

***Sciaphila secundiflora* Thwaites ex Benth. (Triuridaceae), a new record for Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. *Sciaphila secundiflora*, a new record for Thailand, is described and illustrated.

The Triuridaceae is represented in Thailand by one genus, *Sciaphila*. This family was treated in the Flora of Thailand by Larsen (1972), who described a single species, *S. thaidanica*, from Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai. During fieldwork by one of us (PT) in southern Thailand, a second species was discovered. This was checked with the treatment of Meerendonk (1989) and found to match the description of *S. secundiflora*. A description of this species is given below.

***Sciaphila secundiflora*** Thwaites ex Benth. in Hook. J. Bot. Kew Misc. 7: 10. 1855; Hook.f. in Fl. Br. India 6: 558. 1893; Trimen in Fl. Ceyl. 4: 368. 1898; Meerendonk in Fl. Mal. I. 10: 109–121. 1989.— *S. major* Becc. in Ridl., Mat. Fl. Mal. Pen. (Monoc.) 2: 126. 1907; Ridl., Fl. Mal. Pen. 4: 364. 1924. Fig. 1–3.

Umbrophilous saprophyte, violet, erect ca. 15 cm tall; ramifications few, first branching 4.5 cm from base. *Stem* glabrous, ca. 1.0 mm in diameter and slightly slender to the apex; internode 1.0–3.0 mm long. *Leaves* scaly, entire, ovate-oblong, acute to obtuse, 2.5–3.0 by 1.0–1.2 mm, semiamplexicaul, spreading. *Inflorescence* monoecious; raceme 5 cm long, flowers ca. 17, present all around peduncle. *Female flowers* 9–10 mm in diameter; tepals 6, equal, narrowly triangular, acute, ca. 5 by ca. 0.3 mm; pedicel 3 by 0.3 mm; bracts scaly, oblong-lanceolate, acute, 2.5 mm long by 1 mm wide; carpels 56, obovate, 0.9–1 mm, verrucose, upper half tuberculate; style club-shaped, inserted laterally, papillate towards apex. *Male flowers* 8 mm in diameter; tepals 6 equal, narrowly triangular, acute, ca. 4 by ca. 0.3 mm; pedicel ca. 3 by 0.2 mm; stamens 0.4–0.5 mm in diameter, filament short and connate at base, anthers 4-lobed, creamy white; bracts scaly, oblong-lanceolate, acute, ca. 2.5 by 1 mm. *Fruits* not seen.

**T h a i l a n d.**— PENINSULAR: Yala, Tan To, *P. Triboun* 198(1) (BK).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n.**— Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands.

**E c o l o g y.**— Growing among decayed leaves on limestone rock, 350 m. **Phenology** Flowering July.

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N o t e.— This species belongs to sect. *Oliganthera* subsect. *Quadrilobatae* (Meerendonk, 1989). It differs from *Sciaphila thaidanica* in being a taller plant with larger racemes (5 cm long vs 1–1.5 cm in *S. thaidanica*) and larger flowers (8 mm in diameter vs 4–5 mm in *S. thaidanica*).

## REFERENCES

- Larsen, K. 1972. Triuridaceae. In: Smitinand, T. & Larsen, K. (eds), Flora of Thailand 2: 175–176.
- Meerendonk, Van de, J.M.P. 1989. Triuridaceae. In: van Steenis C.G.G.J. & de Wilde W.J.J.O. (eds), Flora Malesiana I. 10: 109–121.

