The climbing Marantaceae species described here are two of them. Both have the, for the genus *Hypselodelphys* characteristic, bamboo-like and often zigzagging branches and the distinct interruption between the petiole and the midrib on the lower side of the leaf. *Hypselodelphys triangularis* is characterized by its acute triangular fruits and short inflorescence internodes. *Hypselodelphys violacea* (Ridl.) Milne-Redh., the only other *Hypselodelphys* species with acute triangular fruits in the area where *H. triangularis* is found, has inflorescence internodes about twice as long. *Hypselodelphys violacea* is the most common of the two species (see Fig. 1). The second new species, *H. velutina*, is characterized by its short and completely velutinous inflorescence internodes and rounded lobed fruits. *Hypselodelphys poggeana* (K.Schum.) Milne-Redh., the only species with comparable fruits in the same area, has an inflorescence with a distinctly different indumentum. Two specimens representing *H. velutina* in this publication are in the Flora of West Tropical Africa cited as *H. poggeana* (Hepper 1968: 88, 89). The only specimen of *H. scandens* Louis & Mullend. cited for Upper Guinea in the Flora of West Tropical Africa, *de Wit 9150*, is included here in *H. velutina* as well. No specimens of the real *H. scandens* from west of Nigeria have been found in the herbaria of Brussels, Kew, Paris and Wageningen. *Hypselodelphys scandens* is a much more robust plant than the two new species with inflorescences with c. 1 cm long internodes. A key to the western African species of *Hypselodelphys*, including the here published new species, can be found in Hawthorne & Jongkind (2006: 886, 887).

The flowers of *Hypselodelphys* are very difficult to study on herbarium specimens. If there are small differences in the shape of the flowers between the species of the genus than they were not found during this study. It is likely that there are differences in the colour of the flowers between the species (see Figs 1 and 5) but more field observations are needed

because most herbarium specimens do not show that colour anymore and we do not know enough about the colour variation within the species.

The leaves on the sterile shoots of *Hypselodelphys* species are usually much larger than those on the flowering branches, because of this the sizes of the leaves in the descriptions, that are mostly based on flowering and fruiting herbarium specimens, are likely to be an underestimation.

Photographs of the flowers of two species of *Hypselodelphys* were made short before this manuscript was published.

SYSTEMATICS

Hypselodelphys triangularis Jongkind, sp. nov.
(Fig. 2)

A Hypselodelphyde violacea (Ridl.) Milne-Redh. *differt internodiis inflorescentiae aliquantum brevioribus et costa folii subtrus glabra praeter basim.*

TYPUS. — Côte d'Ivoire. 24 km W of Sassandra, 31.X.1968, *Breteler 5876* (holo-, WAG; iso-, B, BR, C, MO, P, US).

PARATYPES. — Liberia. Tapeta, Blepia road, few miles SW of town, 12.I.1967, *Bos 2713* (WAG). — Road Tappita-Tchien, 21.I.1964, *van Harten 254* (WAG).

Côte d'Ivoire. 8 km SSW of Kpata-Aidou, 9.V.1975, *Beentje 118* (WAG). — Soubre, 21.VI.1907, *Chevalier 19144* (P). — Along the road from Sassandra to Monogaga, 12.IV.1973, *de Koning 1448* (K, WAG). — Road from Sassandra to Monogaga, 12.IV.1973, *de Koning 1466* (WAG). — Near Louga, behind Fuyt plantation, 12.XI.1973, *de Koning 2700* (K, MO, WAG). — C. 34 km N of Sassandra, c. 2 km W of Kokolo-Pozo, 19.VI.1963, *W. de Wilde 292* (BR, K, P, WAG). — FC Niégre, E of Keitadougou, 23.III.2000, *Jongkind, Hawthorne & Assi-Yapo 4671* (WAG). — 5 km N of Sassandra, 19.XII.1958, *Leeuwenberg 2258* (WAG). — Tai NP, 7 km E of Research Station, 15.XI.1986, *van der Maesen 5275* (BR, G, K, MO, P, WAG).

Ghana. Asafo road junction, 26.V.1954, *Morton A 249* (GC, K).

Togo. Danyi Plateau, between Dzogbegan and Bago, 15.II.1978, *Ern 3153* (K).

