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Daniellia pilosa comb. & stat. nov. (Leguminosae, Caesalpinioideae)

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Daniellia pilosa (J. Léonard) Estrella, *comb. & stat. nov*. (Leguminosae, Caesalpinioideae) is proposed. This mountain primary forest tree species is endemic to Gabon in Central Africa.

Key words: *Daniellia*, Leguminosae, nomenclature, taxonomy

Daniellia (Leguminosae, Caesalpinioideae) is a genus of nine species, found in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa. These medium-sized to large trees grow from sea level to 1500 m, from swampy areas to seasonally dry forests (Mackinder 2005). The highest concentration of species and morphological variation is found in the Guineo-Congolian region. According to Bruneau *et al*. (2001), *Daniellia* is a basal monophyletic group within the Detarieae *s. stricto* clade.

During our ongoing taxonomic revision of *Daniellia* we realized that the taxon described by Léonard (1949) as a variety of *D. soyauxii* have enough and consistent differences to be recognized as a different species.

Daniellia pilosa (J. Léonard) Estrella, *comb. & stat. nov*.

Daniellia soyauxii (Harms) Rolfe var. *pilosa* J. Léonard, Bull. Jard. Bot. État. 19(4): 407. 1949. — Type: Gabon. Ogooué-Lolo, región de Lastoursville, Nzambi, 29.VIII.1930 *Le Testu 8292* (holotype P!; isotypes BM! BR! LISC! MO!).

Daniellia pilosa is a tree to 40 m tall and ca. 90 cm DBH, with cylindrical bole and horizontal scars. This species presents a compound and densely pubescent panicle in its inflorescence, a character only shared with *D. ogea* and *D. pynaertii*, from which it is distinguished by the absence of glands at the insertion of leaflet in the rachis (only the type specimen of *D. pilosa* presents two glands at the insertion of first pair of leaflets). The absence of glands in the rachis is shared with *D. soyauxii*.

Léonard (1949) described this species as a variety of *D. soyauxii*, but later noticed (Léonard 1950: 105) the relationship between the species and variety should be studied when more material becomes available. Today still few specimens are available and future studies are needed, but several characters justify recognizing *D. pilosa* as a distinct species, yet closely related to *D. soyauxii*. *Daniellia pilosa* has a pubescent midrib in the abaxial leaf surface (in some specimens few leaflets are glabrous); the sepals are velvety pubescent in *D. pilosa*, whereas in

D. soyauxii they only have a ciliate margin and a tuft of hairs on the top. The inflorescence has 9–12 lateral branches in *D. pilosa* and only 5–6 in *D. soyauxii*.

Daniellia pilosa has been found in Gabon, in mountain primary forest, at altitudes above 500 m. Flowering has been observed from March to August.

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