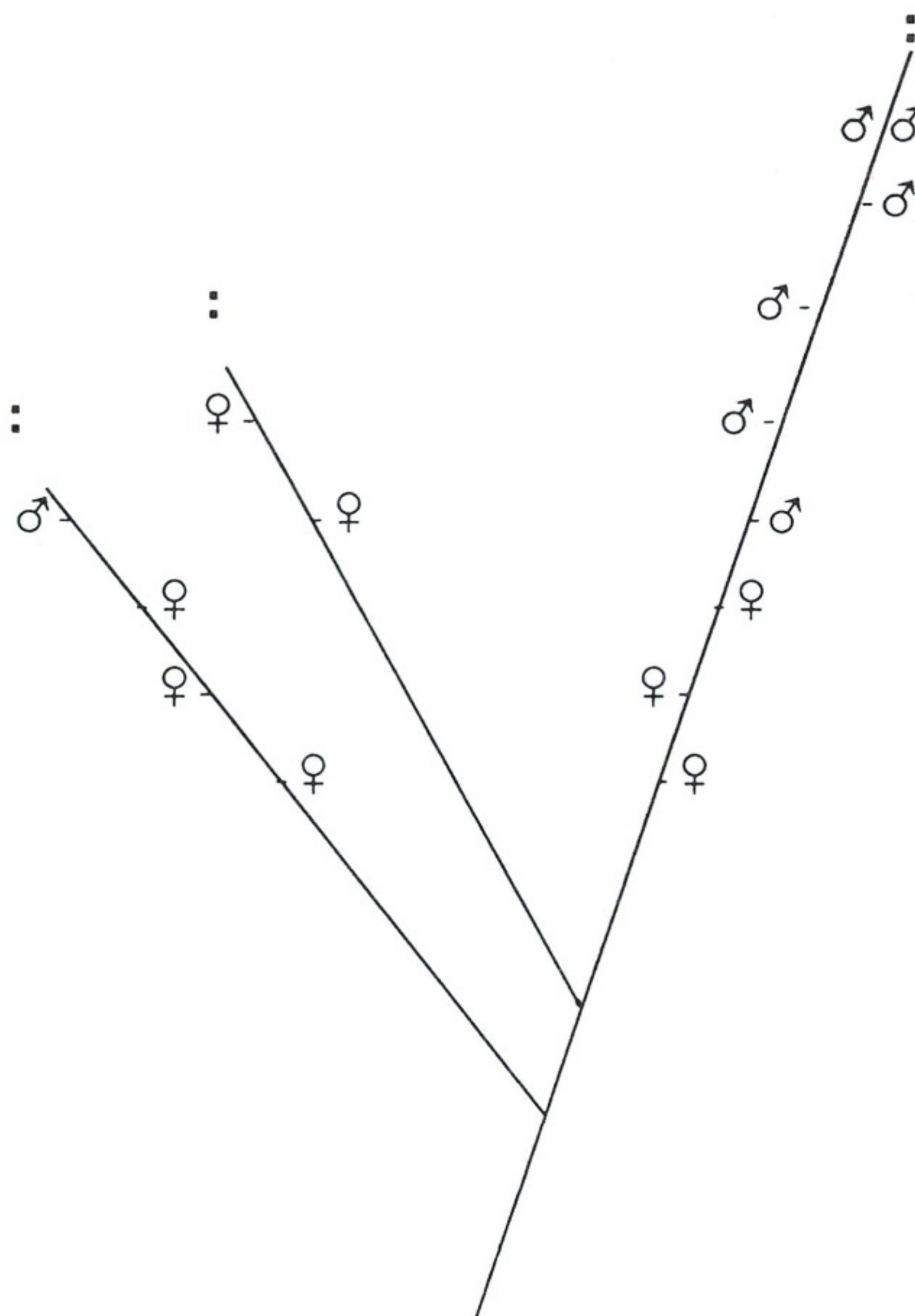


Figure 1. Position of sexual flowers on inflorescence axis ( ♂ = male flower, ♀ = female flower, : = continue)

