



# On the morphology and molecular basis of segregation of *Ceriops zippeliana* and *C. decandra* (*Rhizophoraceae*) from Asia

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## Key words

*Ceriops decandra*  
*Ceriops zippeliana*  
lectotypification  
Malesia  
mangrove  
*Rhizophoraceae*  
trnL intron

**Abstract** *Ceriops zippeliana*, a member of the mangrove *Rhizophoraceae*, was first reported in 1849. It was considered to be a synonym of *C. decandra*, which is still widely accepted. We present morphological and molecular evidence to show that *C. zippeliana* is significantly distinct from *C. decandra*, and illustrations and an identification key to both species.

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## INTRODUCTION

The mangrove flora of the world consists of around 84 species, 36 genera in 26 families (Saenger 2002). Among the members, the pan-tropical family *Rhizophoraceae* R.Br. comprising 16 genera and about 120 species of evergreen trees and shrubs (Hou 1958), is the richest mangrove family with four exclusively mangrove genera with 16 species (Saenger 2002). A detailed study of this family showed that an additional mangrove species could be included and possibly more new taxa may be added (Sheue 2003).

*Ceriops* Arn. is one of the mangrove genera of *Rhizophoraceae* with a widespread geographical range from eastern Africa, throughout tropical Asia, northern Australia to Melanesia, Micronesia and southern China (Hou 1958, Tomlinson 1986, Duke 2006, Hogarth 2007). The species are typically constituents of the inner mangroves, often forming pure stands on better drained sites or becoming stunted in exposed and highly saline sites, within the reach of occasional tides (Hou 1958). Although *Ceriops* is a small genus with two species recognized by Hou (1958), some 20 names have been synonymized, which gave rise to the likelihood that certain taxonomic features may have been ignored or misapplied as the result of its complicated taxonomic history. Currently three species of *Ceriops* are widely accepted, namely *C. australis*, *C. decandra* and *C. tagal* (Field 1995, Lin 1999, Saenger 2002, Duke 2006).

In 1999, the first author noticed that the specimens of so-called *C. decandra* collected from Singapore are morphologically and anatomically different from *C. decandra* collected in India (Sheue 2003). After five years of field observations and herbarium work, we have come to conclude that the species collected from Singapore should be called *C. zippeliana* Blume, and that this species had been misapplied since Hou's revision. Besides Singapore, *C. zippeliana* occurs in other areas of south-eastern Asia as well.

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## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Morphology and pollen evidence

Fresh specimens of so-called *C. decandra* were examined from various locations around Singapore and in West Malaysia; herbarium specimens were studied from BM, BO, CAL, CHIA, DNA, GH, IBSC, K, L, MO, SING and TAI.

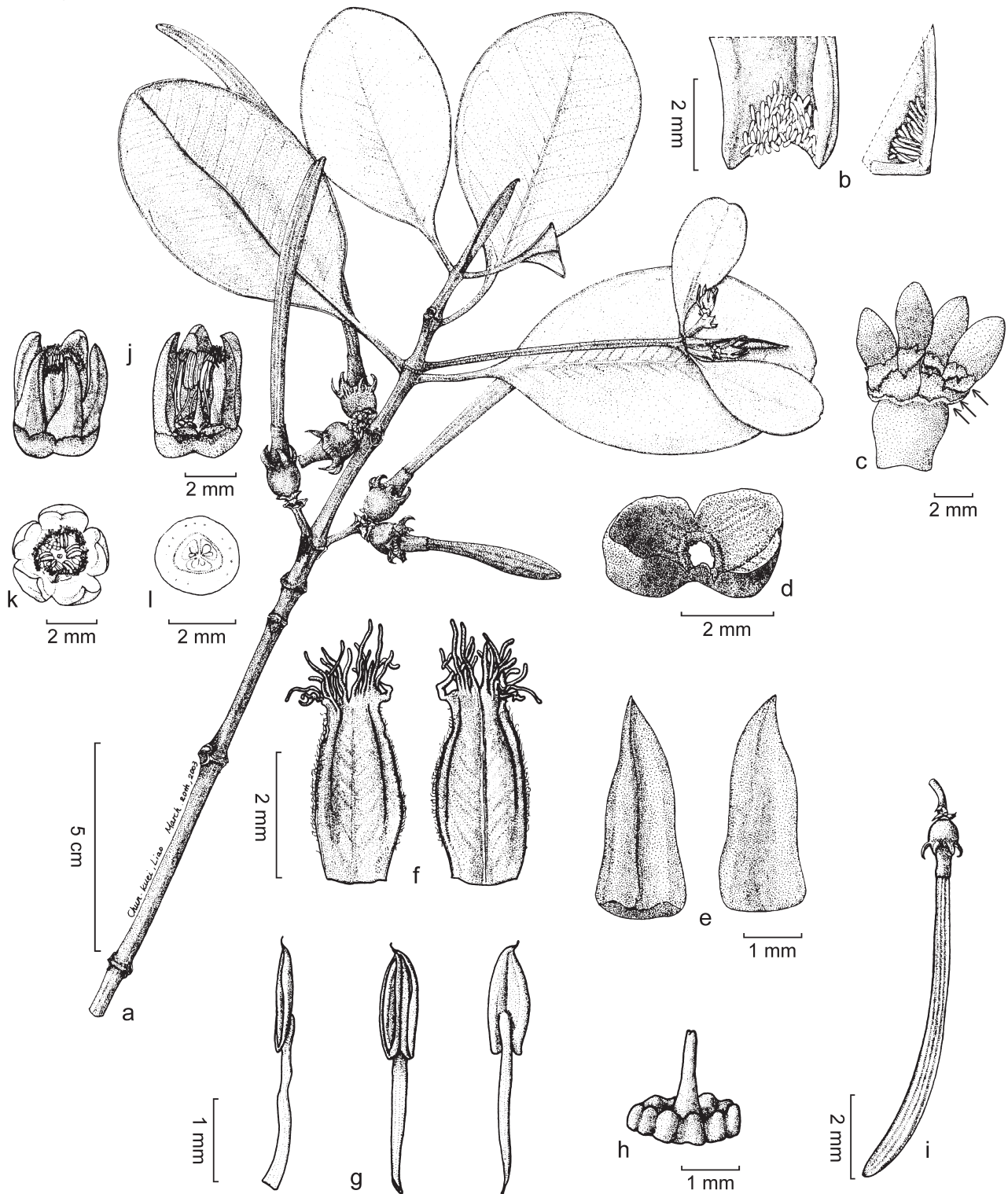
Pollen grains were smeared on the surface of a slide and examined with an Olympus BH-2 light microscope to measure the size ( $n = 30$ ). For scanning electron microscopy pollen grains were air dried and scattered on the surface of a stub covered with double-side tape, coated with gold and examined with a Hitachi S-2400 scanning electron microscope.

