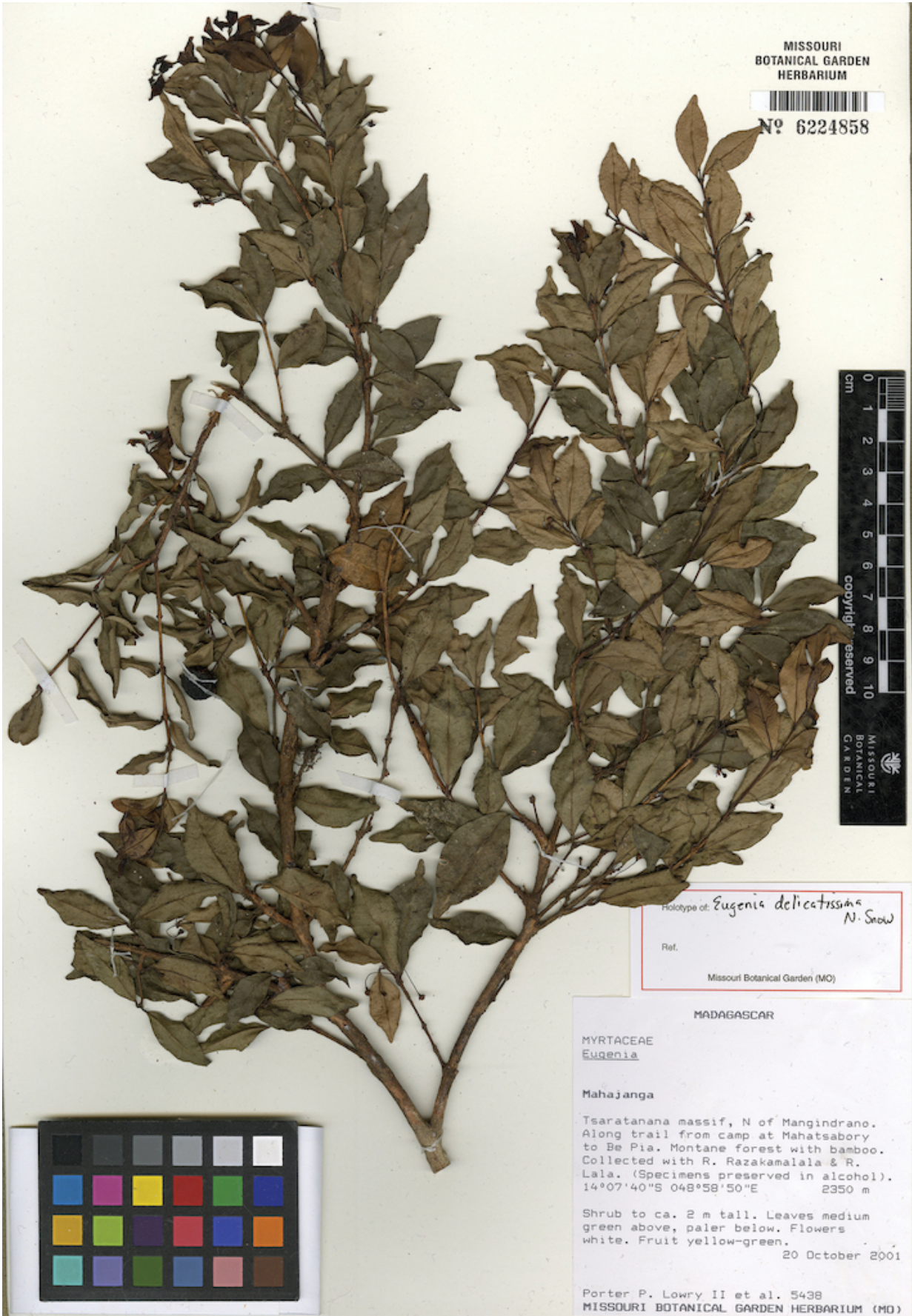


# **A bucketful of new *Eugenia* plant species from Madagascar**

May 13 2015

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MISSOURI  
BOTANICAL GARDEN  
HERBARIUM



Nº 6224858



Holotype of: *Eugenia delicatissima* N. Snow  
Ref.  
Missouri Botanical Garden (MO)

MADAGASCAR

MYRTACEAE  
*Eugenia*

Mahajanga

Tsaratanana massif, N of Mangindrano.  
Along trail from camp at Mahatsabory  
to Be Pia. Montane forest with bamboo.  
Collected with R. Razakamalala & R.  
Lala. (Specimens preserved in alcohol).  
14°07'40"S 048°58'50"E 2350 m

Shrub to ca. 2 m tall. Leaves medium  
green above, paler below. Flowers  
white. Fruit yellow-green.  
20 October 2001

Porter P. Lowry II et al. 5438  
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN HERBARIUM (MO)

This image shows the holotype herbarium specimen of *Eugenia delicatissima*, one of the newly described species. Credit: Dr. Neil Snow

The spigot for plant discoveries in Madagascar continues to flow steadily, with no signs of slowing down in the near future.

"The number of new [plant species](#) from Madagascar continues to be amazingly high", said Dr. Neil Snow, botanist and Director of the T.M. Sperry Herbarium at Pittsburg State University in Kansas.

Working with coauthors Martin Callmander and Pete Phillipson, Snow recently described seventeen new [species](#) of *Eugenia* in the Myrtle family in the journal *PhytoKeys*. Callmander and Phillipson, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, teamed up with Snow to provide greater depth to the study, particularly regarding historical collections in Europe, where both are based.

"It's been great to collaborate with Neil", commented Callmander and Phillipson.

"Although as many as 100 new species are often described from Madagascar per year across all plant families, Neil's contribution to our knowledge of the Myrtaceae is really important, especially since most of them have highly restricted ranges and many are threatened."

With over 1000 species, *Eugenia* is one of the largest woody plant genera in the world. The seventeen new species join with fifteen others described since 2000 by Snow and colleagues, for a total of 32 out of the

68 currently species of *Eugenia* in Madagascar.

"In other words, about half of the known *Eugenia* species in Madagascar have described by botanists only in the past fifteen years", Snow added. "Describing 17 new species in one plant genus from one country rarely happens these days."

Even so, 10 or more species of *Eugenia* remain to be described from Madagascar, judging from dried herbarium specimens that do not match known species.

Among the [new species](#) were *Eugenia ravelonarivoi* and *Eugenia razakamalalae*, which recognize Désiré Ravelonarivo and Richard Razakamalala. These two Malagasy botanists are prolific plant collectors who gathered many of the specimens cited in the paper. Other species in the paper were named to honor colleagues in the United States and Australia.

Snow was quick to emphasize that other parts of the world also are yielding a steady stream of new plant species in the Myrtle family.

"Colleagues and their collaborators are doing fabulous work in Australia, India, Africa and South America. Many new myrtle species are discovered yearly, particularly in Western Australia and Brazil, the latter of which frequently includes new *Eugenia* species."

Snow concluded by commenting that "It is enjoyable research, which is good, because Myrtle specialists have many years of field and lab ahead before we can more fully understand the remarkable richness of this family."

**More information:** Snow N, Callmander MW, Phillipson PB (2015) Studies of Malagasy *Eugenia* - IV: Seventeen new endemic species, a

new combination, and three lectotypifications; with comments on distribution, ecological and evolutionary patterns. *PhytoKeys* 49: 59-121.  
[DOI: 10.3897/phytokeys.49.9003](https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.49.9003)

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