DESCRIPTION

Small liana scrambling up to 5 m high in vegetation. Leaves slightly asymmetric; blade very variable in size, 3.5-12.5 × 2-4 cm, with some hairs at the base



FIG. 1. — *Hypselodelphys violacea* (Ridl.) Milne-Redh., flowers. Jongkind 8029.

below otherwise glabrous. Inflorescence terminal, simple or branched at base, up to 17 cm long, with internodes *c.* 5 mm long with the surface still easily visible through the indumentum of half-erect short hairs; bracts *c.* 2 cm long. Flower white with pink or violet, equal to the flowers of the other species in the genus. Fruit yellow and green, strongly acute three-lobed, flattened, muricate, 4 cm wide, with 3 large seeds.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Regrowth in wet evergreen forest from Liberia to Togo (Fig. 3).

Hypselodelphys velutina Jongkind, sp. nov.
(Figs 4; 5)

A Hypselodelphyde poggeana (K.Schum.) Milne-Redh. *differt indumento confertim velutino in pagina extra bractearum et in internodiis inflorescentiae.*

TYPUS. — Liberia. Grand Cape Mount, in MMAL mine area, on slope of the mine, 14.II.1970, *J.W.A. Jansen 1846* (holo-, WAG; iso-, BR, MO).

PARATYPES. — Sierra Leone. Mt Leicester, V.1857, *Barter s.n.* (K). — Kangahun, 7.II.1953, *Deighton 6020* (K, P). — Lake Sonfon, 14.II.1966, *Gledhill 446* (K). — Près Kania, vers Mt Loma, 27.I.1966, *Jaeger 9102* (K). — Piémont W Loma, II.1966, *Jaeger 9181* (P). — Gbinti, Dibia, 4.II.1955, *H.D. Jordan 988* (K). — Tingi Mountains, on main plateau near camp, 12.IV.1965, *Morton & Gledhill SL 1857* (K, WAG). — Koyema, N Kono, foot of Tingi Hills, 12.IV.1965, *Morton & Gledhill SL 1960* (K, WAG). — Kenema, 20.I.1914, *N.W. Thomas 7748* (K).

Liberia. Nimba, 3.II.1965, *J.G. Adam 20826* (K). — Nimba, I.1970, *Blyden 935* (WAG). — Duport, *c.* 8 miles E of Monrovia, 2.XI.1966, *Bos 2304* (WAG). — 19 miles E of Bomli Hills, along the road to Bopulu, 13.II.1969,

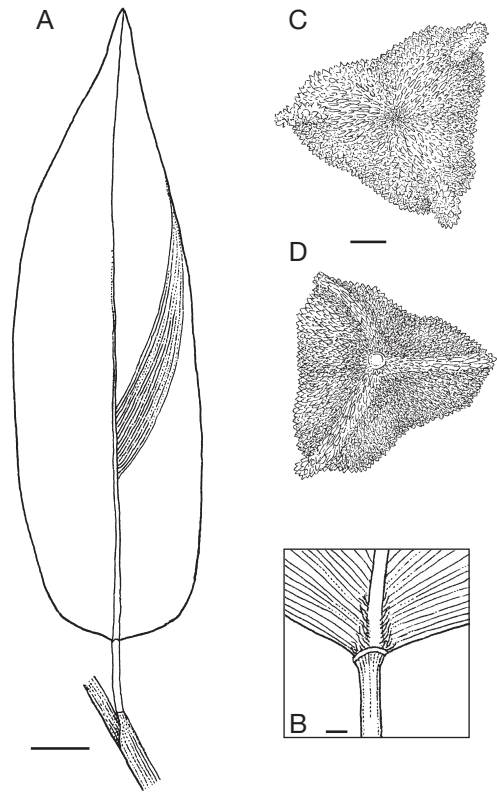


FIG. 2. — *Hypselodelphys triangularis* Jongkind: A, leaf; B, leaf base from beneath; C, fruit from beneath; D, fruit from above. A, B, *Breteler 5876*; C, D, *van der Maesen 5275*. Scale bars: A, 1 cm; B, 1 mm; C, D, 5 mm.

J.W.A. Jansen 1542 (MO, WAG). — E slope of Putu Hills East Range, W of Tiama Town, 31.V.2005, *Jongkind, Kwewon & Kpadeyeah 6544* (WAG)

Côte d'Ivoire. Mount Tonkouï, 9.II.1961, *H.C.D. de Wit 9150* (WAG). — Mount Tonkouï, 30.III.2000, *Jongkind, Hawthorne & Assi-Yapo 4839* (WAG).