### Molecular evidence

Populations of so-called *C. decandra* were sampled at three sites in India and Singapore during 2003 to 2005 (Table 1). Voucher specimens were deposited in the Herbarium of National Chiayi University (CHIA). The accession numbers of the sequences from both *C. decandra* and *C. zippeliana* plus two outgroup accessions are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1** A list of the molecular study for the seven accessions of *Ceriops decandra* and the seven accessions of *C. zippeliana*, as well as the two outgroups, and their different geographical distributions.

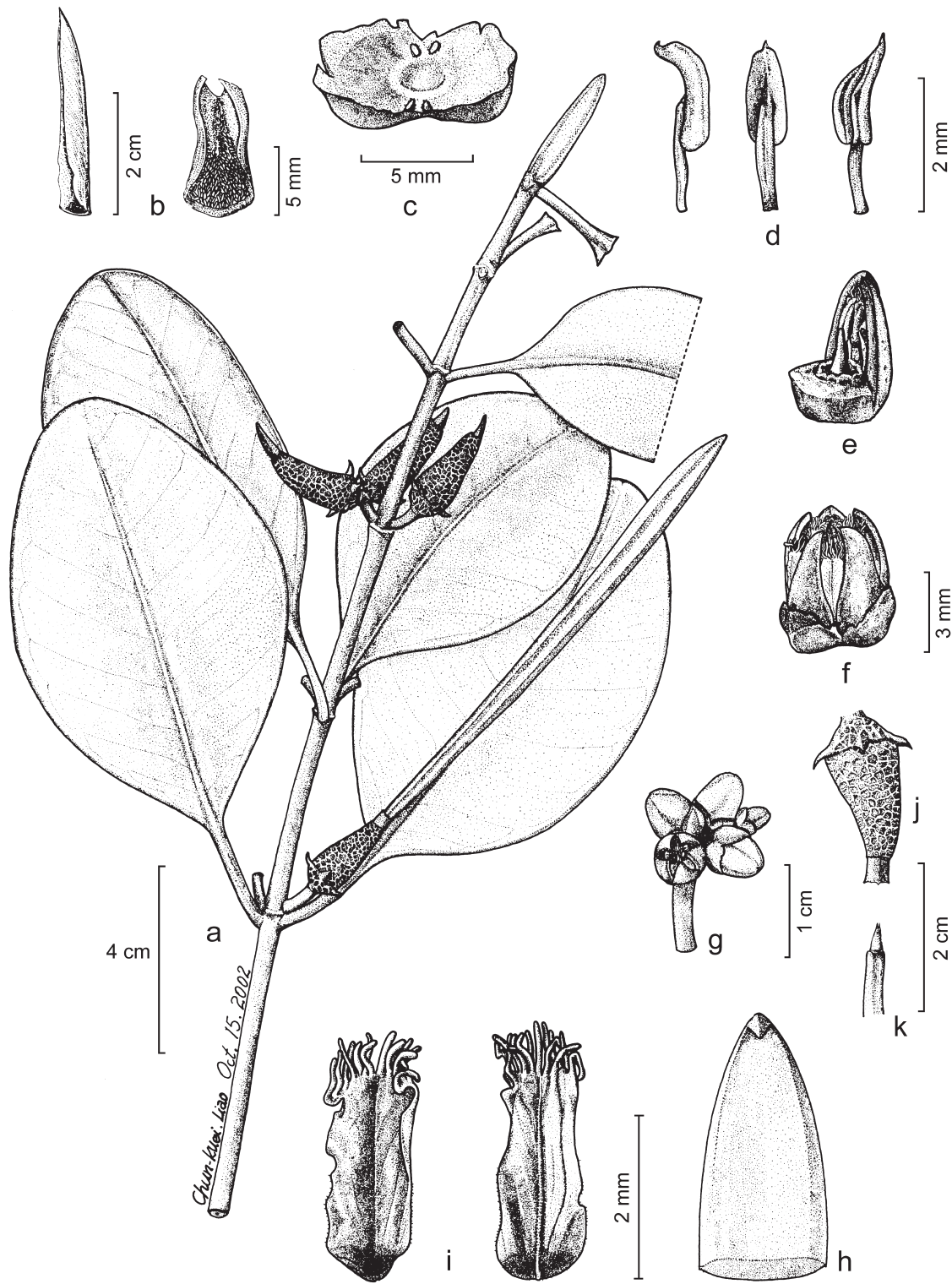
No.	Taxon	Collection location	Accession no.
Rh-26	<i>C. decandra</i>	Pichavarum, India	EF118952
Rh-28	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118953
Rh-29	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118954
Rh-30	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118955
Rh-34	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118956
Rh-35	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118957
Rh-36	<i>C. decandra</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118958
Rh-43	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118973
Rh-44	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118974
Rh-45	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118975
Rh-46	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118976
Rh-54	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118979
Rh-56	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118982
Rh-57	<i>C. zippeliana</i>	Pasir Ris Nature Park, Singapore	EF118983
Rh-31	<i>C. tagal</i>	West Sundarbans, India	EF118987
Rh-73	<i>C. australis</i>	Darwin, Australia	EF118951