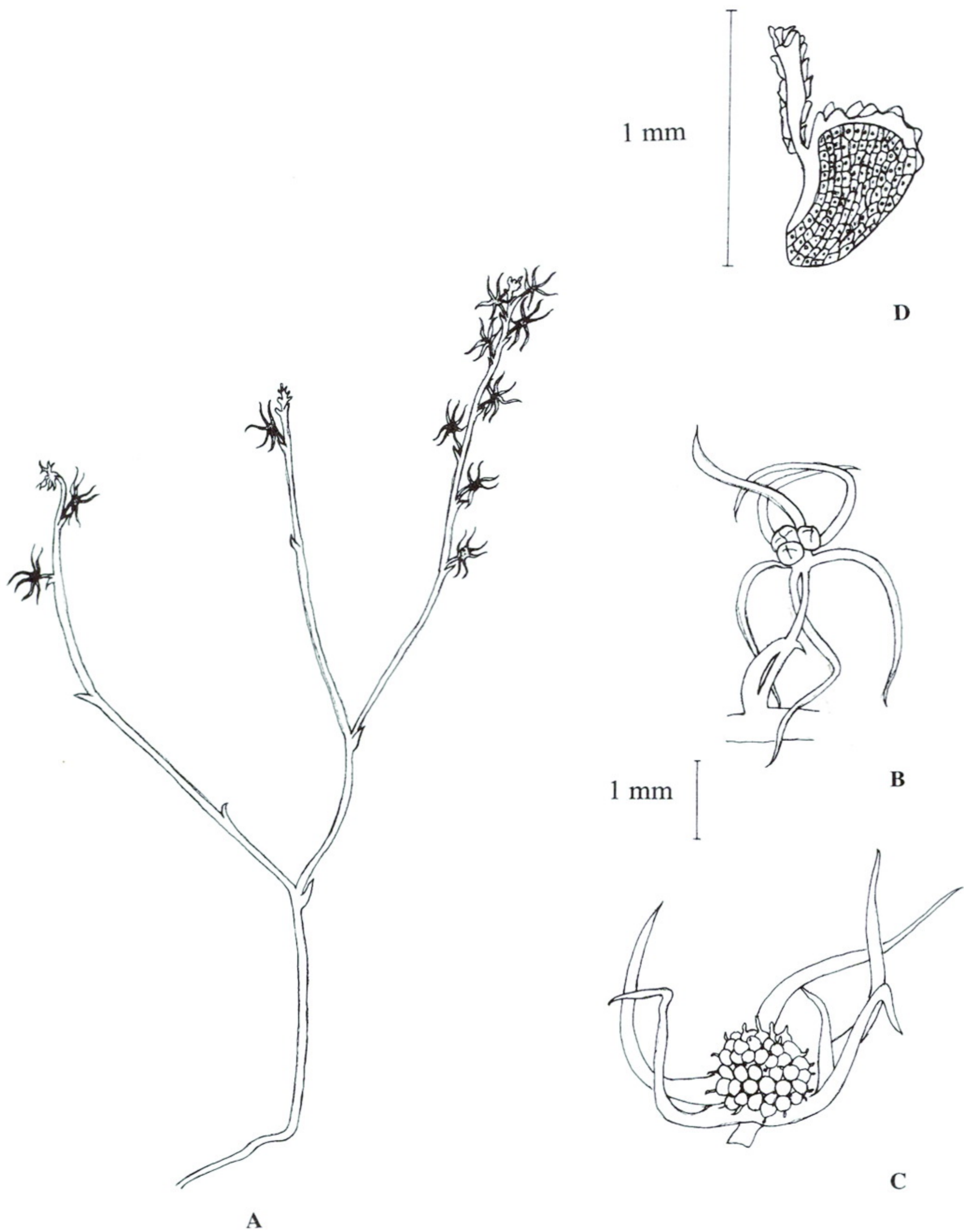


Figure 2. *Sciaphila secundiflora* Thwaites ex Benth.: A. Whole plant; B. Male flower; C. Female flower; D. Carpel



Figure 3. *Sciaphila secundiflora* Thwaites ex Benth.: Habit.