

A NEW SPECIES OF FITTINGIA (MYRSINACEAE) FROM NEW GUINEA

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SUMMARY

Fittingia grandiflora (Myrsinaceae), a new species from New Guinea, is described and illustrated. It is easily distinguished from its congeners by its relatively large flower and the highly united corolla.

Key words: *Fittingia*, Myrsinaceae, New Guinea.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of revising the genus *Ardisia* Sw. in the Malesia region, the author came across a specimen that evidently belonged to the genus *Fittingia* Mez, and closer study indicated that the species was undescribed. The genus is endemic to New Guinea. In a revision Sleumer (1988a) recognized five species; later, in 1994, B.C. Stone described another one. The following new species is the seventh known.

Fittingia grandiflora C.M. Hu, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1

Ab omnibus species generis floribus multo majoribus ad 10 mm longis distinguenda. —
Holotypus: LAE 75111 (*Sohmer & Katik*), New Guinea, Madang Dist., Ramu, N of
Walium Patrol post, 19 April 1979 (holo L).

Tree up to 3 m high, throughout glabrous. *Branches* stout, subterete, with leaf scars. *Leaves* 2 or 3 subverticillate at the apex of new growth; petiole 1.5–2 cm, \pm channelled; blade elliptic-lanceolate, 25–40 by 5.5–8.3 cm, from middle gradually narrowed to both ends, apex acuminate, base cuneate, entire, chartaceous, with numerous pellucid glandular dots, midrib impressed above, raised beneath, with black glandular lines, lateral nerves 18–20 pairs, raised beneath, angle to the midrib about 80°, curved-ascending and anastomosing near the margin, reticulation of veins prominent on both surfaces. *Inflorescences* subterminal, 2 or 3 around the terminal bud, 5–7 cm long, racemose or with 1 or 2 branches at the lower part. Pedicels red, 4–6 mm long. Flowers white, 5-merous. Calyx c. 2.5 mm, cleft a little below middle, lobes elliptic-ovate, to 1.5 mm broad, subrounded to \pm acute, obscurely punctate, scarcely ciliate. Corolla white, urceolate, 9–10 mm long, with reddish glandular lines, highly united, lobes ovate, c. 1.5 mm long. Stamens inserted on corolla tube about 4 mm from base, filaments c. 1 mm long; anthers oblong, c. 2 mm long, obtuse. Rudiment of pistil present, ovary c. 0.1 mm long, style c. 0.2 mm long.

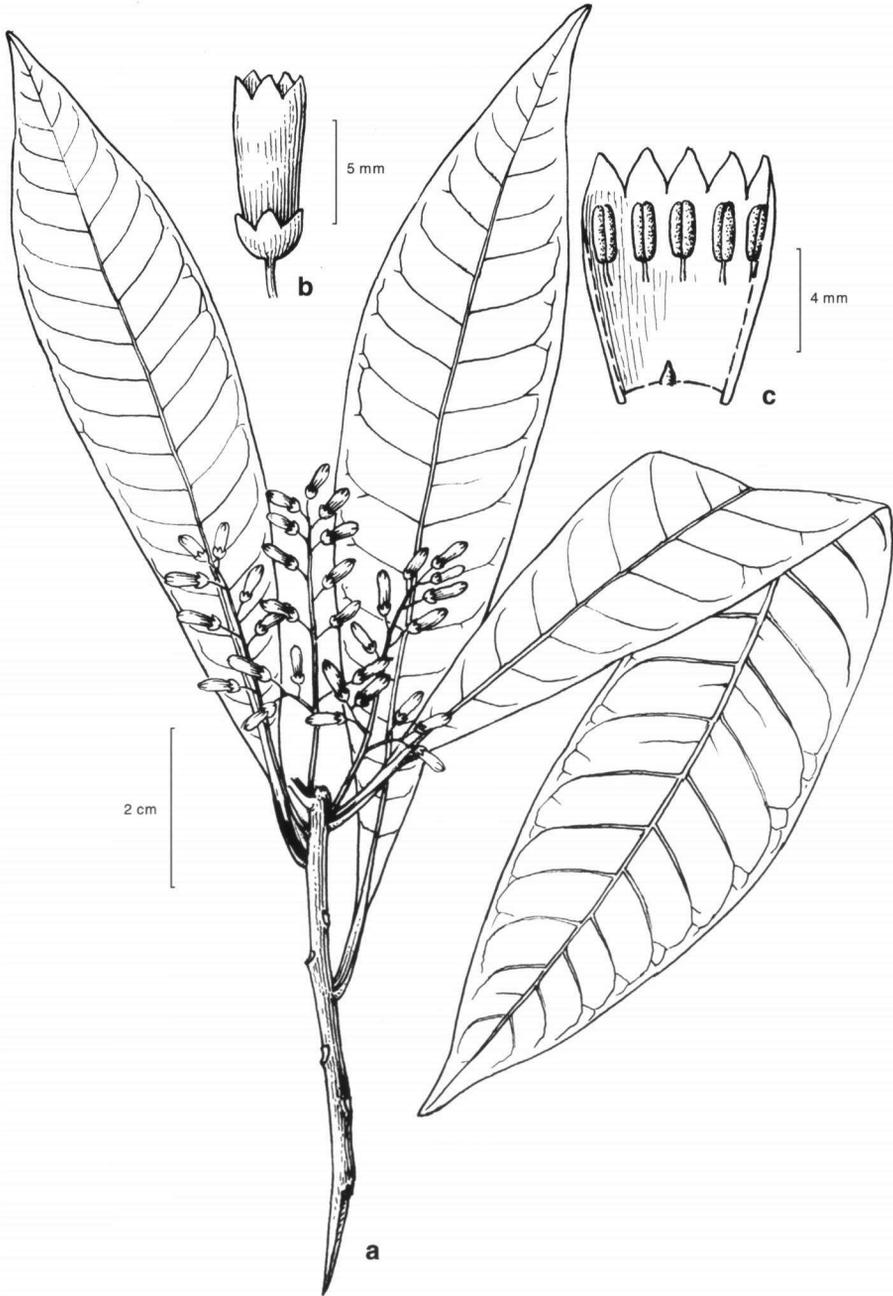


Fig. 1. *Fittingia grandiflora* C.M. Hu. a. Flowering branch; b. staminate flower; c. corolla opened, showing anthers and pistil rudiment [LAE 75111 (Sohmer & Katik), L].

Distribution — Only known from the type locality.

Habitat — In rain forest, east side of a ridge near the top. Altitude 290 m.

Note — The plant was misidentified by Sleumer (1988b) as *Ardisia aliena* Mez, but its dioecious habit and slender racemose inflorescence indicate that it belongs to the genus *Fittingia*. Among the species of *Fittingia* it can be easily recognized by its large flowers and the highly united corolla lobes.

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