**Fig. 1** *Ceriops decandra* (Griff.) Ding Hou. a. Fruiting shoot; b. stipule with colleters at adaxial base, one in lateral view with some tissue removed; c. inflorescence, note the multilayered bracts (arrows); d. bracteole; e. sepals of adaxial (left) and abaxial (right) views; f. petals of adaxial (left) and abaxial (right) views; g. stamens; h. style and nectaries with stamens removed; i. mature detached seedling; j. flowers; k. flower from above; l. cross section of ovary.

Total DNA was extracted using the CTAB method (Doyle & Doyle 1987) and the *trnL* intron of chloroplast DNA was amplified using universal primers (Taberlet et al. 1991), following the protocols of Tsai et al. (2006). The DNA was sequenced following the method of dideoxy chain-termination using an ABI377 automated sequencer with the Ready Reaction Kit (PE Biosystems, California) of the BigDye™ Terminator Cycle Sequencing.

DNA sequence alignment was conducted using Clustal W in BioEdit (Hall 1999). Genetic relationships were determined using MEGA v2.1 (Kumar et al. 2001). A genetic distance matrix was calculated using the two-parameter model of Kimura (1980), and then used to construct the phylogenetic trees using the Neighbor-joining (NJ) method (Saitou & Nei 1987). Bootstrapping (1 000 replicates) was carried out to estimate the support for the topology (Felsenstein 1985, Hillis & Bull 1993). All characters were equally weighted.



