

# A New Species, *Pogonophora letouzeyi* (Euphorbiaceae), from Gabon

Christian Feuillet

ORSTOM, at the Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

**ABSTRACT.** A species from the Crystal Mountains in Gabon, whose name was previously invalidly published, is here named *Pogonophora letouzeyi* to honor René Letouzey.

As recently pointed out by Molloy et al. (1992), the description of *Pogonophora africana* by Letouzey (1969) was published with the mention of two "holotypes," one from a female plant (*N. Hallé 645*), the other one from a male plant (*N. Hallé & J. F. Villiers 4648*). This is in contradiction with the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Greuter et al., 1988: Art. 9.1), which states that the holotype of a specific taxon "is a single specimen or illustration." These collections could only be considered as syntypes. The *ICBN* (Art. 37.1) reads: "Publication on or after 1 Jan. 1958 of the name of a new taxon of the rank of genus or below is valid only when the holotype of the name is indicated." Therefore, *P. africana* Letouzey is invalid, and the two specimens cited by Letouzey are not types of any kind.

A holotype could be selected to validate the name. It would change the authorship of the species and, in my opinion, it would be regrettable to take away from my late colleague René Letouzey the recognition now attached to the name of this species. To avoid this, I here name the species in honor of Letouzey as a tribute to his vast knowledge of the African flora and vegetation. He had a special interest in Cameroon, and in the affinities between the flora of tropical America and the coastal flora of the Guinea Gulf in Africa. *Pogonophora* Miers ex Benth, with one or two species in Amazonian South America and one in Gabon, is a good example of what he called, in the neighboring western Cameroon, the "vestiges d'une 'forêt archaïque à affinités sud-américaines'" (Letouzey, 1968: 148).

***Pogonophora letouzeyi* Feuillet, sp. nov. TYPE:**  
Gabon. Estuaire: bordure des monts de Cristal,

chutes de Kinguélé, bord de rivière sur plage sableuse, 100 m, Jan. 1968 (pist. fl), *N. Hallé & J. F. Villiers 4648* (holotype, P).

*Pogonophora africana* Letouzey, nom. inval., *Adansonia*, sér. 2, 9(2): 275. 15 July 1969.

For the description in Latin and in French, and the illustration, see Letouzey (1969).

**Distribution.** In open vegetation, river sandy beach and scrubby vegetation, northeast of Libreville, Gabon, western limit of the Crystal Mountains range, at elevations around 100 m.

The female plant kept at P is selected as the holotype, because, according to Letouzey, the characters it shows were more critical than those of the previous collection in identifying the generic affinities of the species.

**Paratype.** GABON. ESTUAIRE: brousse secondaire près de Nkoulounga, 55 km NE Libreville, June 1959 (stam. fl), *N. Hallé 645* (P).

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