

## Two species of *Sciaphila* Blume (Triuridaceae), new records for Thailand

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ABSTRACT. Two species, *Sciaphila arfakiana* Becc. and *S. maculata* Miers (Triuridaceae) are new records for Thailand and are described and illustrated. A key to species of the genus *Sciaphila* in Thailand is also provided.

*Sciaphila* Blume, a genus with more than 30 species in the family Triuridaceae, is distributed through southern Japan, West Africa, Southeast Asia, western Polynesia and Australia. The first species to be recorded from Thailand, *Sciaphila thaidanica* K. Larsen was also a new species described by Larsen (1972) from material collected on Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai. Triboun & Larsen (1999) recorded a second species, *S. secundiflora* Thwaites ex Benth. from Peninsular Thailand. Recently, during an ethnobotanical survey in Sakai tribe villages in southern Thailand, two further species, *S. arfakiana* Becc. and *S. maculata* Miers were found. Descriptions and illustrations of these newly recorded taxa, as well as a key to species of the genus *Sciaphila* in Thailand, are presented here.

***Sciaphila arfakiana*** Becc. Malesia, 3: 336, t. 41, fig. 6–14. 1890; Meerendonk, Fl. Mal. I. 10: 117. 1984. Type: New Guinea, *Beccari* s.n. (holotype FI). Figure 1.

Monoecious saprophytic violet-coloured herb. *Stem* delicate, erect, ca. 5–12 cm tall, few-branched, glabrous; internode 5–15 mm long. *Leaves* scale-like, appressed, lanceolate, ca. 0.5 by 2 mm, apex acute to acuminate. *Raceme* 0.7–15 mm long. *Bracts* minute, lanceolate, ca. 0.5 by 1.5 mm. *Flowers* ca. 5–10; male flowers above female ones; pedicel ca. 3–5 mm long; tepals 6, unequal, valvate, 3 larger ones alternating with 3 smaller ones. *Male flowers*: tepals oblong-ovate, the apex with globose to ellipsoid appendage, larger ones ca. 1 by 1.5 mm, smaller ones ca. 0.6 by 1 mm; stamens 3, ca. 0.3 by 0.6 mm, filament short and connate at base, anthers 4-lobed. *Female flowers*: tepals oblong to triangular, the apex acute, without appendage, larger ones ca. 1 by 1.5 mm, smaller ones ca. 0.8 by 1 mm; carpels ca. 80, slightly concave, ca. 0.4 by 0.7 mm; style lateral, awl-shaped, ca. 1.2 mm long. *Fruit* obovoid, ca. 0.5 by 1.5 mm; seed obovoid, ca. 0.5 by 1 mm.

Thailand.—PENINSULAR: Yala, Patubuteh, Tan To, *Maneenoon* 35 (PSU, BKF).

Distribution.—Malaysia (Kelantan, Pahang), Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines and New Guinea.

Ecology.—Growing on humus or among dead leaves in shade of trees. Flowering November.

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**Sciaphila maculata** Miers, Proc. Linn. Soc. 2: 73. 1850; Meerendonk, Fl. Mal. I, 10: 113. 1984. Type: Philippines, *Cuming* 2088 (isotype K). Figure 2.

Saprophytic violet-coloured herb. *Stem* delicate, erect, ca. 6–11 cm tall, few-branched, glabrous; internode 6–10 mm long. *Leaves* scale-like, appressed, ovate to lanceolate, ca. 2 by 3 mm, apex acute to acuminate. *Raceme* 4–10 mm long, flowers ca. 10–22; pedicel ca. 3.5 mm long. *Bracts* minute, lanceolate, ca. 1.5 by 3 mm, apex acute to acuminate. *Flowers* bisexual; tepals 6, unequal, valvate, 3 larger ones alternating with 3 smaller ones, triangular, the apex long bearded; larger tepals ca. 1 by 1.3 mm, smaller ones ca. 0.8 by 1.1 mm; stamens 3, opposite with larger tepals, ca. 0.2 by 0.4 mm, filament short and connate at base, anthers 2-lobed; carpels ca. 14–15 (+ 2–3 immature carpels), obovoid, ca. 0.4–0.5 by 0.7–0.8 mm; style comose, inserted laterally at the middle of carpels. *Fruit* obovoid, ca. 0.8 by 1.3 mm; seed obovoid, ca. 0.5 by 1 mm.

Thailand.— PENINSULAR: Trang, Palian, Bantra, *Maneenoon* 201 (PSU, BKF).

Distribution.— Malay Peninsula, Borneo, New Guinea.