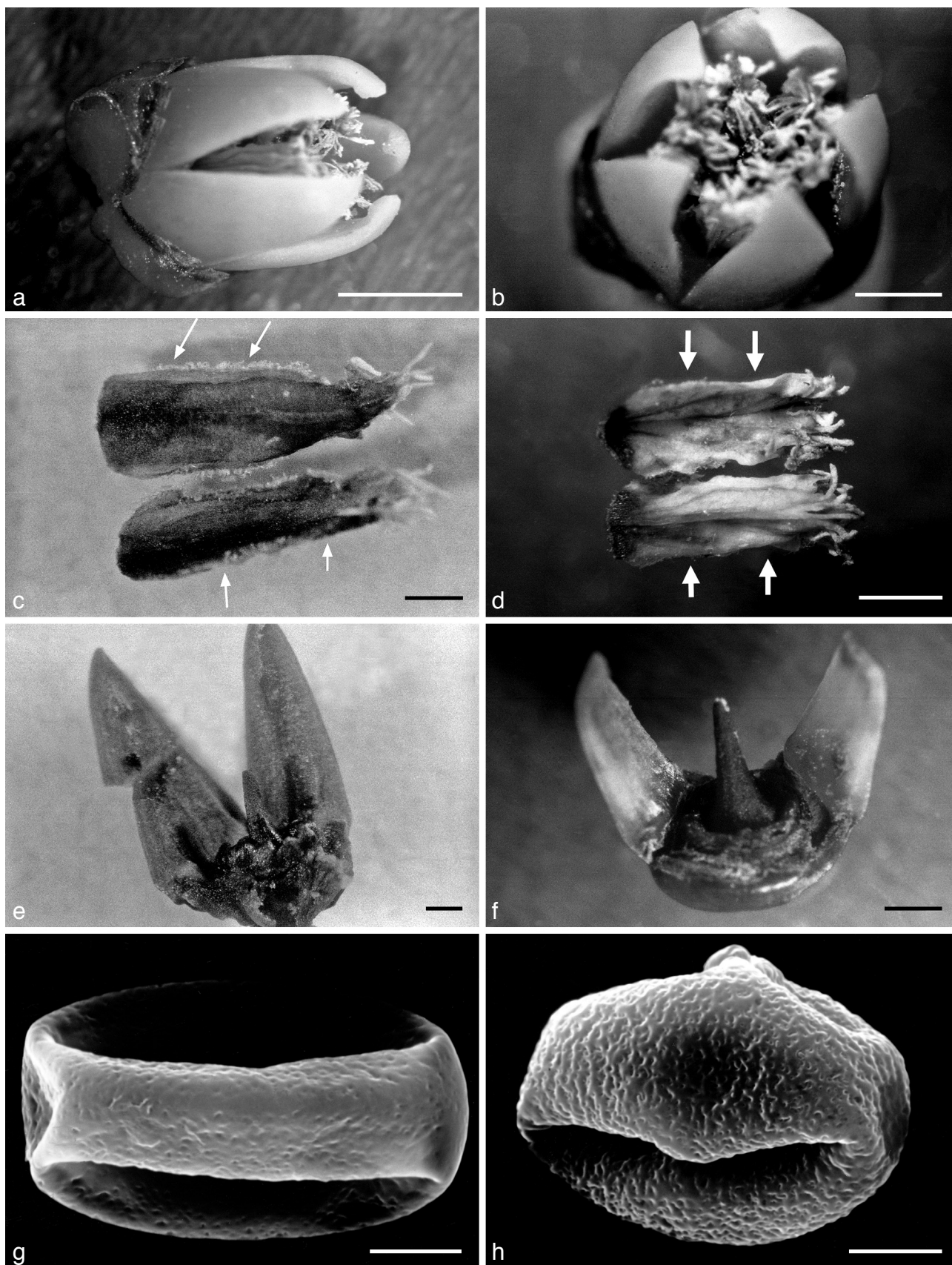
**Fig. 2** *Ceriops zippeliana* Blume. a. Fruiting shoot; b. stipule with colleters at adaxial base; c. top view of bracteole with four colleters; d. stamens; e, f. flower lateral views, the top one showing style with perianth and stamens removed; g. inflorescence; h. sepal of adaxial side; i. petals of adaxial (left) and abaxial (right) views; j. fruit with persistent calyx tube, calyx lobes and cotyledon collar; k. tip of hypocotyl with plumule.

**TAXONOMIC TREATMENT**

**Key to *Ceriops zippeliana* and *C. decandra***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Inflorescence dense bifurcate cyme-like with multilayered bracts enclosing 6–10 flowers; calyx lobe partially patent without an apex reflex while flowering; petal lateral margin densely hairy; persistent calyx tube longer and dome-like; hypocotyl equally thick throughout, with a blunt apex; stipule with 7–8-layered colleters at adaxial base; leaves thickly leathery with 8–10 pairs of lateral veins . . . . . <i>C. decandra</i></p> | <p>1. Inflorescence simple head-like with a single layered bracts enclosing 3–6 flowers; calyx lobe closely erect with an apex reflex towards floral axis while flowering; petal lateral margin hairless; persistent calyx tube short and disc-like; hypocotyl unequally thick, tapering towards an acute apex; stipule with 18–20-layered colleters at adaxial base; leaves leathery with 11–12 pairs of lateral veins . . . . . <i>C. zippeliana</i></p> |
|---|--|





**Fig. 3** Floral characters of *Ceriops decandra* and *C. zippelliana*. a, b. Floral lateral and top views of *C. zippelliana*; c. petals of *C. decandra*: relatively longer terminal cilia at the apex and dense hairs along margins (arrows); d. petals of *C. zippelliana*: relatively shorter terminal cilia at the apex and hairless along margins (bold arrows); e. lateral view of sepals and style of *C. decandra*; f. lateral view of sepals and style of *C. zippelliana*; g. equatorial view of pollen grain of *C. decandra*, with scabrate surface; h. equatorial view of pollen grain of *C. zippelliana*, with regulate surface. — Scale bars: a–d = 1 mm; e, f = 2 mm; g, h = 5  $\mu$ m (d,e, f, g from Sheue 2003).

