

## THE GENUS *WILKIEA* (MONIMIACEAE) IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

W. R. PHILIPSON

University of Canterbury, New Zealand

### ABSTRACT

The Australian genus *Wilkiea* is recorded for Papua New Guinea. One species, *W. foremanii*, is described from the Wharton Range.

The genus *Wilkiea* currently includes a few species all of which are confined to Queensland and New South Wales. No record of the genus from New Guinea has been published, although herbarium sheets of a species of *Kibara* from the Western Highlands Province which bears a resemblance to *Wilkiea hugeliana* (Tul.) A.DC., have been incorrectly identified as belonging to *Wilkiea*. Also F. von Mueller (1858) identified another monimiaceous plant from the Lorne Range as *Mollinedia hugeliana*, a species subsequently transferred to *Wilkiea*. However, this also was a misidentification: the specimen is fragmentary, but probably is of a species of *Steganthera*.

Two recent collections from the Goilala District of the Central Province, Papua New Guinea, represent a species of *Wilkiea* which is described below. The specific epithet refers to Mr D. B. Foreman who first collected this species, and who has taken a great interest in this family of plants.

### *Wilkiea foremanii* Philipson, *sp. nov.* — Fig. 1–5

Arbuscula omnis pubens, foliis oppositis. Lamina elliptica vel oblonga, basi rotundata, apice rotundata mucronata vel attenuata, margine integro. Flores axillares, solitarii vel in cymis paucifloribus dispositi. Pedunculi (vel pedicelli) validi, ad 4 cm longi. Flores masculi globosi, 7 mm diam.; tepala 6; stamina ca. 18–30, per receptaculum dispersa; antherae per rimam unicam dehiscentes. Flores feminei globosi, ca. 10–15 mm diam., superior pars receptaculi calyprata; tepala 4; carpella numerosa (ca. 75–100); stylus gracilis; 5 mm longus. Fructus ignotus.

**T y p e:** *Foreman & Lelean NGF 48404 (L).*

A tree, densely hairy in all its parts. *Leaves* opposite; petiole 7–10 mm long; lamina elliptic to elliptic-oblong, base rounded, apex rounded with an apiculum to attenuated, margin entire, mid-rib prominent, main lateral veins about 4–6 pairs, arched ascending. *Flowers* axillary, singly or in few-flowered cymes; peduncles (or pedicels) stout, up to 4 cm long, often with the scars of two bracts below the flower. *Male flowers* globose with an ostiole surrounded by 6 tepals (4+2), about 7 mm diam. at anthesis; stamens about 18–30, inserted over the inner surface of the receptacle, filament c. 1 mm long, anther triangular, c. 1 mm long, opening by a single slit. *Female flowers* globose, c. 10–15 mm diam. at anthesis, leathery, hairy within, tepals 4, the upper half of the receptacle becoming detached after anthesis by a circular scar; carpels numerous (c. 75–100), sessile on the lower half of the receptacle, 1.5 mm long, pubescent; style slender, 5 mm long. Ripe *fruit* unknown.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Central Province: Goilala District, Avious, 2600 m, *Foreman & Lelean NGF 48404*; Kerau Mission, 2400 m, *Frodin 672*.

**E c o l o g y:** A small tree with light green, very hairy leaves (fulvous when dry), in mid-montane forest or regrowth.

#### REFERENCE

MUELLER, F. VON. 1858. *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants*, 6:3.

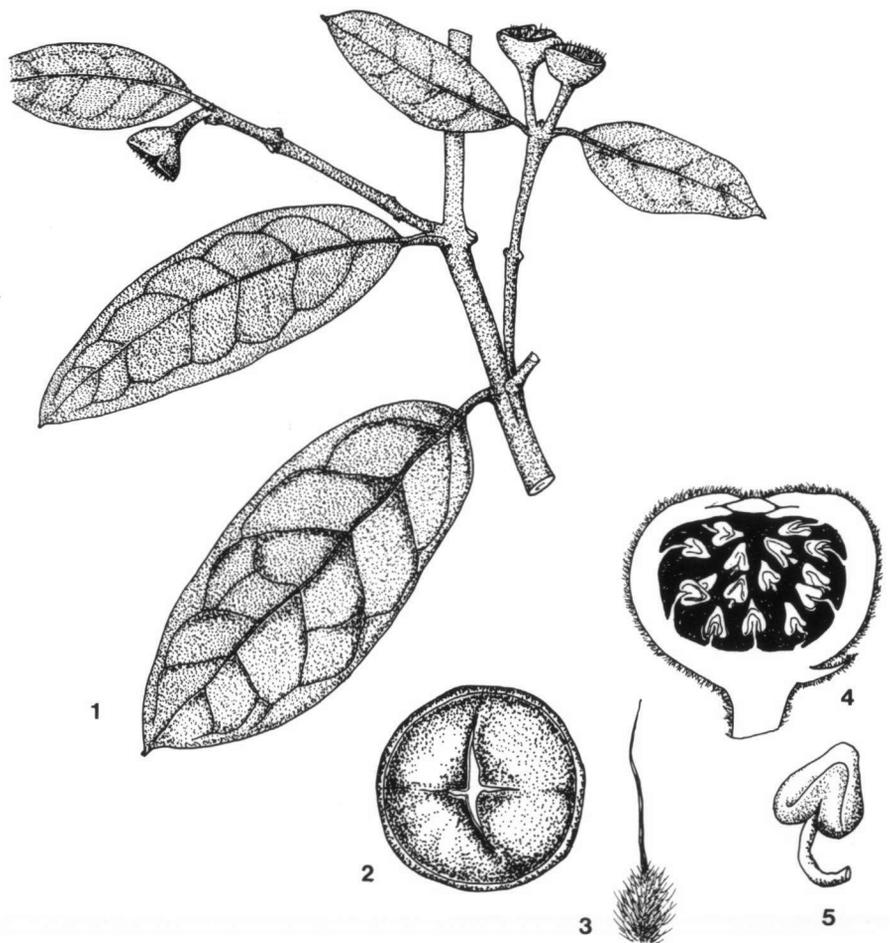


Fig. 1-5, *Wilkiea foremanii* Philipson — 1. twig with female flowers, at time of abscission of calytra,  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ; 2. calytra, seen from above,  $\times 2$ ; 3. carpel with filiform style,  $\times 5$ ; 4. male flower, in LS, after dehiscence of anthers,  $\times 5$ ; 5. stamen,  $\times 12.5$ . (1-3, *Foreman & Lelean NGF 48404*; 4-5, *Frodin 672*).