

PTERIDOPHYTA

DRYOPTERIS GORGONEA (PTEROPSIDA: DRYOPTERIDACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

INTRODUCTION

The Cape Verde is a group of 10 major islands and several smaller islands situated in the Atlantic Ocean (15–17°N, 23–25°W), ± 620 km west of the coast of Mauritania. Nine of the islands, which are of volcanic origin, are inhabited. The Barvalento or Windward Islands consist of Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santa Luzia, Ilheu Branco, Ilheu Raso, São Nicolau, Sal and Boa Vista, whereas the Sotavento or Leeward group consists of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava. Santiago, the main island, is mountainous and like most islands it is arid. Fogo has the highest peak within the island group with Mt Fogo reach-

ing 2 840 m. Santo Antão, the most northern island has the highest rainfall. The climate is oceanic with daily highs ranging between 20–29°C from August to October.

The island group has a depauperate flora as a result of its arid climate. To date, 35 pteridophyte species have been recorded for the Cape Verde Islands (Lobin *et al.* 1998). *Dryopteris* collections from the islands have been ascribed to various taxa, of which a summary is provided by Lobin *et al.* (1998). Fraser-Jenkins (1982) was the first to show that two *Dryopteris* species occur on the islands, ascribing them to *D. oligodonta* (Desv.) Pic.Serm. and *D. pentheri* (Krasser) C.Chr.

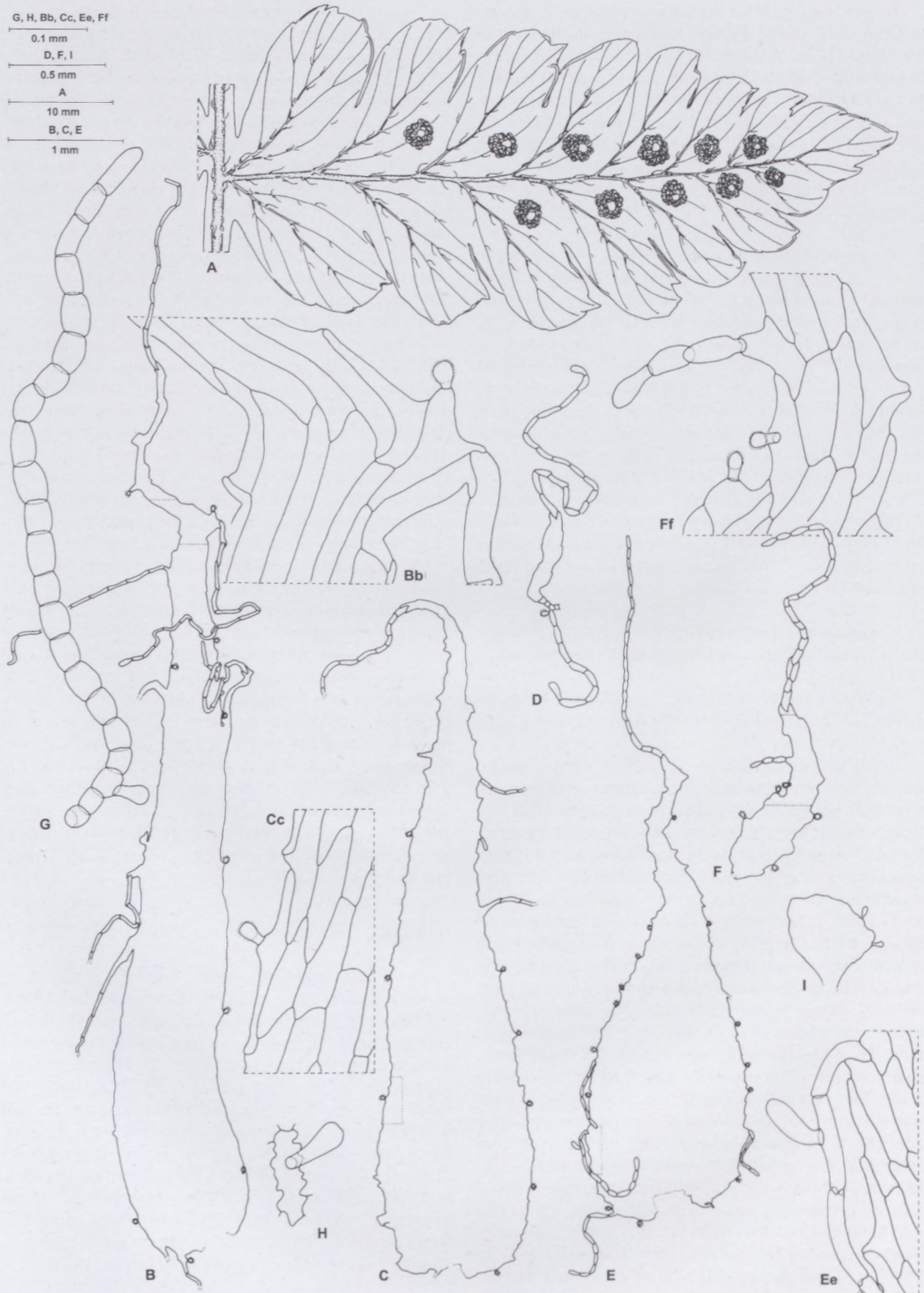


FIGURE 5.—A–I: *Dryopteris gorgonea*. A, abaxial view of fertile pinnule; B, stipe scale; Bb, section of B showing cellular structure; C, D, rachis scales; Cc, section of C showing cellular structure; E, secondary rachis scale; Ee, section of E showing cellular structure; F, scale from abaxial surface of costa; Ff, section of F showing cellular structure; G, hair from abaxial surface of lamina; H, clavate gland from abaxial surface of lamina; I, indusium. Scale bars: A, 10 mm; B, C, E, 1 mm; D, F, I, 0.5 mm; Bb, Cc, Ee, Ff, G, H, 0.1 mm. Drawn from *Chevalier 45113 (P)* by J.P. Roux.

ed. No recent collections of the species appear to have been made from any of the islands and it has been suggested to be extinct (Lobin & Ormonde 1996; Lobin *et al.* 1998). Since the species closely resembles *D. oligodonta*, a careful search for it on the islands should continue.

Other material examined

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS.—São Nicolau: in summo monte Gurdo, 1851, *C. Bolle s.n.* (COI, K); Monte Gordo, 24-02-1864, *R.T. Lowe s.n.* (K); *Forbes s.n.* (K). Santo Antão: Covão, 09-1934, *A. Chevalier 45499* (P); Covão, 23, 24-09-1934, *A. Chevalier 45532* (COI, K, P). Sine loc.: Cape Verdes, *Cardosa 169* (K); Cap du Vert, *Forbes s.n.* (K).

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J.P. ROUX*

* National Botanical Institute, Compton Herbarium, Private Bag X7, 7735 Claremont, Cape Town.
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