## SPECIES TREATMENTS

***Ceriops decandra*** (Griff.) Ding Hou — Fig. 1, 3, 4, 7; Table 2

*Ceriops decandra* (Griff.) Ding Hou (1958) 471, p.p. & excl. syn. *C. zippeliana* Blume.

*Bruguiera decandra* Griff. (1835) 10.

*Ceriops roxburgiana* Arn. (1838) 364, p.p.

*Rhizophora decandra* Roxb. (1814) 36, nom. nud.

Main diagnostic characters are listed in Table 2.

Distribution — India, Bangladesh, through Myanmar to eastern Thailand.

***Ceriops zippeliana*** Blume — Fig. 2–4, 7; Table 2

*Ceriops zippeliana* Blume (1849) 143. — Lectotype (here designated): *A. Zippelius 99a* (hololecto K; isolecto U), Indonesia, Netherlands New Guinea.

See Discussion in the Typification section.

*Ceriops decandra* auct. non (Griff.) Ding Hou (1958) 471, p.p.

Main diagnostic characters are listed in Table 2.

Distribution — West coast of southern Malay Peninsula, Singapore, Bintan Island, east coast of the Malay Peninsula to the Gulf of Thailand to Vietnam, Borneo, Java, Philippines, Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda Islands, Moluccas (Ceram).

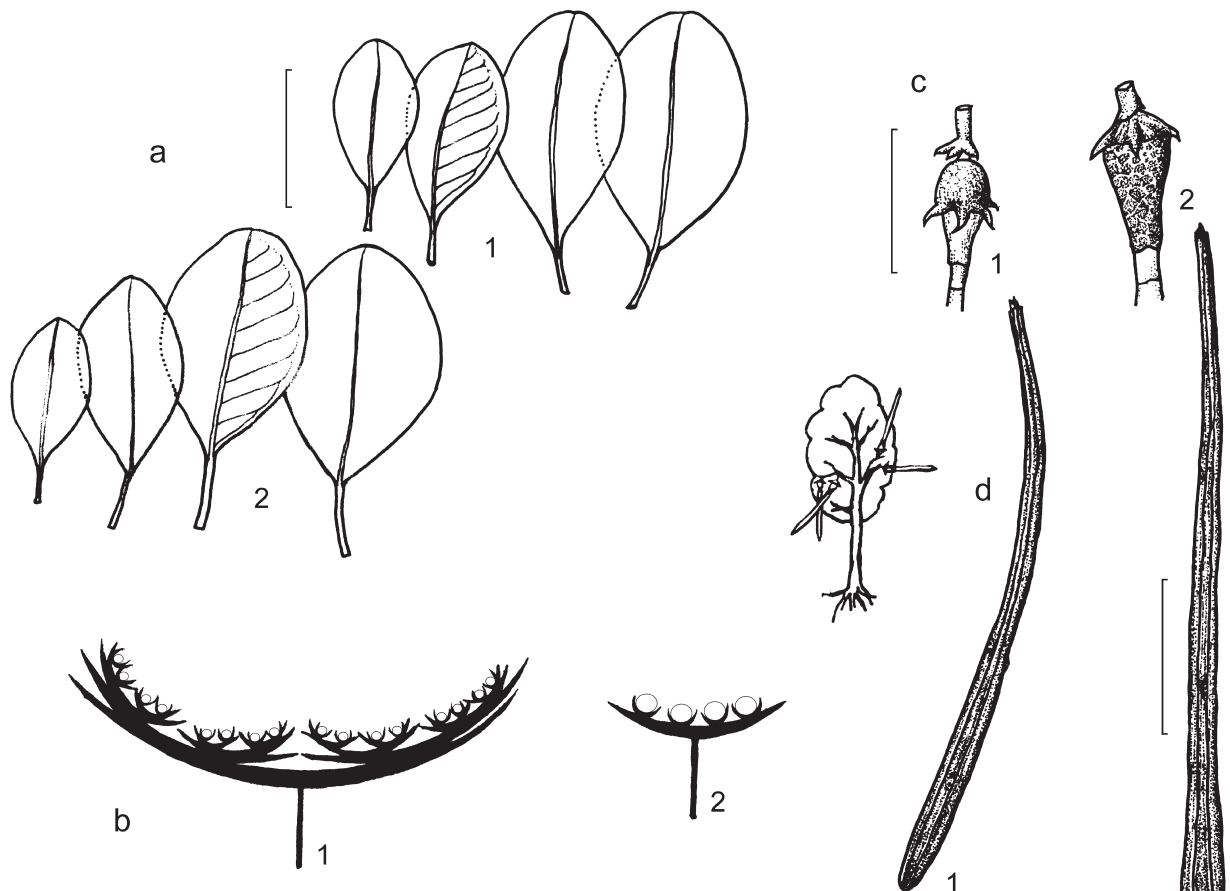
Typification — Blume (1849) did not cite any specimens for his new species *C. zippeliana*. Type specimens were designated by Hou (1958) as he revised the *Rhizophoraceae* for the Flora of Malesiana. The type specimens have four sheets collected by Zippelius from 'Nov. Guinea' (currently Moluccas