DESCRIPTION

Liana scrambling up to 10 m high in vegetation. Leaves slightly asymmetric; blade very variable in size, 2.2-11 × 5-25 cm, with some hairs close to the midrib beneath but otherwise glabrous. Inflorescence terminal, simple or branched at base, up to 12 cm long, with internodes *c.* 5 mm long with the surface hiding beneath a dense cover of half-erect short hairs; bracts 1.7-2 cm long, dense velutinous on the outside. Flower white, sometimes with yellow and violet,

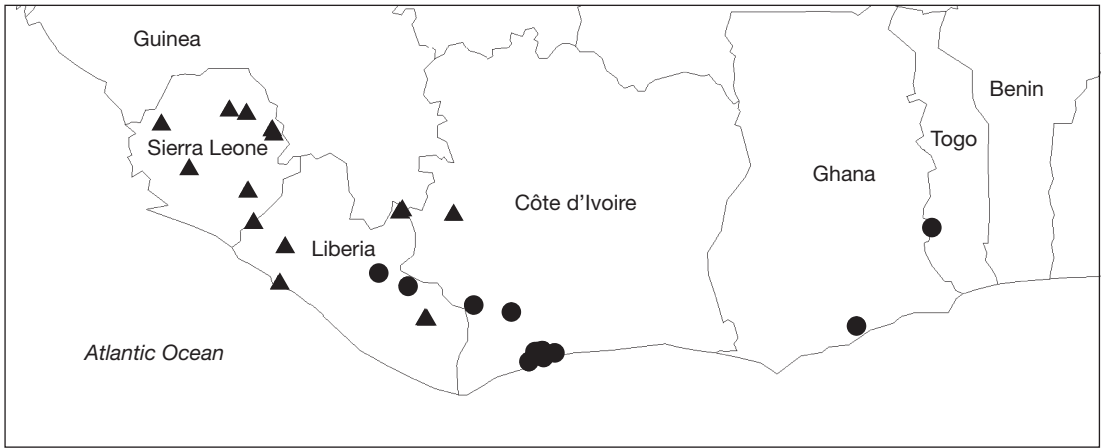


FIG. 3. — Distribution map of the new species: ●, *Hypselodelphys triangularis* Jongkind; ▲, *H. velutina* Jongkind.

