

TRANSFER OF THE PAPUAN GOULDIA TO
THE GENUS PSYCHOTRIA

By
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Family RUBIACEAE

Psychotria papuana (Wernham) St. John, new combination (pl. 1).
Gouldia papuana Wernham: Jour. Bot. British and Foreign, vol.
56, p. 129, 1918.

This species was described by Dr. H. F. Wernham from a single collection made in 1885-86 (H. O. Forbes 442, Sogeri Region, New Guinea) which included only fruiting material. Other species of *Gouldia* occur in Polynesia; *G. romanzoffiensis*, a littoral species growing on coral sands is especially common on atolls from the Ellice Islands to the Tuamotus and Pacific Equatorial Islands. All other species occur in the Hawaiian islands.

I have studied the type specimen of *G. papuana* in the British Museum of Natural History and believe that it belongs to the genus *Psychotria*. Wernham characterized the fruit as having many small seeds ("seminibus parvis numerosis"), but I found it 2-celled with a single erect seed in each cell.

Among the numerous species of *Psychotria* from New Guinea or Papua, the most similar appears to be *P. kelelensis* Valetton which has the branchlets glabrous or sparsely dark hispidulous; the blades acuminate, glabrous; the stipules ovate-trigonous, glabrous; the panicle glabrous, with slender peduncle and pedicels. *P. papuana* has the branchlets closely reddish puberulous; the blades only subacuminate, beneath closely puberulous; the stipules lance-acuminate, towards the base conspicuously rufous puberulous; the panicle puberulous, with strong peduncle and pedicels.



PLATE 1.—*Psychotria papuana*, from type specimen, H. O. Forbes 442.