



Seyrigia CUCURBITACEAE

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Seyrigia Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 107: 298, 1961). **Type:** *Seyrigia gracilis* Keraudren. – **Coniandreae** – **Lit:** Keraudren (1966: Flora Madagascar). **Distr:** Madagascar. **Etym:** For André Seyrig (1897–1945), French miner, colonist and amateur entomologist, from 1928 in Madagascar.

Perennial dioecious succulent-stemmed climbers to 3 m; **R** with tuberous often sausage- or potato-like swellings; stems sometimes angular, richly branched, erect or scandent with the support of the surrounding scrub, fleshy, grey to white-felted, soon leafless; tendrils simple; **L** 3-lobed, ± 0.3 cm, rudimentary and early deciduous; **Fl** small, whitish-yellow to greenish; **male Fl** in pedunculate \pm congested racemes; hypanthium cup- to funnel-shaped; **Sep** 2 mm, triangular; **Pet** 1–3 mm, elliptic-lanceolate; **St** 2; **Fil** short, distinct; **Anth** 2-theous, thecae straight; **female Fl** solitary or in pairs, similar to male flowers, with 2 staminodes; **Ov** ovate-oblong, with 2 placentae; **Sty** 2; **Sti** lobed; **Fr** globose or obconical to ovoid, fleshy, ± 2 cm, apiculate or rostrate, glabrous, indehiscent, bright red at maturity; **Se** 2–4 per fruit, 6–7 \times 4 mm, enveloped in a transparent arilloid and red pulp, brown, slightly sculptured,

margin indistinct. – **Cytology:** $n = 13$ (Keraudren 1968).

All 6 species of the genus are succulent and treated below. The combination of tuberous roots and leafless thin succulent stems is quite unique. Godfrey & al. (2016) mention herbivory by two species of lemurs.

S. bosseri Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 109: 101–102, 1962). **Type:** Madagascar, Toliara (Keraudren 1515 [P]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); dry bushland on gneissic rocks. **I:** Keraudren (1966: 13); Rauh (1998: 191).

Climbers; stems thick, 5-angled, longitudinally grooved, with dense grey woolly hairs, branching, leafless when mature; **Fl** small, yellowish; **male Fl** 12–18 in racemes to 2 cm; hypanthium campanulate, 1.5 mm; **Pet** 1 \times 0.6 mm, finely pubescent; **female Fl** solitary or paired, similar to male flowers; **Fr** 1 cm, shortly apiculate, glabrous, red.

S. gracilis Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 107: 299, 1961). **Type:** Madagascar, Toliara (Perrier 12832 [P]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); dry forests and bushland, 0–200 (–500) m. **I:** Keraudren (1966: 9); Rauh (1998: 191); Eggli (2008: 285). – Fig. 1.

Weak scramblers; stems slender, branching, fleshy, subcylindrical; **Br** minutely hairy to \pm glabrous; **male Fl** 6–8 in short dense racemes; **Ped** 1–3 mm; hypanthium cup-shaped, 3–4 mm; **Pet** 3 \times 1.5 mm, yellowish, finely pubescent;

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Fig. 1 *Seyrigia gracilis* (without known wild origin; cult. Sukkulenten-Sammlung Zürich). (Copyright: U. Egli)

female FI solitary or paired, subsessile; **CI** as in male flowers; **Fr** obconical, beaked, 2 cm.

S. humbertii Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 107: 299, 1961). **Type:** Madagascar, Toliara (*Humbert* 19947 [P]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); dry forest on limestone ridges and sand, 0–300 m. **I:** Keraudren (1966: 13); Rowley (1987: 51); Rauh (1998: 192–194); Gratias (2019). – Fig. 2.

Weak scramblers; stems cylindrical, fleshy, furrowed, densely white-felted; **male FI** 6–8 in short dense racemes; **Ped** 7–8 mm; hypanthium campanulate, very short; **female FI** solitary or paired, similar to male flowers; **Fr** ovoid, apiculate, bright red.

S. marnieri Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 114 (9): 446–447, ills., 1967). **Type:** Madagascar, Toliara? (*Montagnac* s.n. in *Marnier* 5 [P]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); limestone in dry bush. **I:** Rauh (1998: 195).

Weak scramblers; stems thin, branching, fleshy, subcylindrical, greyish-green mottled with white, minutely hairy to \pm glabrous; **male FI** 6–8 in short dense racemes; **Ped** 1–3 mm; hypanthium cup-shaped, 3–4 mm; **Pet** 3 \times 1.5 mm, yellowish, finely pubescent; **female FI** solitary or paired, similar to male flowers; **Fr** obconical, beaked, 2 cm.

S. multiflora Keraudren (Bull. Soc. Bot. France 107: 299, 1961). **Type:** Madagascar,



Fig. 2 *Seyrigia humbertii*. (Copyright: J. Trager)

Toliara (*Keraudren* 1083 [P]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); dry forest on limestone and red sand, 0–350 (–900) m.

Weak scramblers; stems climbing, fleshy, angular, minutely grey-felted; **male FI** numerous, in racemes to 2 cm; hypanthium campanulate, 1–1.5 mm; **female FI** solitary or paired, similar to male flowers; **Fr** ovoid or subellipsoid, apiculate, glabrous, red.

S. napifera Rauh (Succ. Xerophyt. Pl. Madagascar 2: 193, ills. (pp. 195–196), 1998). **Type:** Madagascar, Toliara (*Rauh* 68582 [HEID]). – **Distr:** S Madagascar (Toliara); sandy soil in *Alluaudia* bush.

Climbers with thick napiform tapR to 20 \times 7–8 cm \varnothing ; stems thin, 4-angled, 3–5 mm \varnothing , usually wine-red, with dense curled white hairs, few-branched; tendrils sometimes absent; **L** trifoliolate, very small, petiolate, leaflets lanceolate, canaliculate, succulent, red-brown, laxly hairy; **male FI** not known; **female FI** solitary in

the axils of small bracts, spreading horizontally, 2–3 mm pedicellate; hypanthium short, glabrous; **Pt** pale brown, lobes triangular-obtuse, spreading, 2 mm, margin with short white hairs; **Fr** said to be unknown in the protologue but illustrated l.c. p. 196, ovoid, ± 2 cm, shortly beaked, orange-red, glabrous.

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