



4. Stereoscan views of the surface of preserved fresh fruit of *Moratia cerifera* by J. Martens from Moore & Morat 10400. **A**, $\times 50$; **B**, $\times 445$.

minutely roughened epicarp of the fruit in *Moratia* (Fig. 4) and the patterning of the endocarp (Fig. 2w, x, y) among other differences summarized below.

1. Staminate flowers dark red, symmetrical, with sepals about half as high as the thick petals; stamens 6; pistillate flower with 3 staminodes; fruit subglobose, minutely roughened when fresh, with stigmatic residue lateral near the middle; endocarp with discernible thickening in a pattern that resembles the branching of vascular bundles from the raphe of the seed; pinnae drying light green *Moratia*
1. Staminate flowers pink or rose, symmetrical or somewhat asymmetrical, with sepals about one-fourth as high as the thin petals; stamens 12; pistillate flowers with 6 staminodes; fruit globose-ellipsoid to ellipsoid, smooth when fresh, with stigmatic residue near the base, endocarp lacking discernible patterning; pinnae drying blackish *Cyphokentia*

***Moratia cerifera* H. E. Moore, sp. nov.** (Figs. 2–4).

Caules ad 20 m alti. Folia ca. 2 m longa pinnis utrinsecus 25–36. Fructus depresso-globosus ca. 1.3 cm altus 1.4 cm in diam.

Holotype: Moore & Morat 10400 (BH).

Trunk to 20 m high, 18 cm in diam., the new growth often orange, becoming brown in age, ringed, without prominent roots, “wood” orangish.

Leaves 8–10; sheath white-waxy over orange to gray-lilac-reddish, orange within, 55–94 cm long; petiole green, brown-lepidote to punctulate beneath, brown floccose-lepidote above, 11–33 cm long; rachis scaly like the petiole, 1–1.7 m long; pinnae 25–36 on each side, directed forward in one plane or at an angle to the rachis and ascending with arcuate tips, dark green, midrib yellow-

green, veins brown-lepidote beneath, ramenta prominent on midrib and often on principal lateral veins near base beneath, medifixed or basifixed, brown, membranous, dissected or sometimes twisted, to 1 cm long, basal pinnae 30–68 cm long, 0.5–2.8 cm wide, with lorae, median pinnae 75–96 cm long, 3.8–5 cm wide, apical pinnae 17–30 cm long, 0.8–2.2 cm wide.

Inflorescence green or orangish-green with a gray cast to red-gray and slightly glaucous or bluish-green at anthesis, to 1.04 m long, 1.7 m wide; peduncle flattened, 2.5–5 cm long, 4–6 cm wide, 1.1–1.4 cm thick; prophyll orangish to red-gray with white wax (this melting in drying!), 55–60 cm long, 11.5–15 cm wide; rachis 31–43 cm long with 12–18 branches, the lower to ca. 60 cm long, twice-branched, with peduncular base 4–8 cm long, rachis 17–34 cm long, and ca. 11 branches and rachillae 40–62 cm long.

Staminate buds shining dark red, 3.5–4 mm high; sepals 2.5–3 mm high, 2.4 mm wide; petals ca. 3 mm high, 2.2 mm wide; anthers 1.4 mm long; pistillate buds with sepals 2.5–3 mm high, 3 mm wide; petals 3.6 mm high, 2.6 mm wide.

Fruit 12–13 mm high, 12–14 mm wide, 10–13 mm thick; fruiting perianth with sepals 2–3 mm high, to 4 mm wide; petals 4–4.5 mm high, to 6 mm wide; mesocarp with inner tanniniferous layer ca. 1 mm thick and endocarp ca. 0.5 mm thick.

Distribution: New Caledonia, from Mont Panié southeast to Povila on schists at elevations of 10 to mostly 500–900 m in wet forest.

Specimens examined: NEW CALEDONIA. Poindimié, Povila, 600 m, forêt basse, pente raide schisteuse, 26 Sep 1977, *MacKee 33871* (BH, P); east slopes of Mont Panié on trail from Tiaot to summit, alt. ca. 500 m, 23 Jun 1971, *Moore, Brinon, Schmid, & Veillon 9966* (BH, NOU); 29 Sep 1972, *Moore, Schmid, & Veillon 10035* (BH, NOU), 500–600 m, 3 Oct 1978, *Moore & Morat 10400* (BH, holotype; K, NOU, P, isotypes); wet forest along Creek Tchit (Ruisseau Pouai), between Ouaième and Tao, ca. 10 m alt., 21 Nov 1978, *Moore, Favier, & Veillon 10473* (BH, NOU); forêt sur le versant Est du Mt. Panié vers 800 m, Aug 1966, *Schmid 1613* (BH, NOU).

The epithet for this species is taken from the waxy appearance of leaf sheaths and to some extent the inflorescences in nature (although the wax may melt in drying if excessive heat is used!). The leaf sheaths are often bright orange under the wax and orange within. The trunk is much higher and thicker in the forest near 500 meters on Mont Panié than in the more exposed forest upward where it occurs to ca. 900 m. A single individual grows at Creek Tchit (Ruisseau Pouai of maps) at a singularly low elevation in company with *Alloschmidia glabrata*, *Veillonion alba*, *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*, *Basselonia eriostachys*, and *Cyphosperma balansae*, most of which normally grow at higher elevations.

Moratia cerifera was long thought to represent *Basselonia glabrata* Becc. and was considered under that name by Schmid in *Nature Calédonienne* 4: 18, 1974. True *Basselonia glabrata*, however, is now known as *Alloschmidia glabrata* (Becc.) H. E. Moore.

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