

Threatened plants of western Cameroon

Korupodendron songweanum Litt & Cheek (*Vochysiaceae*)

Local name: 'Kosowe-ke obon' (Durop, "Chief's Chair")

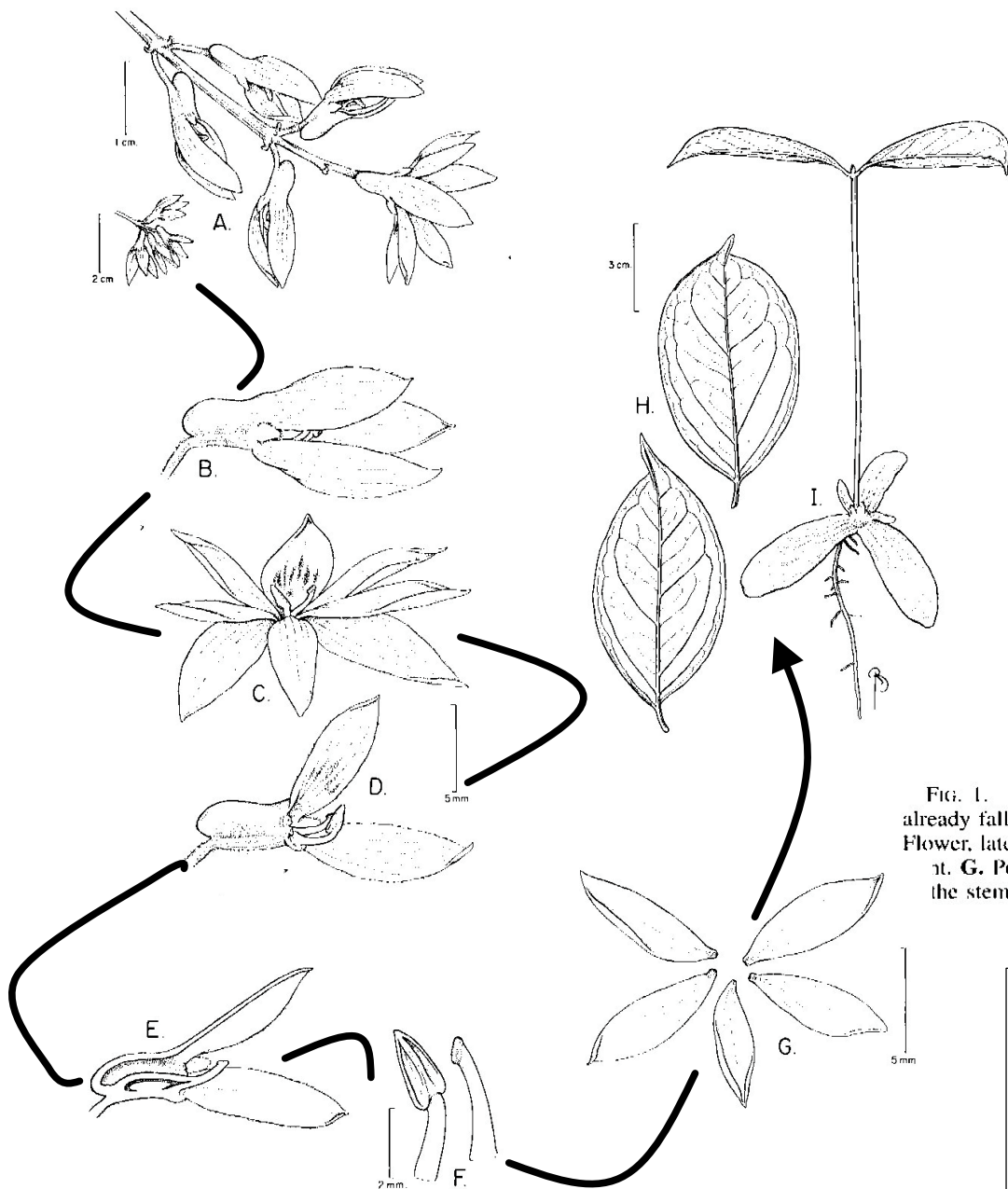
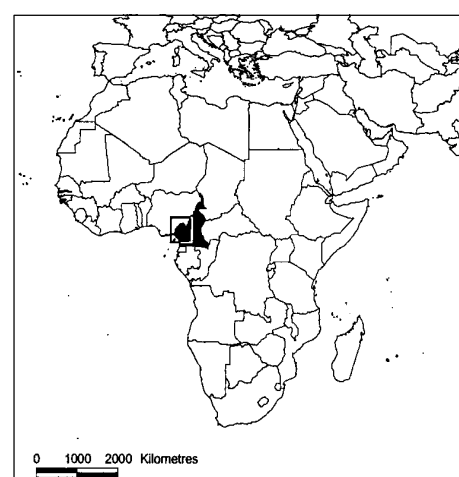
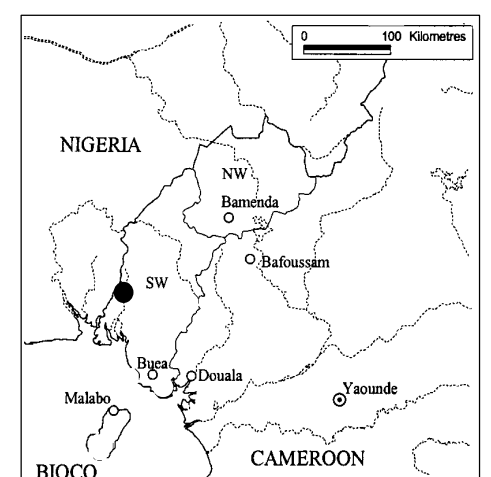


FIG. 1. *Korupodendron songweanum* (from Cheek 8814, YA, K, NY). In A, B, D, and E the petals have already fallen. A. Portion of inflorescence. B. Flower, lateral view. C. Flower, front view (from photograph). D. Flower, lateral view, with sepal removed. E. Flower, longitudinal section. F. Stamen, left, and style and stigma. G. Petals. H. Leaves (folded at apex during pressing). I. Seedling, showing five-winged fruit at the base of the stem (from photograph).



Africa and western Cameroon



Distribution map of *Korupodendron songweanum*

This genus of tree with just a single species is only known from the centre of the Korup National Park in S.W. Province, Cameroon. It is unique in the family Vochysiaceae in having 3 petaloid sepals. Only a few individuals are known. These are believed confined to the area near Mt Juahan.

Korupodendron has been assessed as Endangered (EN C2a (ii)) using the criteria of IUCN (2001), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. *Korupodendron* means "Korup's tree" and *songweanum* "to the glory of Songwe", in honour of Dr Nicholas Songwe, former Korup Project Science Co-ordinator.

Teams of botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London, England and staff of the National Herbarium of Cameroon have been working together to discover and protect threatened plant species since 1996.

Litt, A. & Cheek, M. *Korupodendron songweanum*, a new genus and species of Vochysiaceae from West-Central Africa. *Brittonia* 54 (1): 13–17 (2002).

13 August 2002