

Gnidia glauca  
(THYMELAEACEAE)

NOTE: Revised from January 21, 1977. Includes  
G. eriocephala active from India.

NOMENCLATURE:

Accepted Name: Gnidia glauca (Fresen.) Gilg

Approved by: GMC, 4/19/76

References: See Bibliography\*

Synonyms: Lasiosiphon glaucus Fresen.  
L. eriocephala (Graham) Decaisne  
Gnidia eriocephala Graham  
Lasiosiphon insularis Meisn.  
Gnidia insularis Gardn.  
G. sisparensis Meisn.  
Lasiosiphon speciosus Decne.

Identification: All Tanzanian voucher specimens were annotated by  
Bo Peterson, 1974.

FRACTIONATOR:

Kupchan (collections from Africa).

Wall (as G. eriocephala - collections from India).

DESCRIPTION: In wind-exposed areas, a multistemmed shrub, one to two meters tall, or in some forests, a tree up to 25 meters tall; but usually a tree from five to ten meters high. Leaves often clustered near the ends of twigs, 7 to 8 cm. long and 1 to 2 cm. wide. Flowers yellow fading to brown, numerous, and in heads.

ECOLOGY: Forest fringes and upper forest outliers of the wet montane forests, 6000 to 9500 feet in elevation. The wet forests are either of the Podocarpus (P. milanjanus) or Cassipourea (C. malosana) types which the distribution of these forests correlates well with the distribution of G. glauca.

On Mt. Cameroon, G. glauca and Aguaria salicifolia characterize the subericaceous zone. A shrubby undergrowth of Hypericum lanceolatum or H. revolutum, Maesa lanceolata, species of Rapanea, Myrsine, Phillipia and Nuxia are usually present. In eastern Africa, this zone may also include Hagenia abyssinica.

ECOLOGY Continued:

In India cited under the "Western Subtropical Hill Forest" at elevations from 4000-7000 feet, and particularly, common in the Mahabaleshwar area. Dominant trees are: Syzygium cumini, Actinodaphne hookeri, Memecylon umbellatum, Randia dumetorum, Flacourtia latifolia, Terminalia chebula, Olea dioica, Glochidon hohenackeri and Pouteria tomentosa. Typical understory trees and shrubs include: Canthium dicocium, Scutia myrtina, Carvia callosa, Pogostemon plectranthoides, Elaeagnus latifolia, Allophylus cobbe, Capparis pedunculosa, Ziziphus rugosa and Pavetta indica. Flowers November-January.

In Sri Lanka: Open rocky places at elevations from 2000-4000 feet. Flowers most of the year. Common, especially in the Uva Province.

COMMENTS: Closely related species include the actives: G. lamprantha Gilg and G. latifolia (Oliv.) Gilg from Kenya, and G. cuneata Meisn. (= Lasiosiphon meisnerianus Endl.) from South Africa. NOTE: G. eriocephala from India was recently reduced to G. glauca. These species have been assigned to different chemists. An inactive collection made by F. Meyer (# 7882) in Ethiopia was reidentified to G. lamprantha.

Herbarium records often mention this species as common or abundant: Mt. Cameroon, Mt. Muango (Belgium Congo), near Pepa in Zaire, Inatong Mts. (Sudan & Uganda), Njombe in Tanzania, and many places in Ethiopia.

Spjut's samples were collected from the same sites documented on Perdue's specimens; P-11069, P-11163 and P-11682. In collecting roots, most of the plants were eliminated at these sites. However, Spjut did not collect at the site for P-11695 where Perdue has indicated this species to be a large tree and fairly abundant. None of the samples representing the collection P-11695 were active which were sent to both WARF and Farnsworth.

Spjut has also seen G. glauca on Sao Hill (Mufindi, Tanzania) where it is uncommon and occurs as a small shrub to six feet high, a habit much like G. latifolia. It is also interesting that G. kraussiana near Sao Hill was only one to two inches high which is much smaller than its more typical size of about one foot high.

In Ethiopia and India, G. glauca also varies from a small shrub to a large tree.

Also see under G. kraussiana for comments on the genus Lasiosiphon.

USES: Leaves have been applied externally to treat contusions and swellings. Considered a powerful vesicant and has been frequently used as a fish poison.

