

A NEW SPECIES OF FICUS (MORACEAE) FROM COSTA RICA

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Ficus cahuitensis C.C.Berg spec. nov.

Arbor terrestris. Ramuli foliosi circa 1 cm diam., subglabri. Lamina oblanceolata vel subobovata, 10–28 cm longa, 3,5–9 cm lata, brevissime acuminate, basi (sub)acuta, faciebus subglabris; vennae laterales 10–16 pro latere; petiolus 1–1,5 (–2,5) cm longus; stipulae 1,5–4 cm longae, (sub)persistentes, subglabrae. Syconia axillaria bina, (sub)glabra, circa 2 cm diam.

Tree (5 m tall; terrestrial); latex white. Leafy twigs c. 1 cm thick, glabrous or with sparse, minute, brown, pluricellular hairs; periderm peeling off.

Leaves (at least on flowering branches) aggregate: lamina oblanceolate to subobovate, 10–28 cm long, 3.5–9 cm wide, coriaceous, base (sub)acute, apex very shortly acuminate; upper surface glabrous, lower surface with minute, brown, appressed, pluricellular hairs on the main veins (glabrescent); lateral veins 10–16 pairs (especially the lower ones often not distinctly loop-connected), without parallel tertiary veins; petiole 1–1.5(–2.5) cm long, 2–3.5 mm thick, glabrous, stipules 1.5–4 cm long, (sub)persistent, margin ciliolate, outside glabrous, inside glabrous or puberulous at the base.

Figs in pairs in the leaf axils, sessile; basal bracts 2, c. 5 mm long, minutely puberulous; receptacle (depressed) globose, c. 2 cm (when dry c. 1.5–1.8 cm) in diameter, minutely puberulous, dark green with pale green or purplish spots, ostiole c. 4 mm in diameter, plane.

Seed flowers sessile, tepals 3, almost free, 1–2.5 mm long (sub)acute, style 1.5–2 mm long; gall flowers up to 3 mm long pedicellate, tepals 3, almost free, 1–1.5 mm long, rounded, style c. 1 mm long; stigmas 2 or 1; fruits ovoid to subglobose to ellipsoid, 1.3–3 mm long, yellow; “gall fruits” ovoid to subglobose, 1–1.5 mm long, brown; interfloral bracts 1–1.5 mm long; staminate flowers not seen.

TYPUS: Berg 942, Costa Rica, Limon, Pta. Cahuita, near shore (holo-, U; iso-, F).

Additional collection: Burger & Ramirez 3978, Costa Rica, Cartago, between Turrialba and Moravia, along río Tuis (CR, F).

The new species is reminiscent of *F. costaricana* (Liebm.) Miq. because of the persistent stipules and sessile figs, but appears to be more closely related to *F. obtusifolia* H.B.K.

The species can be keyed out in the key to the species of *Ficus* in Flora costaricensis (*Fieldiana Bot.* 40: 141, 1977) as follows: 1 – 2 – 10 – 11 – 18 – 19 26a. Stipules (usually) persisting 26' 26b. Stipules (usually) caducous 27

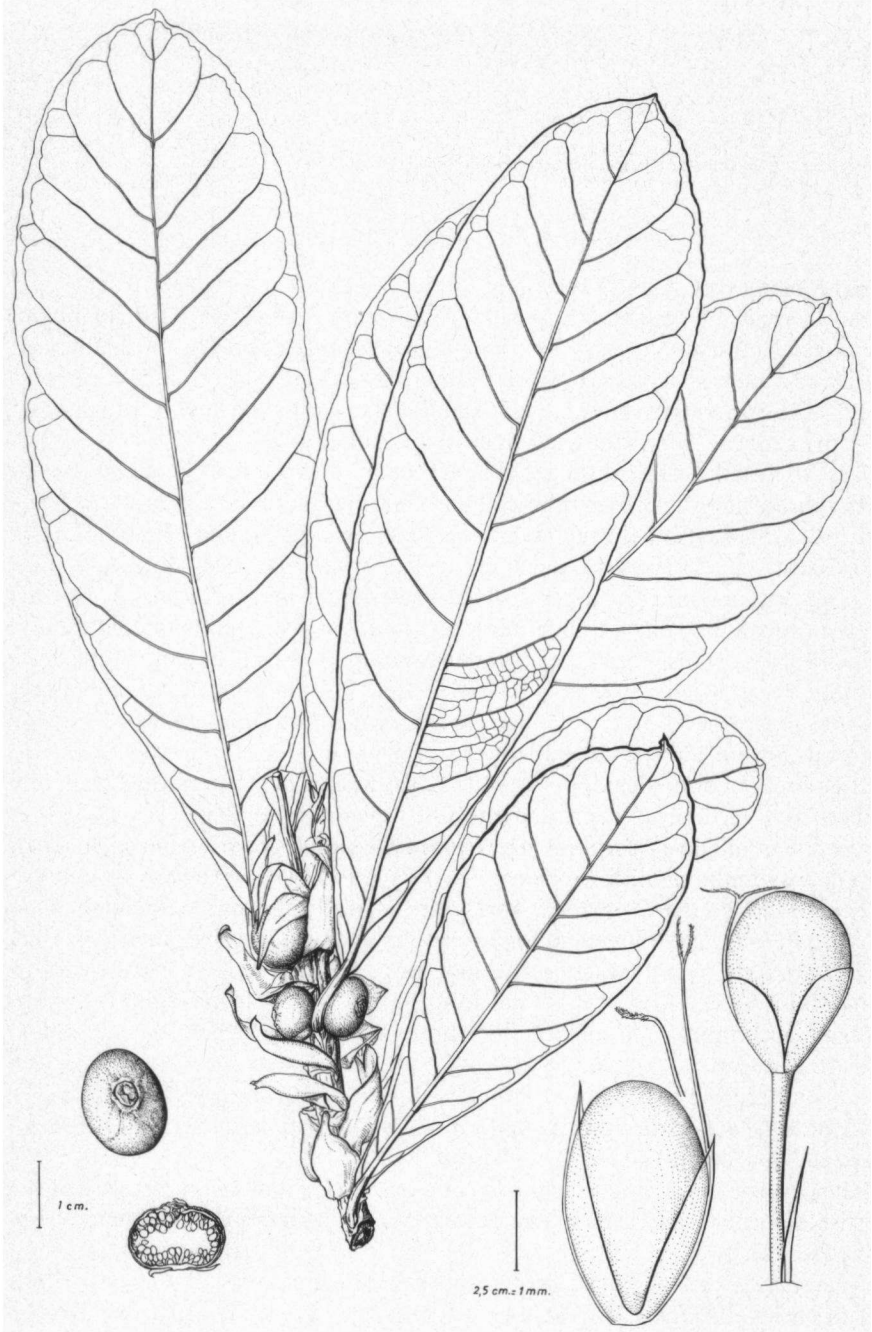


Fig. 1. *Ficus cahuitensis*. Leafy twig with figs, pedicellate gall flower, and sessile seed flower (from Berg 942).

- 26'a. Lateral veins 3–8(–10) pairs; stipules with white hairs along the midrib
 F. costaricana.
- 26'b. Lateral veins 10–16 pairs; stipules glabrous along the midrib
 F. cahuitensis.

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