

A new endemic *Impatiens* species on Mount Gorongosa (Mozambique) demonstrates the conservation importance of montane areas in Africa

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Abstract

A new *Impatiens* species from Mozambique, *Impatiens wuerstenii*, is described and illustrated. The material used for the description was initially mistaken for the morphologically similar *Impatiens* species *I. psychadelphoides*, a known endemic from Mozambique. However, a combined molecular – morphological study demonstrates that the populations found on Mount Gorongosa do not belong to *I. psychadelphoides* but are a species on their own. Phylogenetic analyses based on chloroplast and nuclear gene markers demonstrate that *I. wuerstenii* is sister to the floral morphologically distinct *I. salpinx*, and that *I. psychadelphoides* and *I. cecillii* are sister to that lineage. The presence of a new endemic species on Mount Gorongosa indicates the importance of this mountain area on the overall biodiversity of the region and emphasizes the need for a more thorough conservation and biological exploration of the mountain.

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