

***DIPLYCOSIA MEKONGGAENSIS* (ERICACEAE, GAULTHERIEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM SULAWESI, INDONESIA**

G. ARGENT¹ & E. A. WIDJAJA²

Diplycosia mekonggaensis Argent & Widjaja (Ericaceae, Gaultherieae) is described and illustrated as a new species from the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. Diagnostic characters are given and comparisons with related species are made.

Keywords. *Diplycosia*, Ericaceae, Gaultherieae, Indonesia, new species, Sulawesi.

INTRODUCTION

Recent field work in Sulawesi has resulted in many new discoveries. Here, we describe a new species in *Diplycosia* Blume (Ericaceae, Gaultherieae) which brings the number of known species in Sulawesi to 22. This may still be only a fraction of the true number in Sulawesi since the plants are so often overlooked when growing epiphytically high in large trees and with small, often green flowers which are difficult to see at a distance.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

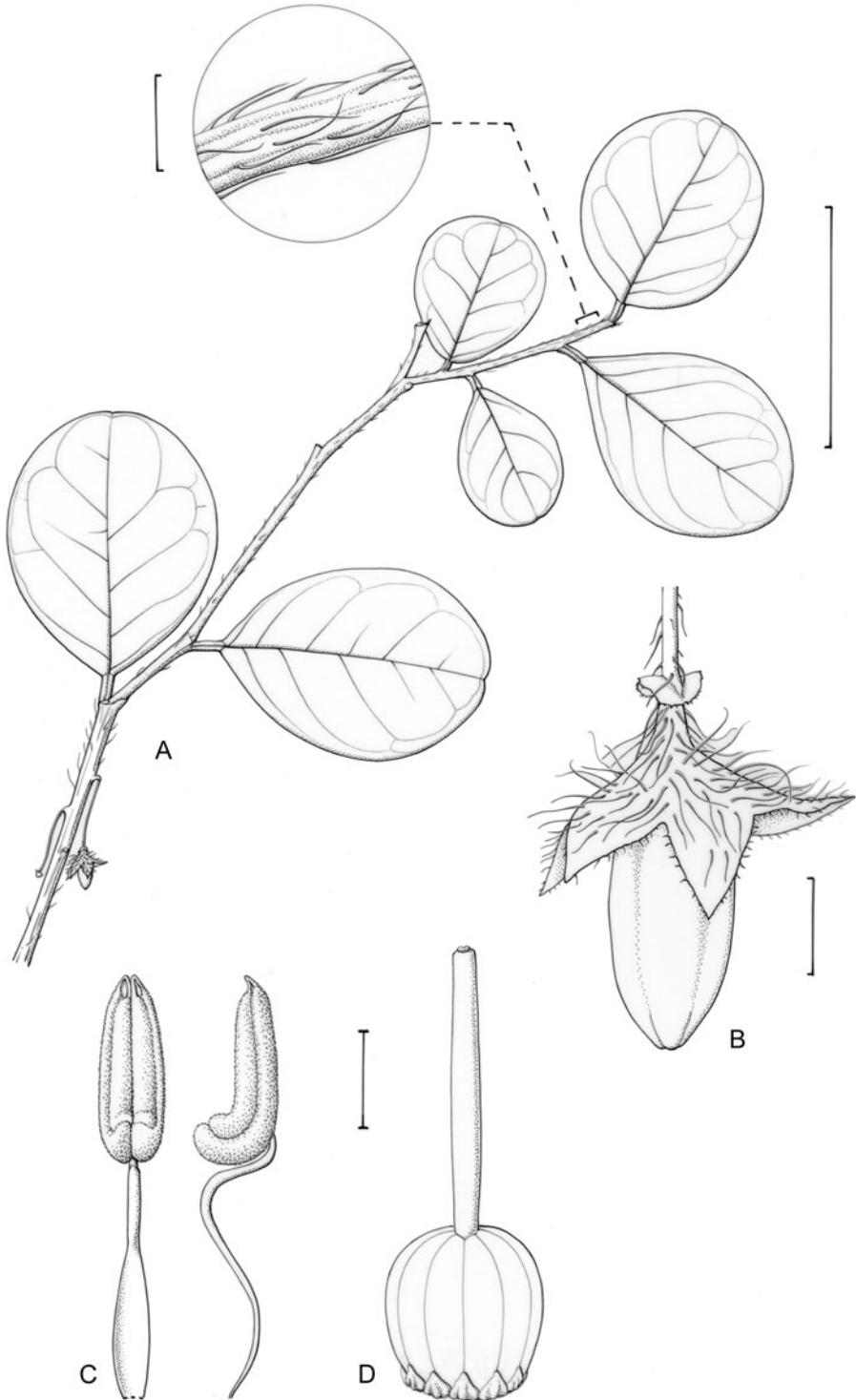
***Diplycosia mekonggaensis* Argent & Widjaja, sp. nov.**