Ecology.— Growing on humus or among dead leaves in shade of trees, 400–500 m. Flowering October–November.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. Plants with bisexual flowers. All tepals at the apex long-bearded   | <b>S. maculata</b>     |
| 1. Plants with unisexual flowers. Tepals not bearded   |                        |
| 2. Male tepals with a knob-like structure at the apex  | <b>S. arfakiana</b>    |
| 2. Male tepals without a knob-like structure at the apex.  |                        |
| 3. Stems ca. 5 cm tall, branched from the base. Racemes 1–1.5 cm long. Flowers 4–5 mm in diam.. Male flowers with 6 tepals.                  | <b>S. thaidanica</b>   |
| 3. Stems ca. 15 cm tall, first branching ca. 4.5 cm from the base. Racemes 5 cm long. Flowers 8–10 mm in diam. Male flowers with 4–8 tepals. | <b>S. secundiflora</b> |

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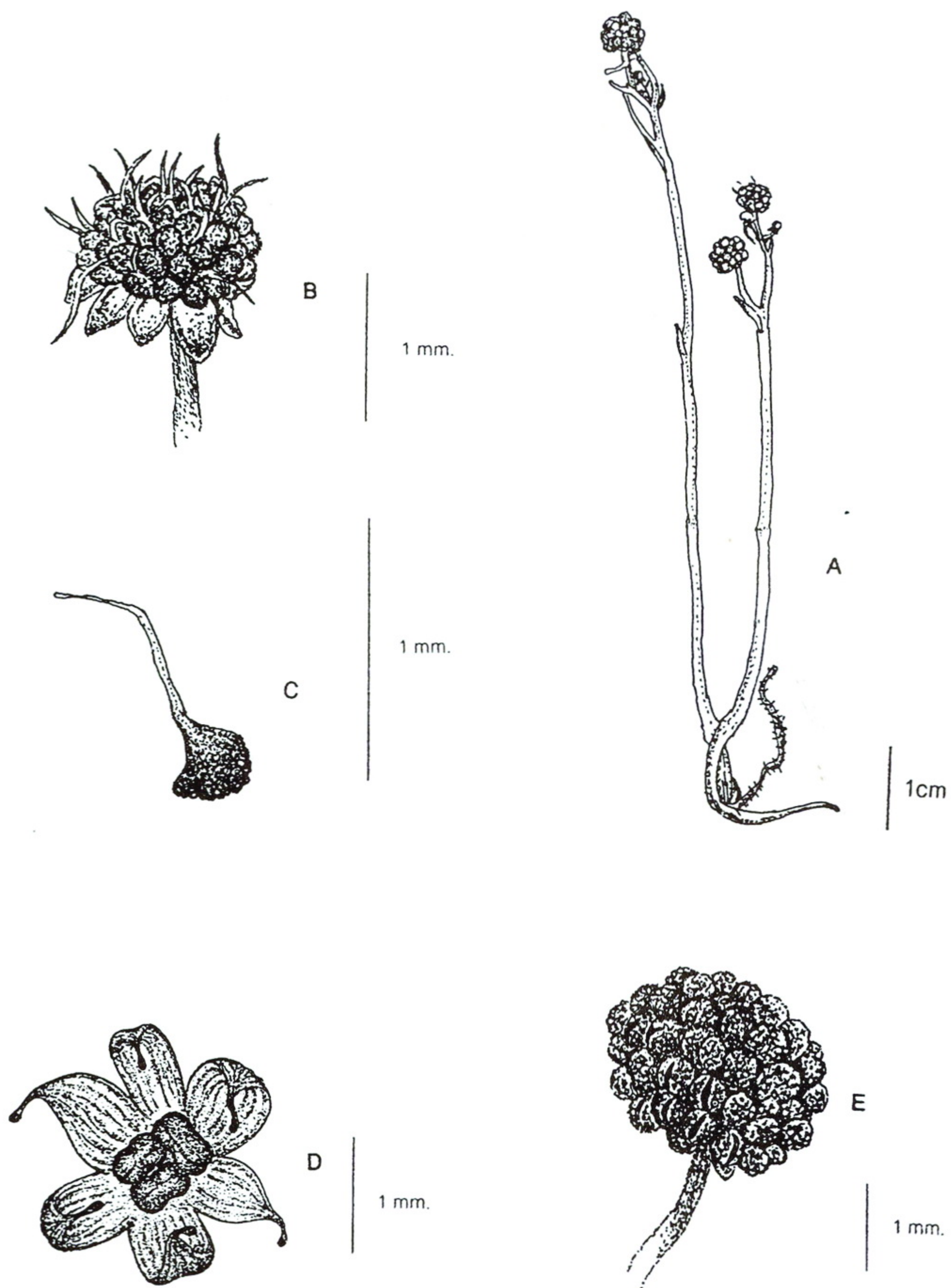


Figure 1. *Sciaphila arfakiana* Becc.: A. whole plant; B. female flower; C. carpel with lateral style; D. male flower; E. fruit.