and Irian Jaya) and these were deposited at L (2 sheets, one with the collection number '99/a' indicated as 'Type!', while the other one without collection number labelled as 'Type Dupl. '), K ('99/a' without label) and U ('99.a' labelled as 'Type Dupl. '), separately. However, it is apparent that two species have been included. The two type specimens at L are characterized by leaves which are elliptic-oblong in shape and fruit with a dome-like calyx tube. These characters are obviously different from those of the other two type specimens at K and U, which have oval to elliptical-oval leaves and a shallow disc-like calyx tube. Blume's original descriptions of "foliis obovatis v. obovalibus" and "pedunculis brevissimis paucifloris" match the characters of the latter specimens as well as our recently collected specimens, and we therefore select the specimens at K and U as the lectotype and isolectotype of *C. zippeliana*.

A detailed comparison of the two species is provided in Table 2.

## MOLECULAR EVIDENCE

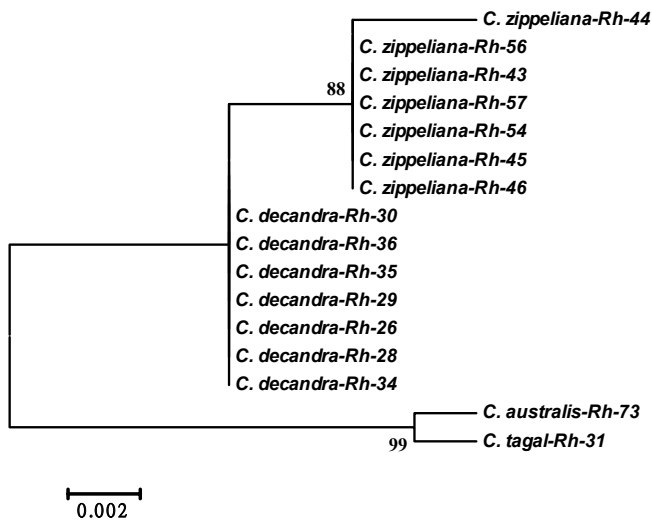
Alignment of the sequences resulted in 606 characters of which 13 were variable and parsimony informative. No sequence variation was found within *C. decandra*. However, there are three haplotypes in *C. zippeliana*. The average genetic distance between *C. decandra* and *C. zippeliana* was 0.0039 using the two-parameter method of Kimura (1980). Inspection of the sequence alignment showed three stable insertions/deletions (indels) (i.e., sites 146–179, 267–278



**Fig. 4** A comparison of leaves, inflorescences and fruits between *Ceriops decandra* (1) and *C. zippeliana* (2) (modified from Sheue 2003). a. Leaves, oval to obovate leaves of *C. decandra*; oval to elliptical-oval leaves of *C. zippeliana*; b. inflorescence, dense bifurcate cyme-like with multilayered (primary to fourth) bracts of *C. decandra*; simple head-like with a single layered (primary) bract of *C. zippeliana*; c. fruits, calyx tube domed with longer ascending calyx lobes of *C. decandra*; calyx tube shallow disc-like with short and erect calyx lobes of *C. zippeliana*; d. hypocotyls and their orientations; hypocotyl width approximately the same tapering towards a blunt apex of *C. decandra*; hypocotyl width unequal thick, tapering towards an acute apex in *C. zippeliana*; the orientations of hypocotyl for these two taxa ranging from lifted to pendent as the diagram shows.







**Fig. 6** The neighbour-joining tree of the seven accessions of both *Ceriops decandra* and *C. zippeliana* plus the two outgroups derived from the *trnL* intron sequence. Bootstrap values > 50 % are shown on each branch.

bracteoles are again surrounded by a bract, and a certain number of such replicates constitute a compound bifurcate cyme-like inflorescence (Sheue 2003, Naskar & Mandal 1999). The difference in inflorescence morphology for the two compared species in this study is distinct. *Ceriops zippeliana* has a simple head-like structure with a single layer of (primary) bracts enclosing 3–5 flowers, while that of *C. decandra* is dense, bifurcate, cyme-like, with multilayered (primary to fourth) bracts enclosing 6–10 or more flowers. The bifurcate cyme-like inflorescence of *C. decandra* is actually similar to that of *C. tagal*, but the pedicels of the former are absent and lead to a “head-like cyme” (Sheue 2003). However, due to the obscure arrangement of the small sized bracts, this difference is not easily recognized, especially for desiccated specimens.