Similar to *Diplycosia undata* J.J.Sm. in its bristly stems, broadly elliptic to subcircular leaves and long pedicels but the stems lacking conspicuous lateral buds and with shorter, appressed, not subpatent bristles, the calyx with long, dense bristles, not muriculate, lacking the thick glands of *D. undata*. – Type: SE Sulawesi, Gunung Mekongga, North Kolaka district, Rante Angin subdistrict, Tinukari village, 03°65'02.7"S, 121°23'69.2"E, 1900–2600 m, 11 vii 2011, *E.A. Widjaja, A. Suyadi, U. Hapid & W. Santoso* EAW 9806 (holo BO; iso E). **Fig. 1.**

Epiphytic shrub. *Twigs* with a sparse covering of appressed multicellular, brown, eglandular bristles to 2 mm long, these sometimes becoming sub-spreading on older stems, without fine under-indumentum of simple hairs. Lateral buds small and inconspicuous. *Leaf blade* leathery, 35–50 × 20–38 mm, broadly elliptic to subcircular, or

¹ Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Scotland, UK. E-mail for correspondence: g.argent@rbge.ac.uk

² Herbarium Bogoriense, Botany Division, Research Centre for Biology – LIPI, Jl. Raya Jakarta Bogor Km 46, Cibinong 16911, Indonesia.



obovate, glabrous above and below although punctate abaxially which could demonstrate the remains of early caducous bristles, the base broadly obtuse to rounded, apex rounded, the terminal gland small and, although protruding, turned downwards so inconspicuous when viewed from above, margin entire, with appressed bristles when young, narrowly revolute, without a distinct cartilaginous border, mid-vein slender, slightly impressed above, prominent beneath throughout its length, lateral veins pinnate, 2–4 per side, ascending and disappearing before the leaf margin adaxially, displaying looped connections abaxially, reticulation obscure. *Petiole* 2–5 × 1–2 mm, at first with appressed bristles. *Flowers* solitary. *Pedicels* 11–12 × c.0.2 mm, slender, at anthesis with sparse, semi-appressed bristles; basal bracts small and inconspicuous; bracteoles c.1 mm long, semi-circular, fringed with irregular hair bases, otherwise glabrous. *Calyx* tube c.2 mm long, densely bristly, the lobes broadly triangular, c.4 × 2.5 mm, densely bristly outside, glabrous inside, the margins paler and fimbriate. *Corolla* (in bud) 6 × 3.5 mm, red, glabrous inside and out, lobes 5, c.1 × 1 mm, ovate-triangular. *Stamens* c.4.5 mm long; filaments sigmoid, glabrous, c.3.5 mm long; anthers c.2 mm long, echinulate, the tubules c.0.2 mm long. *Disc* of 10 lobes appressed to the ovary. *Ovary* glabrous; style c.3 mm long, cylindrical, glabrous. *Fruit* not seen.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality.

Ecology. Montane ridge forest. Flowering July.

Conservation status. Data Deficient.

Etymology. Named after Gunung Mekongga, the mountain on which it was collected.

Diplycosia mekonggaensis keys out in Argent (2014) to *D. undata* J.J.Sm. but this species has longer, subpatent bristles on the stems, conspicuous lateral buds and a calyx with only ‘a few thick glands externally’ not the long dense bristles of *D. mekonggaensis*. The corolla of this species is likely to be much smaller than that of *Diplycosia undata*. Although Widjaja *et al.* EAW 9806 (BO) has only a flower bud, this appears to be close to opening as the lobes are quite distinct. Given what is known of the development of the flowers in other species, it would be unlikely to grow to 8–11 mm, the length of the corolla in *Diplycosia undata*. Only *Diplycosia hirsuta* Sleumer and *D. kjellbergii* J.J.Sm. amongst the Sulawesi species of *Diplycosia* have the coarse bristles on the calyx exhibited by *D. mekonggaensis*. In *Diplycosia hirsuta* the calyx is only sparsely bristly, the leaves have an acute or acuminate apex and the flowers are much larger. *Diplycosia kjellbergii* has spreading bristles on the stems, an acuminate leaf apex and the pedicels are less than half the length of those in *D. mekonggaensis*.



FIG. 1. *Diplycosia mekonggaensis* Argent & Widjaja. A, habit with inset to show stem indumentum; B, flower bud; C, stamens, front and side views; D, pistil. Scale bars: A = 4 cm; B = 2 mm; C & D = 1 mm.

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