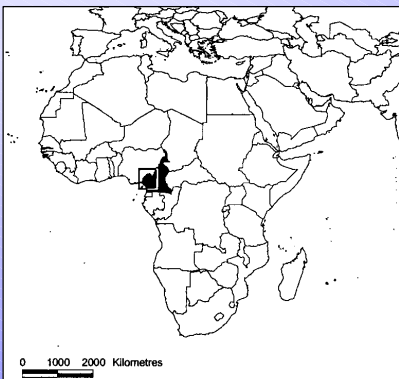


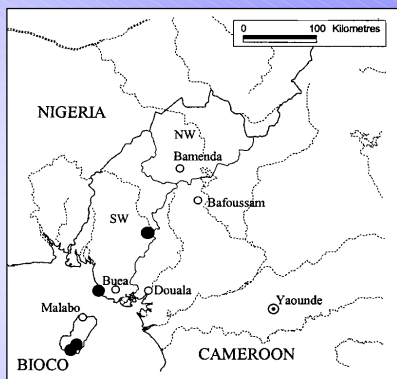
Threatened plants of western Cameroon

Plectranthus cataractarum B.J.Pollard (*Labiatae*)

First collected in 1947, this rare species of mint is globally important for conservation as it is known from only four localities in the world. Two sites are on the island of Bioco in the Gulf of Guinea (Equatorial Guinea), about 30 miles SW of Mt Cameroon which harbours the third population. The fourth known locality being near Kodmin about 60 miles to the North East, in the heart of the little-explored Bakossi Mountains, which lie between Mount Kupe (2064m) and the Korup National Park.



Africa and western Cameroon

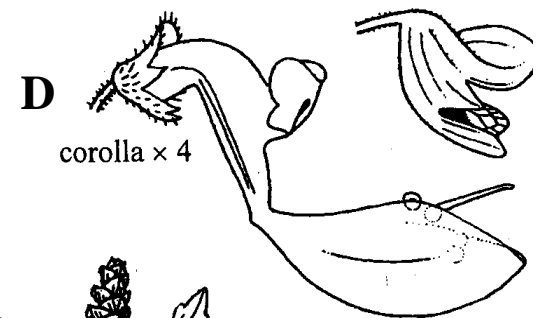


Distribution map of
Plectranthus cataractarum

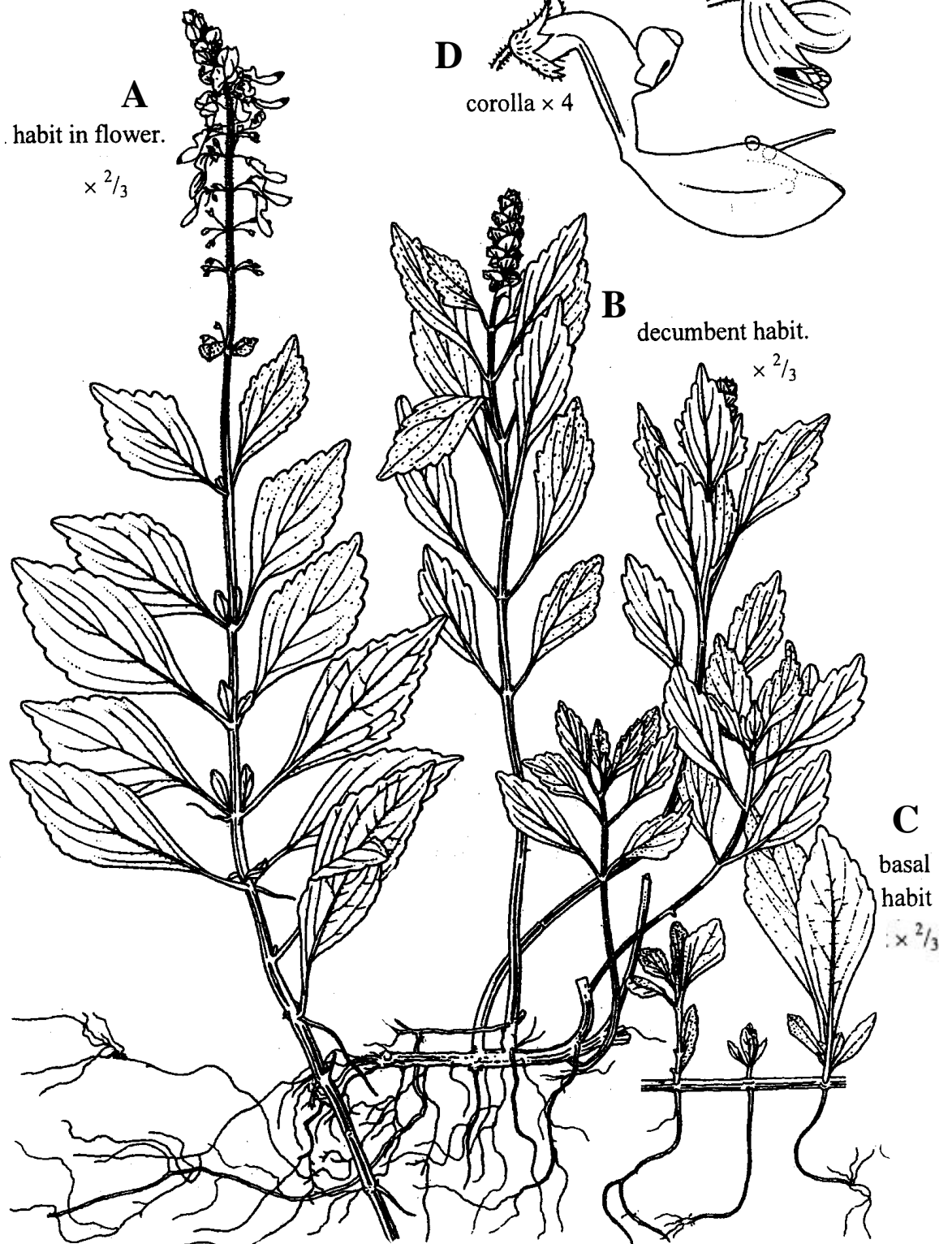
Individuals of *P. cataractarum* are known to live between 300 and 1450m altitude. They often aggregate to form rock-dwelling clumps up to 3m² in area, almost always in the spray zones of waterfalls or on wet rocks in or around fast flowing water (hence the specific epithet 'cataractarum', meaning = 'of waterfalls'). Although this species is known to occur over a large extent of land, the actual area it occupies is likely to be very small, because it has such specific habitat needs. Ongoing changes in land use such as clearance of forest for plantations threaten its chances of survival.

Drawn by Emmanuel Papadopoulos.

E mature calyx × 4.



D corolla × 4



A habit in flower.
× 2/3

B decumbent habit.
× 2/3

C basal habit.
× 2/3

Plectranthus cataractarum B.J.Pollard



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Photograph of population at base of waterfall near Kodmin, Bakossi Mts.

Pollard, B. J. & Paton, A. J. (2001) A new rheophytic species of *Plectranthus* L'Hér. (*Labiatae*) from the Gulf of Guinea. Kew Bull. 56: 975 – 982.