

# A new species of croton (Euphorbiaceae) from a Madagascan lineage discovered in coastal Kenya

Ngumbau, Veronicah, National Museums of Kenya

Nyange, Mwadime, National Museums of Kenya

Wei, Neng, Wuhan Botanical Garden

Van Ee, Benjamin, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Berry, Paul, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

Malombe, Itambo, National Museums of Kenya

Hu, Guang-Wan, Wuhan Botanical Garden

Wang, Qing-Feng, Wuhan Botanical Garden

vngumbau@yahoo.com, bvanee@uwalumni.com, peberry@umich.edu, guangwanhu@wbgcas.cn

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## Abstract

*Croton kinondoensis*, a new species from Kenya, is described and illustrated here with photographs. It is found in the sacred Kaya Kinondo Forest, one of the last remaining coastal forests patches in Kenya. Its morphology and systematic position based on ITS and *trnL*-*FDNA* sequence data clearly place it within the Adenophorus Group of *Croton*, a clade of ca. 15

species otherwise known only from Madagascar and the Comoros Archipelago. Its closest affinities appear to lie with *Croton mayottae*, from the island of Mayotte, and *C. menabeensis*, from northwestern Madagascar. This new species likely represents an independent dispersal of *Croton* from Madagascar to mainland Africa.

## Methods

DNA was extracted from leaf fragments obtained from the holotype specimen *Ngumbau & Nyange SAJIT-V-0520* (HIB) using the Mag-MK Plant Genomic DNA extraction kit (Sangon Biotech, Shanghai) following the manufacturer's protocol. For Malagasy accessions, DNA was extracted using the DNeasy plant mini kit (Qiagen, Valencia, California) following the manufacturer's protocol. The ITS and *trnL-F* regions were amplified using the same primers (White et al. 1990; Taberlet et al. 1991) and the same PCR procedures as in Van Ee et al. (2015) and Haber et al. (2017). Sequence formatting and editing were conducted in Geneious v. 5.6.4 (Kearse et al. 2012).

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## Keywords

*Croton kinondoensis*, endemic species, phylogenetic analysis, Kaya Kinondo Forest

## Files

No files are present for this dataset.

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