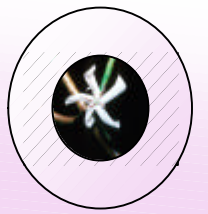


Threatened plants of western Cameroon

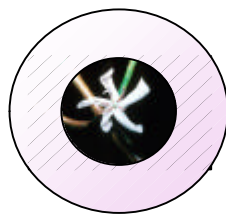
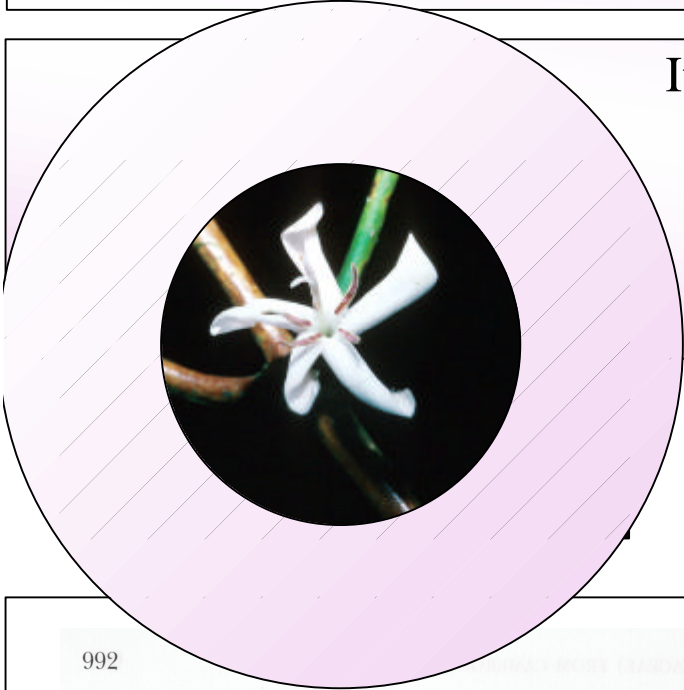
Coffea montekupensis (Rubiaceae)

local name: Deh a Mbine / Dea Mbone (Bakossi) = 'Eye of deer'

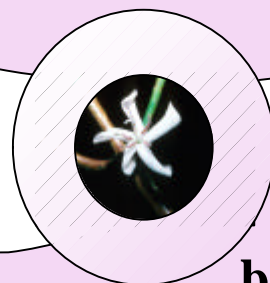
Coffea montekupensis Stoffelen, the 'Mount Kupe Coffee' is an understory forest shrub or treelet 2-4m tall, with solitary pink flowers and fruits ripening glossy red. It is unusual amongst the species of coffee in having pink flowers.