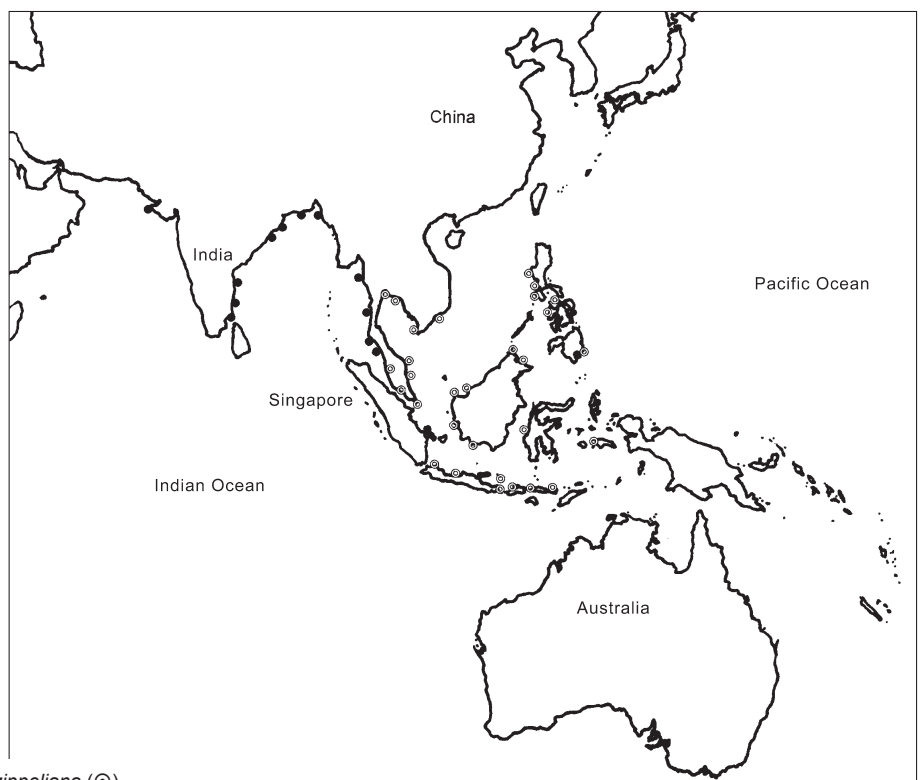
Leaf shape and stipule length provide additional information for identification. In addition, the colleters at the adaxial base of the stipule of *Ceriops* could serve as a diagnostic character in the

field with the help of hand lens (10×), as Sheue et al. (2003, 2005) reported for the species of *Kandelia* and *Bruguiera*. But it should be mentioned that only fully expanded stipules (before dropping off the stem) can be used for comparison.

While flowering, the flowers of *C. zippeliana* only open slightly with the erect and reflex apex of calyx lobes pointing towards the floral axis. In contrast, the flowers of *C. decandra* are partially patent with oblique calyx lobes. There are marked differences in pollen grain characters, such as size and surface ornamentation. Pollen size is less in *C. zippeliana* ( $15.43 \pm 1.16 \mu\text{m}$ ) than in *C. decandra* ( $21.0 \pm 1.49 \mu\text{m}$ ), and surface ornamentation in the former is here confirmed to be the rugulate-type, while in the latter it is the scabrate-type (Das & Ghose 1990).

The ovoid fruit of *Ceriops* has persistent calyx tubes and lobes and their detailed and distinct surface ornamental patterns are useful for interspecific differentiation (Sheue 2003). *Ceriops decandra* has dome-like calyx tubes, while *C. zippeliana* has shallow disc-like calyx tubes. The calyx lobes of *C. zippeliana* are very short and erect when compared to the relative longer and ascending calyx lobes of *C. decandra*. It is interesting, especially for the dispersal ecology, that the hypocotyl orientation of the two species ranges from erect, to ascending or descending in both species (Sheue 2003), while those of the other species of the *Rhizophoraceae* are descending.

Tan et al. (2005) studied the genetic structure of ten populations from the Malay Peninsula and North Australia of the so-called *C. decandra* using the inter-simple sequence repeat (ISSR). They concluded that the populations could be grouped into three major geographic regions, i.e., West coast of West Malaya, Southwest Malaya (including Singapore) and East Malaya, and North Australia. The populations they sampled from Southwest Malaya (including Singapore) and East Malaya are probably *C. zippeliana*. A similar genetic discontinuity between the Asiatic populations of *Ceriops* was observed in this study as well using the chloroplast *trnL* intron. Three stable indels and two stable transversions and the phylogenetic tree derived from these data also support the idea that *C. zippeliana* can be separated as a distinct species from *C. decandra*.



**Fig. 7** Localities of *Ceriops decandra* (●) and *C. zippeliana* (○).

We find that *C. zippeliana* is found throughout a large part of Malesia. Hou (1958) reports that *C. zippeliana* was not found in Sumatra and the Lesser Sunda Islands. However, we have examined specimens of *C. zippeliana* collected from the Lesser Sunda Islands, such as Bali and Lombok Island, and our findings are confirmed by a local mangrove handbook (Kitamura et al. 2004) which shows the photographs of *C. zippeliana* (labelled as *C. decandra*) in this region. Based on our field observations, the northern boundary of *C. zippeliana* may be located in Malacca, West Malaysia. According to the herbarium specimens examined, Satun, a small province in the south of Thailand that borders Malaysia, is the southern boundary of *C. decandra* at the West coast of the Malay Peninsula. Nevertheless, more research, especially extensive field survey, is still needed to elucidate the population boundaries of *C. decandra* and *C. zippeliana* in the Malay Peninsula.