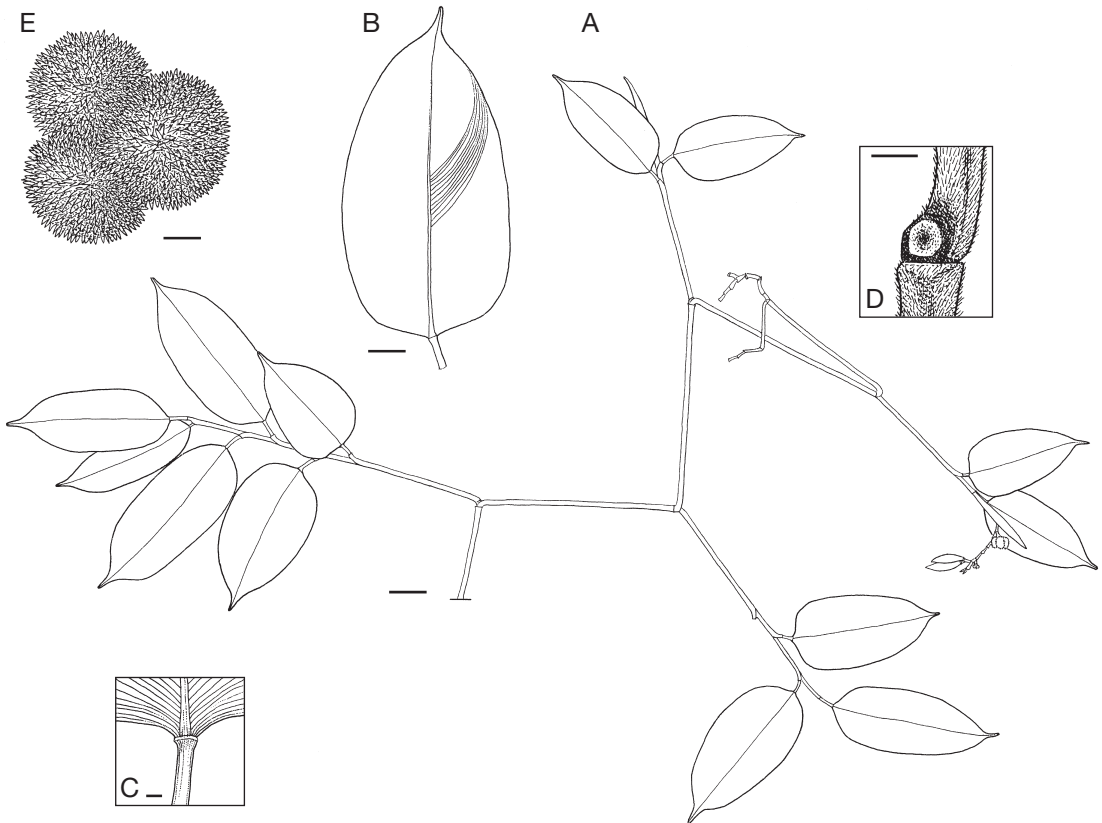


FIG. 4. — *Hypselodelphys velutina* Jongkind: **A**, habit, with all leaves on short shoots; **B**, leaf; **C**, leaf base from beneath; **D**, detail of inflorescence branch; **E**, fruit from beneath. A-D, *Bos* 2304; E, *J.W.A. Jansen* 1846. Scale bars: A, 2 cm; B, 1 cm; C, D, 1 mm; E, 5 mm.

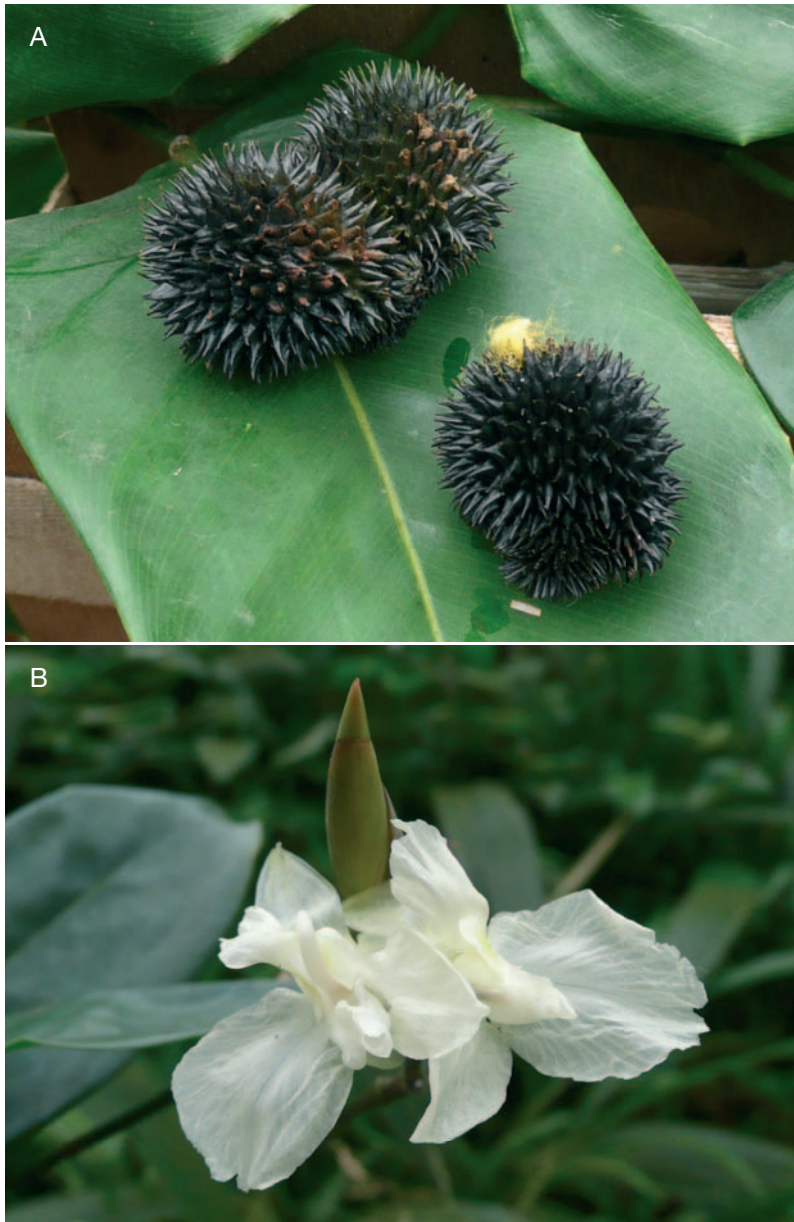


FIG. 5. — *Hypselodelphys velutina* Jongkind: **A**, fruit; **B**, flowers. Jongkind 8024.

more or less equal to the flowers of the other species in the genus. Fruit yellow and green, three-lobed with rounded corners, muricate, with 3 large seeds.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION
Wet evergreen forest from Sierra Leone to Côte d'Ivoire (Fig. 3).

REMARKS

The habit of *Hypselodelphys triangularis* is principally the same as that of *H. velutina* as shown in the Figure 4.

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