

Flora of Singapore precursors, 29: A new name for *Ficus dubia* Wall. ex King (Moraceae)

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ABSTRACT. The new name *Ficus lindsayana* Beentje is proposed for the later homonym *Ficus dubia* Wall. ex King (Moraceae).

Keywords. *Ficus dubia* Göpp., *Ficus lindsayana*, fossil, homonym, replacement name

Introduction

Ficus dubia Wall. ex King (Moraceae) is a large scrambling fig of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra and northern Borneo. This taxon name was first published by King (1888) based on a Wallich specimen from Penang, a Forbes specimen from Sumatra and a King specimen from Malacca. As the taxon is not uncommon in lowland forest the name has figured in many regional publications including the authoritative *Flora Malesiana* (Berg & Corner, 2005). Why this taxon was named *dubia* (from the Latin for doubtful) was never explained – in fact, King states it is a very distinct species.

It has recently come to my attention that this name is a later homonym of *Ficus dubia* Göpp. (Göppert, 1854), based on an incompletely preserved fossil, now at the Nederlands Centrum voor Biodiversiteit (NCB Naturalis) (Van Konijnenburg-van Cittert et al., 2004). Despite the fragmentary nature of both the holotype and the description, this name was validly published.

A replacement name is therefore necessary for *Ficus dubia* Wall. ex King.

Replacement name

Ficus lindsayana Beentje, **nom. nov.** – *Ficus dubia* Wall. ex King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 46, tt. 56, 83k (1887), nom. illeg. non Göpp. (1854); Ridley, Fl. Malay Penins. 3: 333 (1924); Kochummen in Ng (ed.), Tree Fl. Malaya 3: 146 (1978); Corner, Wayside Trees Malaya, ed. 3, 2: 541 (1988); Keng, Concise Fl. Singapore, vol. 1, Gymn. Dicot. 70 (1990); Turner et al., J. Singapore Natl. Acad. Sci. 18 & 19: 75 (1990); Turner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 45: 142 (1993); Lee et al., Gard. Bull. Singapore 55: 300 (2003); Berg & Corner, Fl. Males., ser. 1, 17(2): 653 (2005); Tan et al. in Davison et al. (eds), Singapore Red Data Book, ed. 2: 230 (2008); Chong et al.,

Checkl. Vasc. Pl. Fl. Singapore 41, 151, 205 (2009); Turner & Chua, Checkl. Vasc. Pl. Sp. Bukit Timah Nat. Reserve 49 (2011); Ho et al., Gard. Bull. Singapore 71 (Suppl. 1): 95 (2019). – TYPE: [Peninsular Malaysia], Malacca, 1879, *King s.n.* (lectotype K, designated here).

Eponymy. The specific epithet honours Dr Stuart Lindsay, who brought this case to my attention.

References

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