

# A new species of *Byrsonima* (Malpighiaceae) from eastern Brazil

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*Summary.* A new species of *Byrsonima*, *B. stannardii*, is described and illustrated. It occurs in Bahia and Minas Gerais States, Brazil.

A decade ago I identified several collections of a peculiar *Byrsonima* from Bahia, Brazil, as "*B. aff. variabilis* Adr. Juss." In notes to myself I said that it was probably new, but one shrinks from describing the less spectacular novelties in a genus as large and complex as *Byrsonima* out of fear that they may already be represented by one or more of the many names published but not actively used. This year I was asked to treat the *Malpighiaceae* for the forthcoming flora of the Pico das Almas, where the *Byrsonima* I set aside in 1981 is common. That assignment forced me to come to grips with the problem, and careful study has convinced me that the species is indeed distinct and undescribed.

***Byrsonima stannardii* W. R. Anderson** sp. nov. lamina foliorum majorum 6.5–12.5 × 2.5–6.5 cm, supra rugosa subtus dense et pertinaciter lanata pilis valde tortuosis et brunneolis vel albidis, petiolo 3–8 mm longo, bracteis 1.5–2.5 × 1–1.6 mm, plerumque rigidis, pedicello paulo nutanti in fructu, sepalis usque ad 3.5 mm longis in fructu, abaxialiter dense tomentosis adaxialiter glabris, petalis luteis demum rubescentibus, petalo postico ungue eglanduloso, antheris inter loculos sericeis, loculis connectivo non vel usque ad 0.4 mm superatis, ovario glabro. Typus: Brasilia, Bahia, *Harley* 27317 (holotypus MICH!; isotypi (non visi) CEPEC, IBUSP, K, SPF).

Shrub or tree 1.2–10 m tall, the stems densely and persistently tomentose or subvelutinous to eventually glabrescent. Lamina of larger leaves 6.5–12.5 × 2.5–6.5 cm, elliptical or somewhat ovate or obovate, acute to rounded at apex, cuneate or rounded at base, tomentose to glabrate and shining and rugose above, densely and persistently woolly below, the hairs strongly twisted, brownish or whitish; petiole 3–8 mm long, densely and persistently tomentose with some hairs spreading, sometimes eventually glabrescent; stipules (2.5–)3–5 mm long, completely and smoothly connate, the pair ovate and rounded at apex, abaxially tomentose or subvelutinous, adaxially glabrous. Inflorescence persistently velutinous or tomentose, 4–9 cm long, the 1–2-flowered cincinni crowded into the distal 3–6.5 cm raised on a stalk 1–4 cm long; bracts 1.5–2.5 × 1–1.6 mm, triangular, abaxially appressed-tomentose, adaxially glabrous, spreading, mostly stiff or slightly revolute at apex; primary floriferous peduncle (from bract to joint)

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0–4.5 mm long; bracteoles like bracts but somewhat smaller; bracts and bracteoles mostly persistent below flowers that develop into fruits, others irregularly deciduous; pedicel 8–13 mm long, circinate in bud, slightly nodding in fruit. Flowers c. 13 mm in diameter. Sepals all biglandular, 1.5–2.2 mm long beyond glands, 2–2.5 mm wide, obtuse or rounded at apex, often slightly revolute at apex and on sides, abaxially densely tomentose, adaxially glabrous; glands yellow, 2–2.7 mm long. Petals yellow, turning orangish and eventually red in age, glabrous; lateral petals reflexed, the claw 2.5–3.5 mm long, the limb 5–6.5 × 6–8.5 mm; posterior petal erect, the claw 2.5–3 mm long, very thick, eglandular, the limb 2.5–3.5 × 3.5–4 mm, eglandular, corrugated, soon reflexed distally. Filaments 1.5–2.3 mm long, abaxially glabrous or bearing a few hairs, adaxially hirsute at base; anthers (2–)2.4–3.1 mm long, sericeous between locules, the locules unwinged, often slightly free at apex, not or only slightly exceeded by the connective (up to 0.4 mm). Ovary 1.5 mm high, glabrous, all 3 locules fertile; styles 3.5–4 mm long, often bent in the distal ¼. Fruit green turning yellow, 8–16 mm in diameter (dried), spherical, glabrous; accrescent sepals c. 3.5 mm long and wide, broadly triangular beyond glands. (Fig 1).

