

A new species *Ficus* subg. *Ficus* (Moraceae) from Thailand and two new records of *Ficus* species

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ABSTRACT. The new species *Ficus thailandica* C.C.Berg & S.Gardner is described and two new *Ficus* records for Thailand detailed.

KEYWORDS: *Ficus*, Moraceae, Thailand.

INTRODUCTION

Among collections of *Ficus* L. made by S. Gardner and P. Sidisunthorn in Peninsular Thailand a number of interesting specimens were found. Comparison with Berg & Corner (2005), Kochummen (1978) and Ridley (1924) showed them to be the first records of *Ficus kerkhovenii* Valetton and *Ficus mollissima* Ridl. in Thailand and a new species, *Ficus thailandica*.

DESCRIPTION

Ficus thailandica C.C.Berg & S.Gardner, **sp. nov.** *Fico chartacea* (Wall. ex Kurz) Wall. ex King similis, ramulis foliosis, stipulis, petiolis, receptaculis pubescentibus, stipulis lateralibus, pedunculis multo longioribus, pilorum interiorum absentia differt. Typus. Thailand, Surat Thani, Tha Chang District, Khlong Yan Wildlife Sanctuary, 9° 10' N, 98° 54' E, 11 May 2006, Gardner & Sidisunthorn ST2717 (holotype **BKF**; isotypes **L, K**).

Terrestrial shrub or small tree up to 4 m tall with intermittent growth; sap milky. *Leafy twigs* 1–3 mm thick, yellowish appressed-puberulous; periderm persistent. *Leaves* spirally arranged to distichous to subopposite; lamina subobovate to oblong, 6–20 x 2–5.5 cm, chartaceous (to subcoriaceous), apex acuminate, base obtuse, margin entire; upper surface sparsely yellowish appressed-puberulous mainly on the main veins, smooth, lower surface rather sparsely yellowish appressed-puberulous, mainly on the main veins; cystoliths on both sides; lateral veins 4–6 pairs, the basal pair up to 1/2 the length of the lamina, shortly branched, tertiary venation loosely scalariform; waxy glands absent (or hidden in domatia in the axils of the basal lateral veins?); petiole 2.5–7 cm long, yellowish appressed-puberulous,

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the epidermis persistent; stipules lateral, 0.5–0.7 long, yellowish appressed-puberulous, caducous. *Figs* on previous season's growth, solitary or in pairs with a peduncle ca 1–2 cm long; basal bracts 3, ca 1 mm long, yellowish appressed-puberulous; receptacle subglobose, ca 0.5 cm diam. when dry, 0.1–0.3 cm long, stipitate, densely yellowish appressed-puberulous, colour at maturity unknown, apex convex, ostiole ca 1.5 mm diam.; internal hairs absent.

Thailand.— Surat Thani (type locality).

Distribution.— Only known from the type collection, probably endemic.

Ecology.— Secondary growth between agricultural fields at 160 m, growing on a termite mound together with *Pterospermum littorale* Craib and *Datura* sp. Coppicing readily from near ground level.

Notes.— This species shows, in the features of the leaves, similarities to *Ficus chartacea* (Wall. ex Kurz) Wall. ex King from which it differs in the lateral stipules, the hairy leafy twigs, stipules, petioles and fig receptacles, the much longer peduncles, and the absence of internal hairs.

In the lateral stipules and the presence of subopposite leaves the species shows similarities to the rheophytic *Ficus ischnopoda* Miq. from which it clearly differs in the venation of the lamina and the smaller fig receptacles.



Figure 1. *Ficus thailandica* C.C.Berg & S.Gardner: A. leafy twigs with figs; B. leafy twig with figs; C. figs, showing their peduncles and position of insertion on the twig. Photographs by S. Gardner.

FICUS KERKHOVENII VALETON AND FICUS MOLLISSIMA RIDL.

Two species from Peninsular Malaysia not previously recorded for Thailand were collected in Khao Nam Khang National Park, Songkhla Province, growing within a few hundred metres of each other at 280 m in elevation on a ridge in partially disturbed lowland evergreen forest dominated by Dipterocarpaceae:

Ficus kerkhovenii Valeton in Koord. & Valeton, Bijdr. Boomsoort. Java 11:84. 1906; Kochummen, Tree Fl. Malaya 3:149. 1978; C.C.Berg & Corner, Fl. Males. 17(2): 659. 2005.

Thailand.—PENINSULAR: Songkhla [Khao Nam Khang National Park, 16 Dec. 2006, Gardner & Sidisunthorn ST2795 (**BKF!**, **K!**, **L!**)].

Ficus mollissima Ridl., Fl. Malay Penins. 3:348.1924; C.C.Berg & Corner, Fl. Males. 17(2): 119. 2005.

Thailand.—PENINSULAR: Songkhla [Khao Nam Khang National Park, 26 Jan. 2006, Gardner & Sidisunthorn ST2248 (**BKF!**, **K!**, **L!**)].

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