

# The correct name for Castanha de cutia (*Couepia edulis* (Prance) Prance - Chrysobalanaceae)

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## Abstract

In 1972 the author described the new species *Acioa edulis* (Chrysobalanaceae) to name the *Castanha de cutia*, a plant which is economically important because of its edible fruit. The original description was based on fruiting material only. Recently collected flowering material has shown that the original generic assignment was incorrect, and so it is now transferred to *Couepia* the correct genus, and the flowers are described for the first time.

## INTRODUCTION

In Prance (1972b) I described the new species *Acioa edulis* to accommodate the plant known locally as *Castanha de cutia*. This plant is of considerable local economic importance for its edible cotyledons, and for its use for cooking oil and oil for soap-making. Although first collected in 1933, this species was only known in fruit until we made a special field trip in 1975 to collect the flowers. The flowering material has shown that my original generic assignment was incorrect, and that in fact it is a species of *Couepia*. The leaves and fruit resemble *Acioa*, but the flowers are clearly those of *Couepia*. Accordingly the species is transferred here to the correct genus, and the flowers are described for the first time.

## NOMENCLATURE

*Couepia edulis* (Prance) Prance, comb. nov.

*Acioa edulis* Prance, Acta Amaz. 2(1): 12-16. 1972.

TYPE. Prance, Maas, Atchley et al 14015, Brazil, Amazonas, rio Ituxi, Boca do Curuquetê (holotype NY; isotypes, FHO, INPA, MG, US).

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## DESCRIPTION OF FLOWERS

Inflorescence a much branched, 5-10cm long, slightly corymbose panicle; the rachis and branches glabrous. Receptacle conical and slightly curved near base, 6-7mm long, glabrous on exterior, the interior lined by an extremely thick disc with only a small hollow, the interior with pilose hairs below insertion of style, glabrous on other side. Sepals 5, rounded, unequal, 3-5mm long, glabrous on exterior, the margins ciliate, appressed puberulous on interior. Petals 5, white, caducous, glabrous, the margins ciliate. Stamens 17-20, inserted in 2 rows around half of the thick staminal ring, the other half of the ring without staminodes, with a circle of deflexed hairs inserted on interior at base of staminal ring, the filaments glabrous, the anthers dorsifixed. Ovary inserted at mouth of receptacle on the same side as stamens; glabrous on exterior, glabrous within, unilocular; ovules 2. Style inserted at base of ovary towards interior, the swollen base pilose, the filamentous portion glabrous, equalling stamens in length.

## FLOWERING MATERIAL STUDIED

J. F. Ramos P 23251, Brazil, Amazonas, Coari, km 6, road to airport, flowering February 10, 1975 (INPA, MG, NY).

## DISCUSSION

The genus *Couepia* contains species groups of closely related species and taxonomically isolated species, see Prance (1972a). The taxonomically isolated species are quite distinct from one another and are hard to relate to each other. *Couepia edulis* belongs to this type of species as it is quite

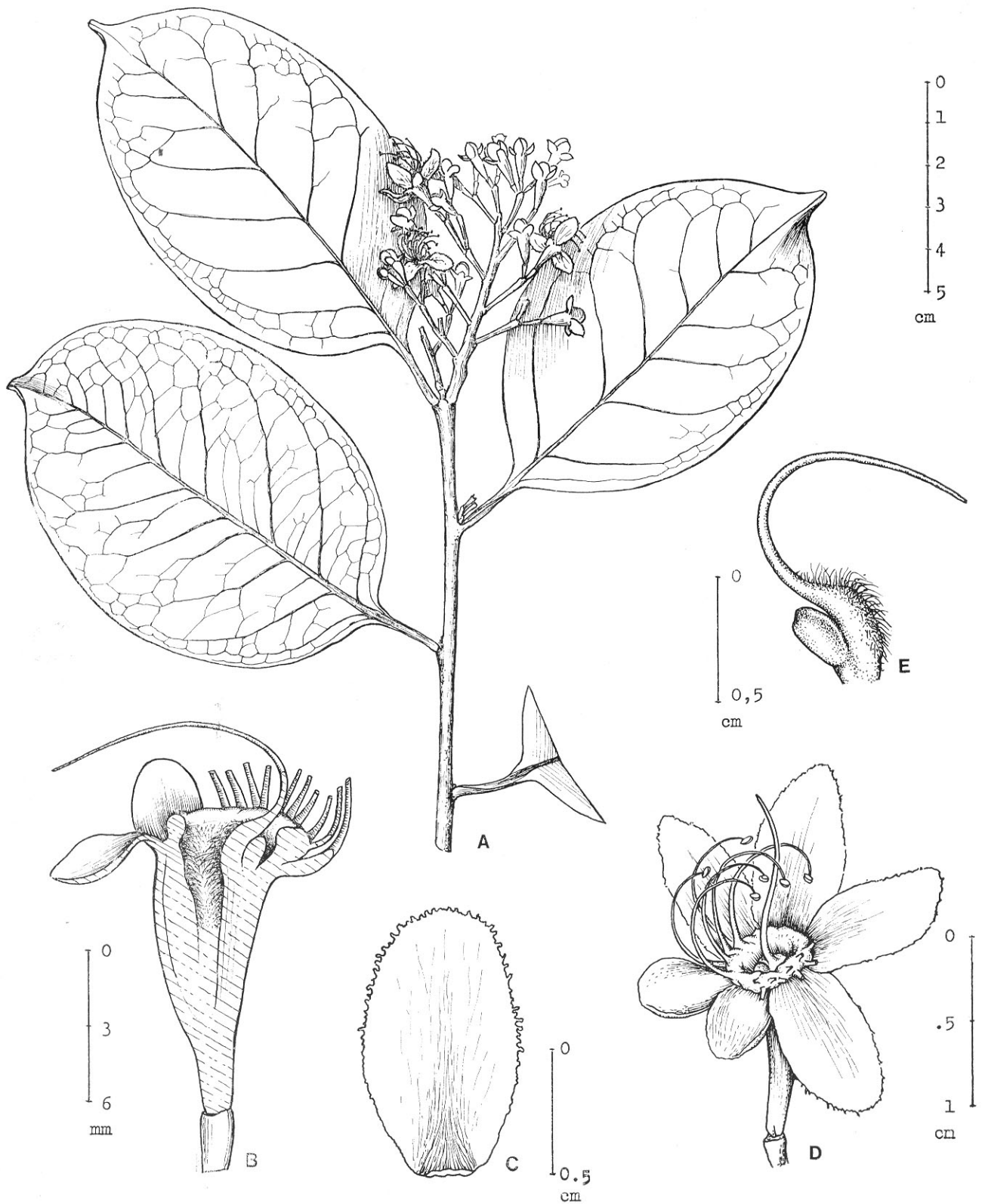


Fig. 1. *Couepia edulis* (Prance) Prance. A, habit; B, diagram of half flower; C, petal (caducous in open flower); D, flower with most of the stamens removed; E, ovary and style. (Des. by J. Dellome).