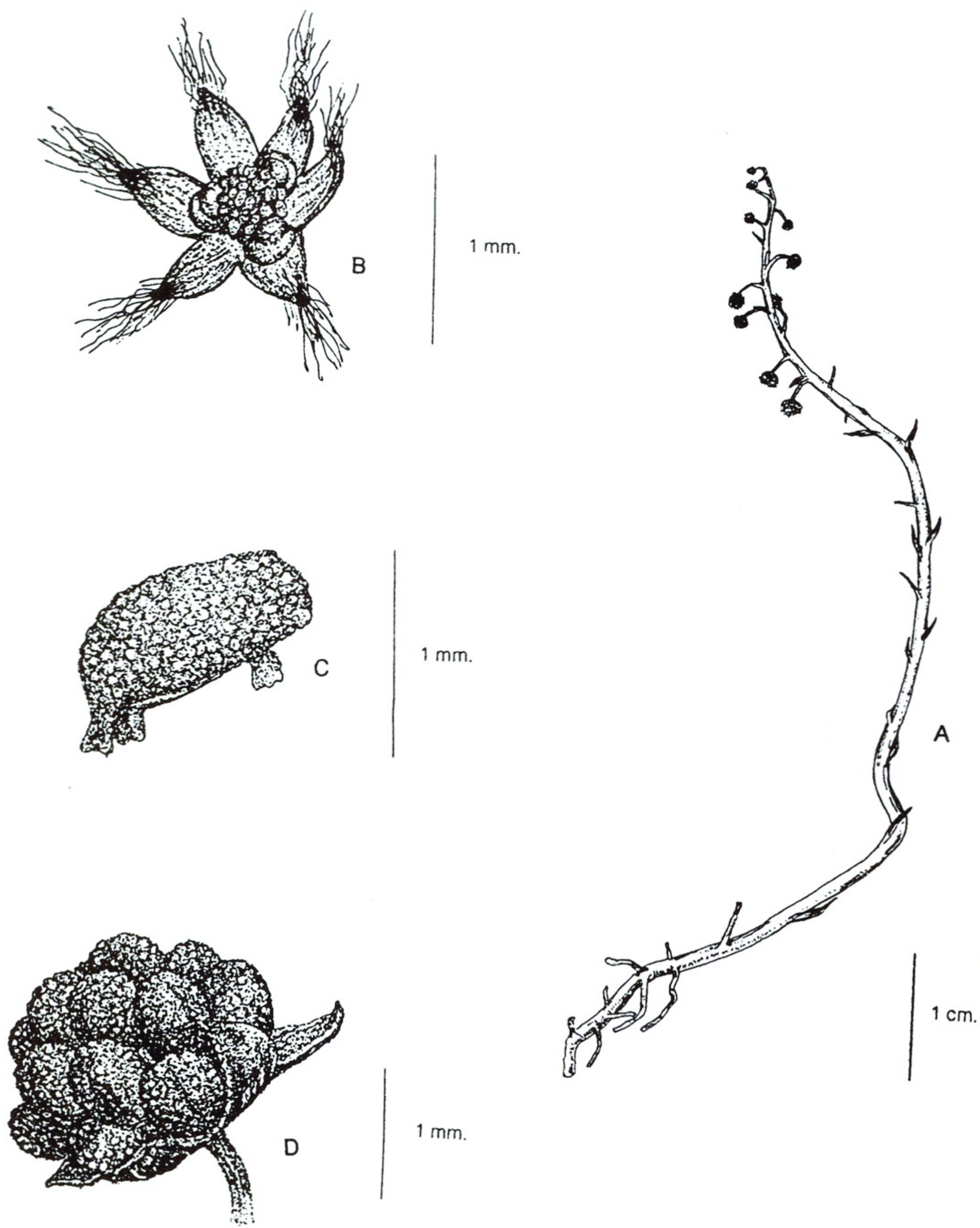


Figure 2. *Sciaphila maculata* Miers: A. whole plant; B. bisexual flower; C. carpel with lateral style; D. fruit.