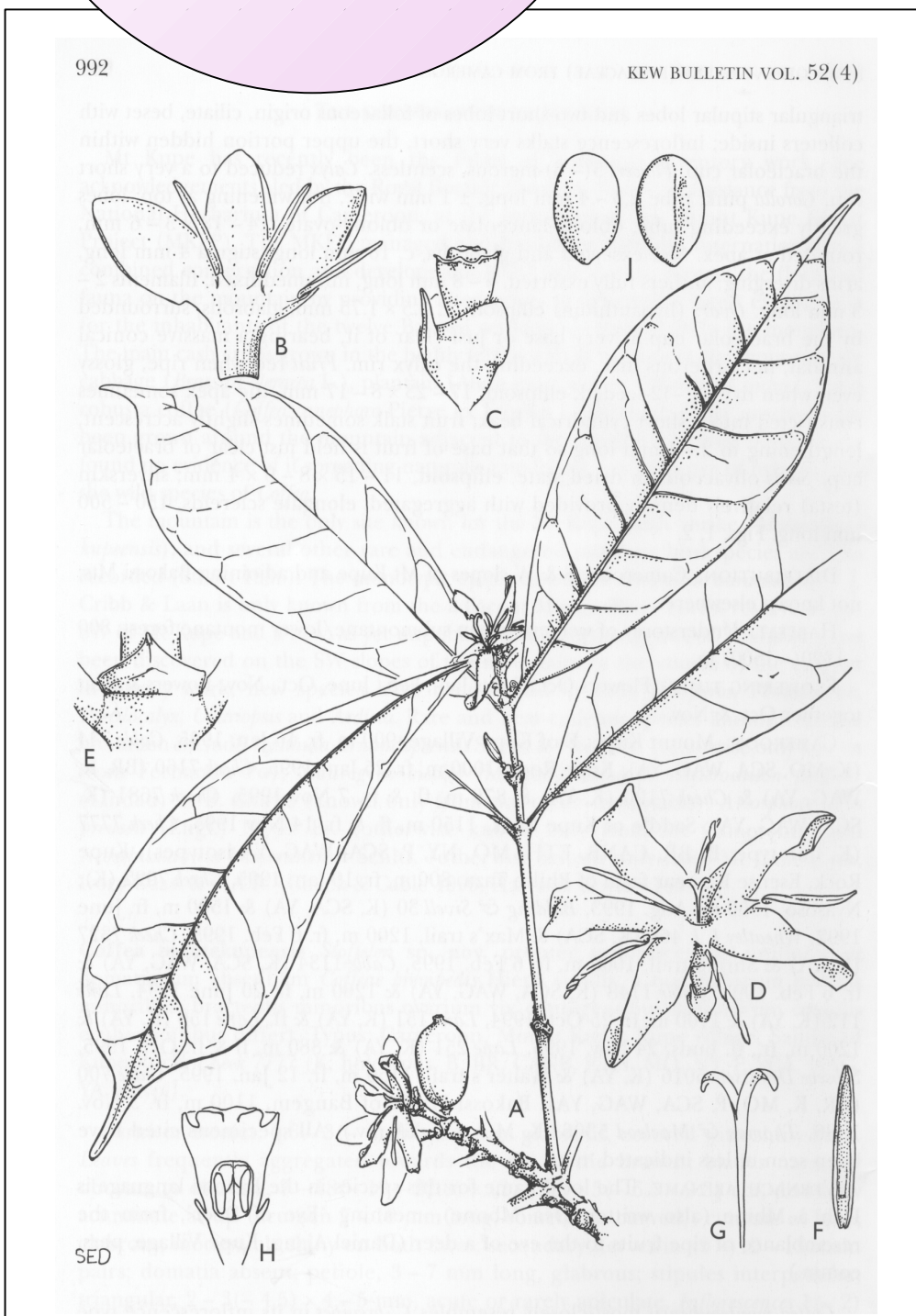
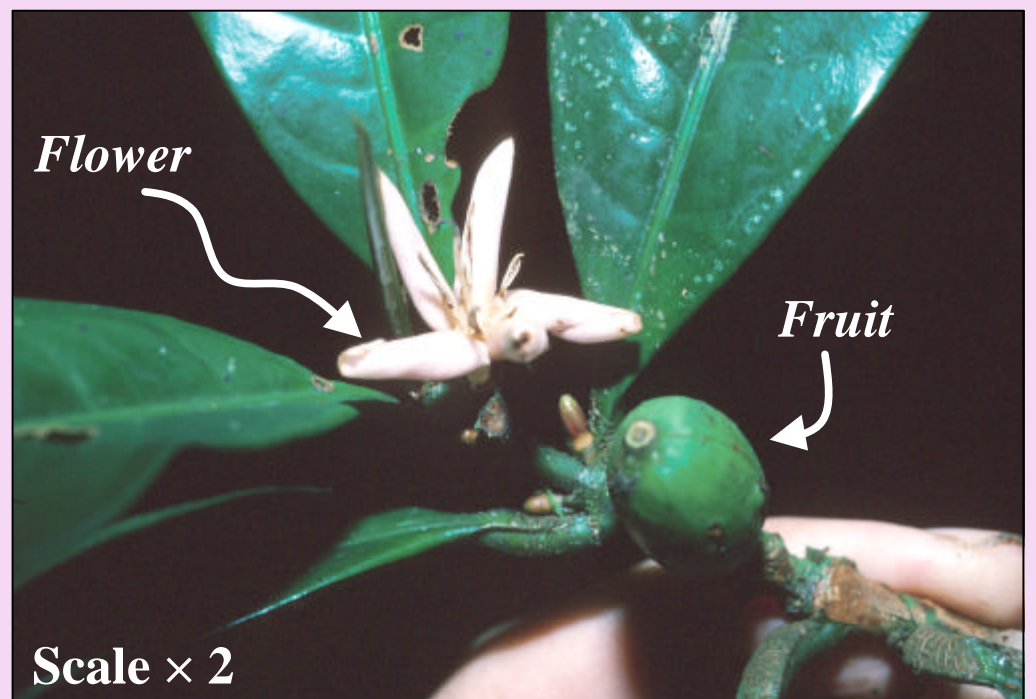
It was discovered during Earthwatch expeditions to Mt Kupe in 1995 and described as a species new to science in 1997*. It is known only from the tribal lands of the Bakossi people, that is Mt. Kupe and the Bakossi Mts, although it is relatively common in this restricted area. If forest is cleared, this species will be lost to the world



Apart from the cultivated "Robusta coffee" *Coffea canephora*, *C. montekupensis* is one of four wild species of *Coffea* in the Bakossi area, only one of which, *C. liberica* is known to have been investigated for commercial potential (it has been used in 'instant' coffee). It is possible that the other species, including *C. montekupensis*, might also be found to be useful to man one day.



Coffea montekupensis
branch with a flower and fruit



* Stoffelen, P., Cheek, M., Bridson, D. & Robbrecht, E. (1997). A new species of *Coffea* (Rubiaceae) and notes on Mt. Kupe (Cameroon). Kew Bull. 52(4): 989-994.