SAPINDACEAE

ZANHA AFRICANA, A NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR NAMIBIA

Zanha africana (Radlk.) Exell is a tropical African savanna tree with a distribution that extends from Kenya southwards through Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and southern Angola (Exell 1966; Beentje 1994) to Botswana (Archer 2003). In the *Flora of southern Africa* [*FSA*] region, *Z. africana* has hitherto only been recorded and mapped for the far northeastern corner of Botswana (Archer 2003; Van Wyk *et al.* 2011), though not taken up in Setshogo & Venter (2003).

In November 2009, the author undertook an expedition to the botanically poorly explored mountainous area on the southern side of the Kunene River in the Kaokoveld of northwestern Namibia. The focus was a survey of the species of *Euphorbia* between Ruacana and Swartbooisdrif. Near Okauapehuri, about 15 km to the south of the Kunene River, a strange tree with paripinnate leaves and velvety orange fruit was noted. Material was collected and subsequently positively identified as *Zanha africana* (Figures 1A, B; 2). The mature leaves (at least principal veins below, or rachis towards the base) and fruit are hairy to velvety in *Z. africana*, but hairless in *Z. golungensis* Hiern, the only other member of the genus in southern Africa (Exell 1966; Coates Palgrave 2002). The Okauapehuri plants were bearing fruit in November, which corresponds to the season (November to January) given for *Z. africana* in Zimbabwe (Coates Palgrave 2002).

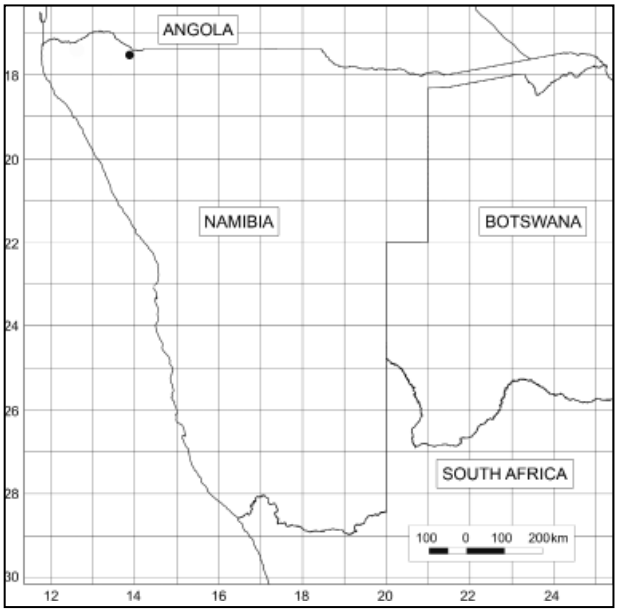

FIGURE 2.—Known distribution of *Zanha africana* in Namibia.

