**Supplementary material 3: Nomenclature and taxonomic description of syconium of the figs studied.**

1. ***Ficus amplissima*** Smith

*Ficus amplissima*Smith in Rees, Cycl. xiv. n. 1. 1810; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1362. 1928; Manilal, Fl. Silent Valley. 259. 1988; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 427.1996.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.6 – 0.8 cmacross, obovoid, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, pale brown on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Tree often epiphytic.

**Habitat:** Common in deciduous and evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** In the Western Ghats**,** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Distributed in elevation up to 1000 m from sea level. Native to India.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Almost throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Kannor district, Bekal, 100m, 27-12-1980, R. Ansari, 70042 (MH); Idukki district, Sabarimala, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1100m, 22-10-1993, Jomy Augustine & K P Rajesh, 12573 (KFRI); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6m, 29-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8701 (SHCH).

MH: Madras Herbarium

KFRI: Kerala Forest Research Institute

TBGT: Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute

SHCH: Sacred Heart College Herbarium

**2. *Ficus amplocarpa*** Govind. &Masil.

*Ficus amplocarpa* Govind. &Masil., Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. (Pl. Sci.) 91: 117. 1982; Chithra in A.N. Henry *et al*., Fl. Tamil Nadu 2: 251. 1987; T.S. Nayar*et al*., Fl. Pl. Kerala: 433. 2006.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 3.0 – 6.5 cmacross, globose, glabrous, Peduncle 0.7 – 1.0 × 0.1- 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, purple on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Climber.

**Habitat:** Evergreen, semi-evergreen and shola forests.

**Distribution:** Endemic to Southern Western Ghats.

**Flowering and fruiting:** September–July.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Tamil Nadu,** Nilgiri, Avalanche, 04 -06- 1987, N. Mohanan, 8362; **Kerala**, Idukki, Rajamalai, 22-02-1995, A. Nazarudean, 21226; Thiruvananthapuram, Athirumala, 20-10-1992, N. Mohanan, 10778(TBGT).

**3. *Ficus anamalayana*** Sudhakar & G. V. S. Murthy

*Ficus anamalayana*Sudhakar & G. V. S. Murthy. Rheedea*.* 25(1): 1- 8. 2 0 1 5.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.6 – 2.3 × 1.0 – 2.4 cm across, obovoid, hairy near ostiole, pubescent. Peduncle 0.5 – 1.2 × 0.1- 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Pale green in young stage, green on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Deciduous and semi – evergreen forests, usually attached to rocks.

**Distribution:** Endemic to the Southern Western Ghats.

**Flowering and fruiting:** June – December.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Tamil Nadu,**Coimbatore,Anamalai hills, on the way from Aliyar to Attakatti, 25-10-2010, J.V. Sudhakar, 122947; Coimbatore, Anamalai hills, 15-06-2011, J.V. Sudhakar, 122978 (MH); **Kerala,** Palakkad, Nelliampathy, 1500m, 31-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8702 (SHCT).

**4. *Ficus arnottiana*** (Miq.) Miq.

*Ficus arnottiana*(Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugd-Bat. 3: 287.1897; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 56, t. 68 A & 84. 1887; Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 21: 11.1965; Sasidh. &Sivar. Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 428.1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 629. 2002.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.5 – 0.8 × 0.5 – 0.7 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle 0.1 – 0.2 × 0.1- 0.15 cm long, terete, glabrous. Pale greenin young stage, green on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Independent tree.

**Habitat:** In moistdeciduous and semi – evergreen forests, mainly attached to rocks.

**Distribution:** India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Usually, fond above 700 m from sea level, in rocky places.

**Flowering and fruiting:** October – March.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Thiruvananthapuram, Ponmudi, 1000 m, 16-11-1977, M. Mohanan, 52575 (MH); Thiruvananthapuram, Meenmutty, 700 m, 06-11-1990, N. Mohanan, 10150 (TBGT); Idukki, Pamba Valley, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 130, 23-11-1993,N. Sasidharan & Jomy Augustine, 12741 (KFRI); Idukki, Vagamon, 1200 m, 25-11-2017, Sreehari S Nair & Ebin P J, 8703 (SHCH).

