A revision of the Malagasy endemic Homalium sect. Nisa (Salicaceae)

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Introduction
- Homalium is a genus of pantropical woody plants in the willow family (Salicaceae).
- Madagascar has many endemic species and is a center of diversity for Homalium.
- Section Nisa is endemic to Madagascar distinguished by its solitary stamens per petal, sepals longer than petals, and large, persistent bracts.
- The most recent revision of sect. Nisa consisted of H. nudiflorum (var. nudiflorum and var. ciliolatum), louvelianum, stelliferum, and intercedens with the main focus of this project on the H. nudiflorum complex.
- Due to new material collected since the last revision, it is necessary to reevaluate this section.

Materials and Methods
Material examined includes:
- 67 specimens from the Homalium nudiflorum complex from MO.
- Over 30 additional specimens from sect. Nisa, including one on loan from P.
- Pictures online from JSTOR Global Plants and the Muséum National D’histoire Naturelle.

Specimens were organized first by region then by morphological characteristics including: leaf size, shape, and margin; indument of sepals and petals; flower size, etc. A group was considered a species when 3 distinct characters were consistent.

Results
Homalium nudiflorum complex was split into 8 species, including 4 newly described species:
- H. nudiflorum
- H. confertum - previously synonymous
- H. retusum - previously synonymous
- H. ciliolatum - formerly subspecies H. crenatifolium - new (A)
- H. pachycladum - new (B)
- H. tenue - new (C-D)
- H. parvibrotate - new (E-F)

Homalium stelliferum complex has one newly described, currently unnamed species. This complex should be examined further when more material is available; observing pictures of specimens at P, there appear to be several more species within this complex.

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Madagascar template map courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
Living plant photos courtesy of Tropicos.org, Missouri Botanical Garden

Flowers of new species of Homalium sect. Nisa, H. nudiflorum complex

Species Distribution Map

Flowers of new species of Homalium sect. Nisa, H. nudiflorum complex