XI. A GENERIC RECORD FOR FAIKA (MONIMIACEAE) IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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The genus *Faika* Philipson (Monimiaceae) consists of the single species *F. villosa* (Kaneh. & Hatus.) Philipson, previously known only from Irian Jaya between the Vogelkop Peninsula and the Cyclops Mts (Philipson, 1986). A recent identification by Renner (of *Takeuchi 10349* from the April River; A, LAE) indicates that *Faika* is also present in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The first author revisited this locality in August 2001 and obtained additional specimens, notes, and photos to document this new record. PNG now has eight genera of Monimiaceae s.s. (excluding Atherospermataceae and Siparunaceae; Renner, 1999): *Faika, Kairoa, Kibara, Lauterbachia, Levieria, Palmeria, Steganthera*, and *Wilkiea*.

Faika villosa was originally described as *Steganthera villosa* Kaneh. & Hatus. but was anomalous in that genus because of well-developed glands on the inside of the female receptacle rim and innermost tepals (Philipson, 1985). Such glands characterise *Kibara, Parakibara, Wilkiea*, and a few other genera of Monimiaceae in which pollen is received on a hyperstigma, that is, a sticky surface that captures pollen but is not the actual stigma (Endress, 1979, 1980). An ongoing molecular-phylogenetic analysis of the Monimiaceae has examined representatives of most genera except for the monotypic *Faika, Lauterbachia*, and *Parakibara* (Zanis & Renner, unpublished). Preliminary findings indicate that *Palmeria* is closer to *Monimia* from Mauritius and Réunion than to the remaining genera from New Guinea, thus arguing for at least two independent arrivals of Monimiaceae in New Guinea.

Faika villosa is moderately common near the villages of Natawe and Okahsa, but appears entirely restricted to a mafic substrate and was never observed in the surrounding alluvial forest. It is also absent from seral situations even on the mafics, growing only as a sparingly branched shrub in dark understories. The bark is corky, pale, and longitudinally furrowed in the manner of *Kairoa suberosa* Philipson. A careful search yielded three fertile vouchers (all female) with flowers or immature fruits, but populations were otherwise generally sterile during the August 2001 visit. One of the newer numbers (*Takeuchi & Towati 15493*; A, LAE) is a second collection taken from the same individual as the earlier gathering from 1995. The *Faika* habitats are remarkable for their exceptionally pristine status, having experienced virtually no anthropogenic disturbance because of the hunter-gatherer lifestyles of the local Bugabugi people.

The April River is steeped in botanical tradition. As part of the Hunstein subdistrict of the East Sepik Province, the drainage represents one of the fabled localities from the 1912–1913 Kaiserin-Augusta Expedition (cf. Veldkamp et al., 1988). The April River occurrences of *F. villosa* are across the river from the German Kamelsrücken, now known

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as 'Oopay' by local inhabitants. Since the time of its initial exploration, the Hunstein region has been recognised as one of PNG's premier floristic diversity hotspots. The present record, and the collection of an undescribed *Myrmephytum* (Rubiaceae) (M. Jebb, in prep.) from a site nearby, show that exploration of this classical locality is still far from complete.

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