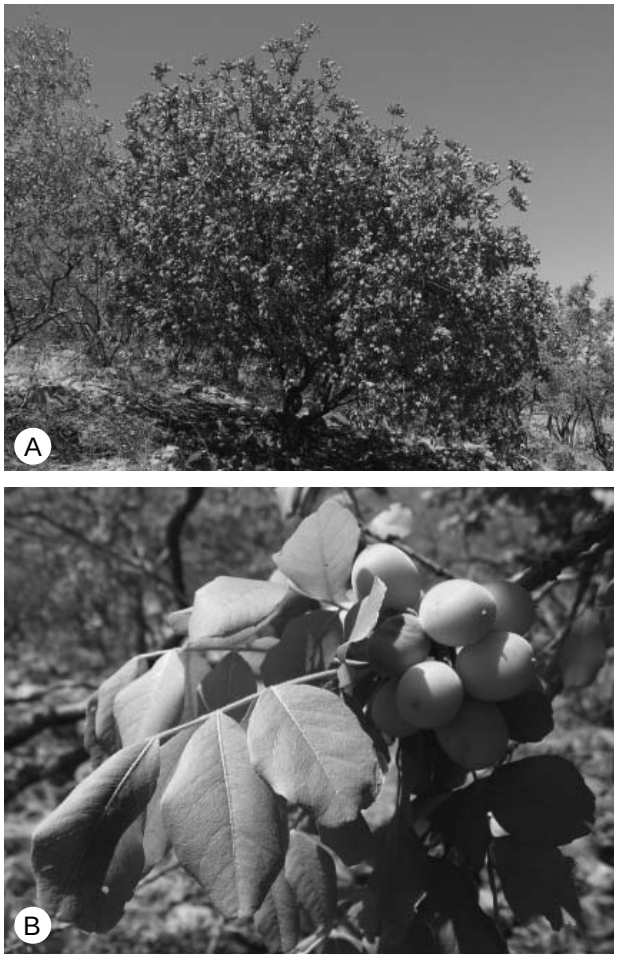

FIGURE 1.—*Zanha africana* in the Kaokoveld, Namibia. A, growth form, with tree ± 6 m high; B, twig with leaves and fruit (± 25 × 20 mm in diameter).

Despite a thorough survey of the area, only two plants were found. These were growing close to each other on a north-facing aspect of a wooded east–west orientated low hill at an altitude of 1 400 m. Both were medium-sized trees of ± 6 m high and in fruit. It is suggested that environmental factors in Namibia are marginal for the species. The hot and relatively arid conditions of the Kaokoveld habitat are most probably responsible for the smaller size and rarity of specimens in this part of its range. Elsewhere in Africa *Zanha africana* is reported as being a tree up to 10 m high or a shrub occurring in woodland, often on granite ridges or kopjes and occasionally in riverine forest (Exell 1966). When shown to the local Ovahimba inhabitants, it was mentioned to the author that the tree is unknown to them. In fact, they wanted to know from the author whether the fruit were edible or not.

The two plants mentioned above represent the first record of *Zanha africana* for Namibia (Figure 2), a range extension of ± 1 250 km to the west of the nearest hitherto known localities for the *FSA* region in northeastern Botswana. Figueiredo & Smith (2008) do not mention this species in their comprehensive floristic inventory for Angola but, following Exell & Mendonça (1954), only *Z. golungensis* Hiern. The two syntypes of *Z. golungensis* (*Welwitsch 4545, 4546*) are from the Cuanza Norte Province in Angola (Hiern 1896). Con-

sidering the reported presence of *Z. africana* in southern Angola (Exell 1966), and its subsequent mapping for this region (Lebrun & Stork 2011), the Namibian plants of this species are almost certainly a cross-border outlier of the populations in nearby Angola. This suggests that both *Z. africana* and *Z. golungensis* are present in Angola, as is mapped by Lebrun & Stork (2011). According to Exell (1966), the two species are sometimes difficult to separate in the absence of flowers or fruit and where their distribution overlaps. However, whether these two species indeed deserve separate distinction at species level requires further study.

Key specimen examined

NAMIBIA.—**1713** (Swartbooisdrif): Okauapehuri, N-facing slope of hill to the S of settlement (–DB), 29 Nov. 2009, *Swanepoel 294* (WIND, PRE).

Additional specimens [(1) = *Z. africana*; (2) = *Z. golungensis*]

Aguiar Macedo 2755 (1) (PRE) [MOZAMBIQUE]; *Angus 1786* (1) (PRE) [ZAMBIA]; *Banda & Kaunda 3630* (1) (PRE) [MALAWI]; *Blomberg* et al. *437* (1) (PRE, photostat) [BOTSWANA]; *Chase 272* (2) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Chase 8341* (2) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Chase 950* (1) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *De Winter 9416* (1) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Gereau & Congdon 2475* (1)(PRE) [TANZANIA]; *Goldsmith 27/62* (2) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Gomes Pedro 4390* (2) (PRE) [MOZAMBIQUE]; *Greenway & Kirrika 11068* (2) (PRE) [TANZANIA]; *Jacobson 2944* (1) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Lovemore 334* (1) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Macuacua 1419* (1) (PRE) [MOZAMBIQUE]; *Merello* et al. *1950* (2) (PRE) [ZAMBIA]; *Milne-Redhead 3700* (1) (PRE) [ZAMBIA]; *Milne-Redhead 4467* (1) (PRE) [ZIMBABWE]; *Texeira* et al. *9455* (2) (PRE) [ANGOLA]; *Torre & Paiva 9496* (1) (PRE) [MOZAMBIQUE]; *Willan 595* (2) (PRE) [TANZANIA].

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