

This monograph of the Cucurbitaceae genus *Coccinia* offers a broad overview on the 25 accepted species. *Coccinia* species mainly occur in Africa, with one species, *C. grandis*, extending from West Africa to tropical Asia and being introduced in the Tropics world-wide. Based on extensive literature research, molecular data from nuclear and plastid markers, as well as traditional taxonomic work all names are revised critically. One new variety is described, two species names are ranked to variety level, and all names are typified.

A review and own work on anatomy, morphology, hybridization, karyology, biogeography, and evolution are complemented by a summary of data on reproductive biology, pests, phytochemistry, and use. The results provide the basis for future research, may it be in karyology, crop or drug development. A critical assessment of morphological characters delimits the African *Coccinia* species from other Cucurbitaceae taxa, and a key allows identification of flowering, fruiting or vegetative material. Distribution maps based on more than 2000 geo-referenced collections are available for all taxa.



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MONOGRAPH OF COCCINIA (CUCURBITACEAE)

BY NORBERT HOLSTEIN



Coccinia adoensis var. *aurantiaca* (C. Jeffrey) Holstein

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