ACTIVITY DATA IN SPECIES OF Gnidia:

*G. cuneata	PS	M		Wall
G. eluytioides	PS	N.R.		
*G. glauca	PS	L-H		Wall, Kupchan
G. kraussiana	PS	H	Montanic Acid α-Monoglyceride B-Sitosterol Miscellaneous	Farnsworth
*G. lamprantha	PS	DK	Gnidicin Gnididin Gniditrin	Kupchan
*G. latifolia	PS	DK		Kupchan
G. mollis	PS	N.R.		
*G. polycephala	PS	M		Farnsworth
G. subcordata	PS			Kupchan

\*Closely related species.

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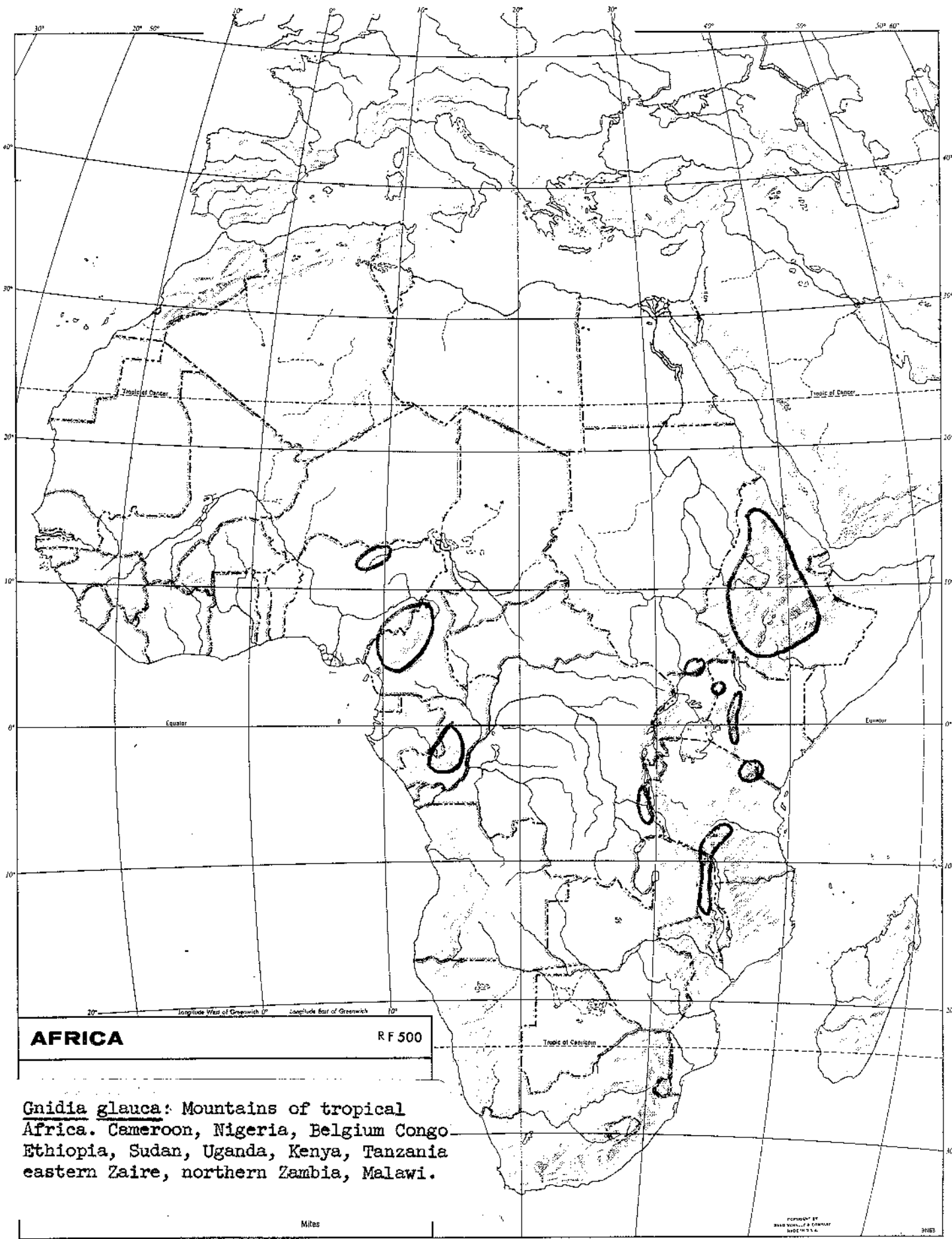
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Data recorded from herbarium specimens at Kew, England, by R.W. Spjut, October 1976.

PREPARED BY: R. W. Spjut DATE: August 9, 1977



**AFRICA**

RF 500

*Gnidia glauca*: Mountains of tropical Africa. Cameroon, Nigeria, Belgium Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, eastern Zaire, northern Zambia, Malawi.

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