



Cephalopentandra CUCURBITACEAE

L. E. Newton

Cephalopentandra Chiovenda (Fl. Somalia, 187, 1929). **Type:** *Cephalopentandra obbiadensis* Chiovenda. – **Benincaseae** – **Lit:** Jeffrey (1967: 84–85, Flora Trop. East Africa); Jeffrey & Thulin (1993: 233–234, with ills., Flora Somalia). **Distr:** NE Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia). **Etym:** Gr. ‘kephale’, head; Gr. ‘penta’, five; and Gr. ‘aner, andros’, male; for the cluster of stamens, erroneously stated to be 5 in the protologue.

Perennials, dioecious, with tuberous exposed usually \pm semiglobose caudex to ± 20 cm, tuberculate, dark green; stems climbing or scandent, to ≥ 1 m, glabrous; tendrils simple (erroneously stated to be absent in the protologue); **L** subsessile, petiole 0.2–1.5 cm, lamina simple, elliptic-cordate, $3\text{--}9 \times 4\text{--}7$ cm, \pm pinnately 5- to 7-lobed, glaucous; **Fl** yellow or cream; **male Fl** solitary or paired; **Ped** 17–25 mm; hypanthium cylindrical below, expanded and campanulate above, 7–10 mm; **Sep** triangular-lanceolate, 2–3 mm; **Pet** 5, united in the lower $\frac{1}{4}$, $12\text{--}28 \times 8\text{--}13$ mm; **St** 3 (rather than 5 as suggested by the genus name), free; **Fil** distinct; **Anth** thecae triplicate; **female Fl** solitary; **Ped** 9–10 mm;

hypanthium cylindrical, ± 7 mm; **Sep** and **Pet** like those of male flowers; **Fr** ellipsoid, 8×4 cm \varnothing , red, smooth; **Se** many, compressed, pear-shaped, black, verrucose.

A single species only, whose scientific genus and species names are both erroneous (as indicated in the description above) but cannot be changed (cf. ICN Art. 51.1):

C. ecirrhusa (Cogniaux) C. Jeffrey (Kew Bull. 17(3): 477, 1964). **Type:** Somalia (Keller 116 [Z]). – **Distr:** Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia; deciduous *Acacia* woodland and bushland on sandy soils, 45–1090 m. **I:** Rowley (1987: 55); Lenain (2012: 84–85); Beyenbach (2018: 232); Dortort (2018: 246). – Fig. 1.

\equiv *Coccinia ecirrhusa* Cogniaux (1896); **incl.** *Cephalopentandra obbiadensis* Chiovenda (1929) \equiv *Coccinia obbiadensis* (Chiovenda) Cufodontis (1965); **incl.** *Coccinia quercifolia* J. Hutchinson & E. A. Bruce (1941).

Description as for the genus.

A report about a monoecious plant (Grumbley 1994) has not been confirmed.

L. E. Newton (✉)
Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK
e-mail: ellyen@yahoo.com



Fig. 1 *Cephelopentandra ecirrhosa* (without known wild origin, cult. Sukkulenten-Sammlung Zürich). (Copy-right: U. Eggli)

References

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