BRAZIL. Bahia: Serra das Almas, lower NE slopes of Pico das Almas, c. 25 km WNW of Vila do Rio de Contas, 41°57'W, 13°33'S, 1500 m, fr. Feb., *Harley* 19547 (MICH); Mun. Palmeiras, Serra dos Lençóis, lower slopes of Morro do Pai Inácio, c. 14.5 km NW of Lençóis, just N of main Seabra-Itaberaba road,

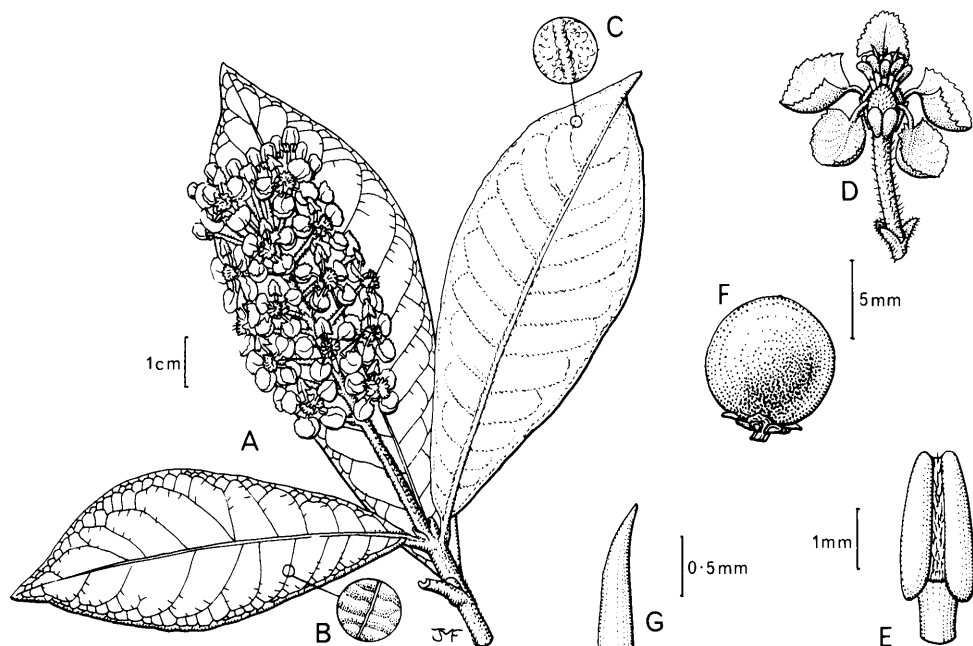


FIG. 1. *Byronima stannardii*. A flowering branch; B leaf vein, adaxial view; C leaf vein, abaxial view; D flower; E anther; F fruit; G stigma. Drawn by J. M. Fothergill.

41°28'W, 12°27'S, 700–1000 m, fr. May, *Harley* 22725 (MICH); Rio de Contas, near the Pico das Almas, Queiroz, 1400 m, campo rupestre, fl. & fr. Feb., *Harley* 24603 (K); Mun. Rio de Contas, Pico das Almas, N slope, NW of Campo do Queiroz, 13°31'S, 41°58'W, 1550 m, edge of forest, fl. Nov., *Harley* 26292 (MICH); Mun. Rio de Contas, Pico das Almas, eastern slope, Campo do Queiroz, SW part, 13°32'S, 41°57'W, 1500 m, secondary forest, fl. 21 Dec. 1988, *Harley* 27317 (holotype MICH; isotypes CEPEC, IBUSP, K, SPF); Mun. Rio de Contas, Pico das Almas, 18 km from Rio de Contas, 13°33'S, 41°57'W, 1300–1600 m, campo rupestre, fl. bud/fr., *Mori et al.* 12530 (MICH); km 5–15 on Conquista/Barra da Choça road, fl. Nov., *T. S. dos Santos* 2534 (MICH). Minas Gerais: Mun. Jequitinhonha, ascent of Serra Sapucaia, cerrado, fl. Nov., *Magalhães* 17718 (IAN); 2 km from Diamantina on road to Extração, dry forest, fl. Nov., *Mamede et al.* s.n. [SPF 35868/CFCR 6266] (K).

Only one collection has mature fruits (*Harley* 22725), and those are 16 mm in diameter, fairly large for a *Byrsonima*. Whether the smaller immature fruits of *Harley* 19547 and 24603 and *Mori et al.* 12530 would have reached that size I cannot say.

*Byrsonima stannardii* has a rather wide distribution in the quartzitic hills that extend from Bahia south through Minas Gerais, generally known collectively as the Serra do Espinhaço. It seems to be most closely related to *B. variabilis* A.D.C., which has smaller leaves with darker hairs, longer and more flexible bracts, smaller flowers, petals that are originally white (the lateral four) or yellow (the posterior one) and turn pink with age, mostly glabrous anthers, pedicels that are strongly decurved or twisted in fruit, and sepals that are more accrescent in fruit. *Byrsonima variabilis* is very common in Minas Gerais, but seems not to extend north into Bahia. I have seen one specimen that may represent a hybrid between these two species (Minas Gerais, road from Rio de Janeiro to Belo Horizonte, before turn to Ouro Preto, 750 m, fl. June *Braga* 2266, RB). It has the leaves of *B. stannardii* and is said to have had yellow petals, but it has the long flexible bracts, small flowers and glabrous anthers of *B. variabilis*.

I am happy to name this species in honor of Brian L. Stannard, who helped to collect several of the paratypes and is now collaborating with R. M. Harley and others to produce a flora of the Pico das Almas.