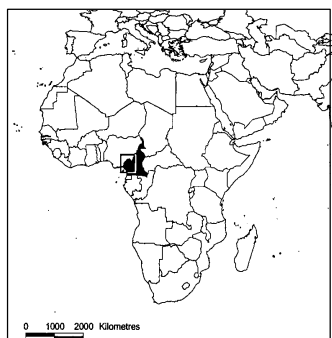
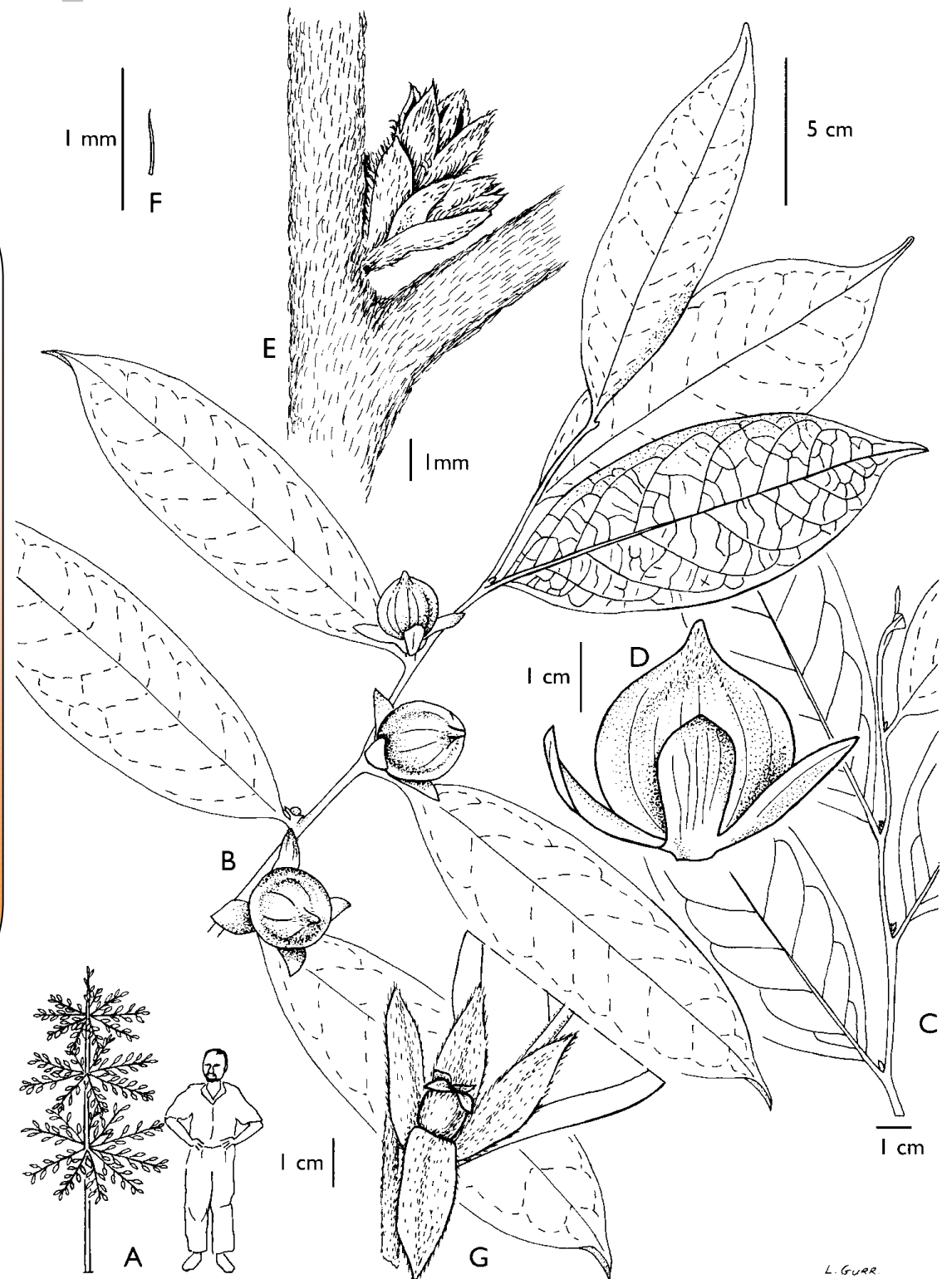


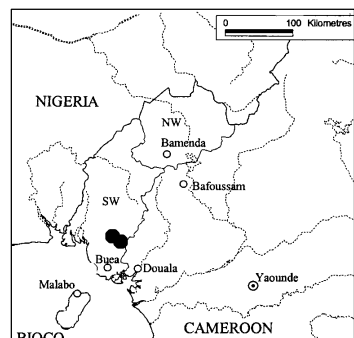
# Threatened plants of western Cameroon

## *Diospyros kupensis* Gosline\*

(*Ebenaceae*)



Africa and western Cameroon



Distribution of *Diospyros kupensis*

FIG. 1. *Diospyros kupensis*. A habit, with senior author for scale; B fruiting branch; C branch with flower buds; D lateral view of fruit; E male inflorescence in bud; F stem hair, G female flower. B – C from *Etuye* 1369, D – F from *Cheek* 6064, G from *Etuye* 3800. Drawn by Linda Gurr.

*D. kupensis* is so far only known from Mount Kupe and the Bakossi Mountains, where about 6 collections have been made since its discovery in 1995. It is an understory tree, 1.5 – 3m, rarely reaching 5m, occurring at 700 – 1250 m altitude on well-drained slopes of undisturbed sub-montane forest. It is one of a number of small trees endemic to Kupe-Bakossi, such as *Coffea montkupensis* and *Cola* sp. nov. It is conspicuous in fruit, bearing yellow-orange fruits almost 2cm in diameter.

Kupe-Bakossi has recently been included in a proposed government reserve, which should offer a higher level of protection to the forest and life within it. Immediate threats to this species are primarily from understory clearance for crop plantation.

Gosline, G. & Cheek, M. (1998)\*  
A new species of *Diospyros* (*Ebenaceae*) from Southwest Cameroon.  
Kew Bull. 53: 461 – 465.