Further ongoing taxonomic work pertaining to *Ceriops* is in progress in order to clarify the species number and the phyto-geographic range of each taxon.

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## IDENTIFICATION LIST

### Specimens examined of *Ceriops decandra*:

Anonymous s.n. (1811) (K) – Battic 20469 (K); Bhowmik 5 (K) – Clarke 21585, 35791 (BM), 21647A (K); Chaffey 3, 4 (K); Congdon 152 (GH); Congdon & Hamilton 258 (GH) – Fukuoka & Ito T-35621, T-35809 (L) – Gamble 17675 (CAL); Griffith s.n. (1844) (K), 86, 209 (L), 477 (BM), 2209 (K) – Haines 4135 (CAL, K); Heinig s.n. (1894) (L), s.n. (1890) (BM), 23 (GH), 233 (CAL); Hooker & Thomson s.n. (no date) (K) – Kerr 13960, 16547, 17300, 18594 (BM, K); Khan 296 (CAL) – Matthew 12755 (CAL); Matthew & Paramasivan s.n. (1979) (GH), 23755 (CAL, K); Mokim s.n. (1898) (BM, GH), 169 (CAL); Mooney 3353, 3383 (GH, K), 3354 (GH); Morisson 360 (CAL); Mukerjee 4503, 4762, 5346 (CAL) – Parker 2197, 2206 (GH); Pauigrahi 23428, 23928 (CAL); Perumal 17945, 17947, 18061 (CAL) – Ramamurthy 86440 (CAL); Rao 2260, 5656 (CAL); Rogers 438 (CAL) – Sandom 63 (K); Sheue M32–34, M80–85 (CHIA) – Thomson s.n. (no date) (L) – Ubolchalaket 334 (K) – Venugopal 22699, 22703 (CAL) – Wallich 78 (BM), 4875 (CAL), 4875a (K), 4875c, 4875d (CAL); Wight 995 (GH).

### Specimens examined of *Ceriops zippeliana*:

Ahern 71 (MO); Ahmad 54759 (BO); Angeles s.n. (1916) (MO), s.n. (1917) (GH), 26499 (IBSC) – Backer 2233, 27650, 27844, 34931, 39931 (BO); Barbon et al. 18895 (GH); Borden 2354 (L); Boschproefstation bb15569 (K, L) – Castro & Melegrito s.n. (1923) (GH); Chai et al. S30659 (GH); Conklin 729 (GH); Cortes & Knapp s.n. (1915) (GH) – De Leon s.n. (1913) (BM); Dolman 6626 (SING) – Elmer 2457 (L), 12027 (BM, BO, GH, MO), 20030 (BM, CAL, MO), 20031 (BM) – Frodin & Ismawi 2007 (GH, MO) – Galatira s.n. (1949) (GH, TAI) – Hoogerwerf 2 (BO); Hou 137 (K), 746 (BO, GH), 747 (K) – Ismail S-14 (SING) – Kerr s.n. (1920, 1924) (BM), 2126 (BM, K); Keßler et al. PK1654 (K); Kitamura s.n. (1995) (BO); Koch 256 (BO); Kochummen 7730 (SING); Koorders 21663 (CAL, K) – Lai LJ58, LJ126 (SING); Loher 2196, 2197 (CAL), 13767 (GH); Lowell 2735 (GH) – Marcan 1365 (BM); Maxwell 93-156, 93-853 (GH); Meijer 1320 (SING); Merrill 1047 (GH); Merritt 9850 (MO); Meyer 2313 (BO, L); Miranda s.n. (1912) (BM); Murata et al. J494 (L, MO) – Neth. Ind. For. Service bb16712 (GH) – Pelenkake s.n. (1896) (BO); Pierre 1 (K); Pollane 853 (K) – Reilingh 6583 (BO); Rintjak 1618 (BO); Romero & Chavenz PPI29092 (K); Romero & Majaducan 29563 (GH) – Schmutz 1618, 2510 (BO), 2778, 3014 (BO, L); Shah MS868 (L, SING); Shah & Noor MS809 (GH, SING), MS810 (BO); Sheue M336–337 (CHIA); Sider 13120 (MO); Sullit 4945, 5200 (GH); Sun 9108 (BO) – Tang & Sidek 302 (SING); Teijsmann s.n. (1896), 3071, 13790 (BO) – Van Leeuwen-Reijnvaan 7877 (BO); Verheijen 2909, 4192, 4513 (L); Vidal 756 (GH); Vorderman s.n. (no date) (BO) – Wenzel 1446 (BM, GH, MO) – Zollinger 2735 (BM).