**5. *Ficus auriculata*** Lour.

*Ficus auriculata* Lour, Fl. Cochinch. 666.1790; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 179. 1888; Sasidh. &Sivar., Bio. Docu. Kerala part 6: Flow. Plant. 438. 2004.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 6.0 -10.0 × 4.5 – 7.0 cm across, turbinate, pilose. Peduncle, 2.5 – 4.0 × 0.4 – 0.8 cm long, terete, pilose. Green in young stage, dark green on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Tree with cauliflorous inflorescence.

**Habitat:** Commonly cultivated. Almost wild throughout the Eastern Ghats. Native to Indo – Chinese region. Found in elevations up to 2100 m.

**Distribution:** In moistdeciduous and temperate forests. Planted as an ornamental tree.

**Flowering and fruiting:**  throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Kannor,Aralam, 250 m, 26-02-1979, V. S. Ramachandran, 61930 (MH); Malappuram, Calicut University Botanical Garden, 50 m, 30-05-1993, T.K. Dominic, 45733 (CALI);Pathanamthitta, Vadasserykara, 17-06-1994, A. Nazarudean, 22158 (TBGT); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 12-4-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8704 (SHCH).

**6. *Ficus beddomei*** King.

*Ficus beddomei* King. Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1. 1888 26, t. 24; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 5: 502. 1888; Sasidh. &Sivar. Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 428.1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 630.2002.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 3.5 - 4.5 × 1.5 – 2.5 cm across, obovoid, glabrous, scars present. Peduncle 1.5 – 2.0 × 0.2 – 0.3 cm long, angular, glabrous. Green in young stage, dark green on maturity and pale brown on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** In peninsular India.Endemic to the Western Ghats. Seen in altitude ranging from 200 – 1200 m.

**Flowering and fruiting:** July – February.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Thiruvananthapuram,Ponmudi, 650 m, 08-03-1980, M. Mohanan, 66608(MH); Idukki, Uppupara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1000 m, 15-11-1993, N. Sasidharan & K K Sajeev, 12695 (KFRI); Idukki, Vagamon, 1200 m, 29-9-2017, Sreehari S Nair & Ebin P J, 8705 (SHCH).

**7. *Ficus benghalensis*** L.

*Ficus benghalensis*L.Sp. Pl. 1059. 1753; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 18. 1888; Linn, Sp. Pl. 2: 1059. 1753; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 5: 499. 1888; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 630. 2002.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.5 – 2.5 cm across, globose, pubescent. Sessile. Green in young stage, pale red on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree, later become independent.

**Habitat:** Deciduous, semi evergreen and evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Find wild in the sub- Himalayan forests and on the lower slopes of Deccan Hills. Usually planted in the roadsides, temple premixes and in all plains. Distributed from sea level to 700m altitude.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Almost throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Thrissur, near Vadakkanchery, 50 m, 09-09-1976, K. Ramamurthy, 48432 (MH); Cannore, Ezhimala, 15 m, 26-10-1982, Nambiar & Sasidharan, 2534 (KFRI); Thiruvananthapuram, Agasthyamala, 700 m, 26-07-1994, N. Mohanan & T. Shaju, 16216 (TBGT ); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 12-11-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8707 (SHCH).

**8. *Ficus benjamina*** L

*Ficus benjamina* L. Mant. Pl. 129. 1767; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:50. 1888; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 5: 508. 1888; Stokes, Bot. Mat. Med. 4: 635. 1848; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1367. 1928.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 0.8 – 1.2 × 0.7 -1.0 cm across, globose, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, yellow on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Strangler.

**Habitat:** Evergreen and deciduous forests.

**Distribution:** North east India, South China, Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal. Distributed from 25 m – 900m above sea level. Common as ornamental tree.

**Flowering and fruiting:** January – April.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Malappuram, Calicut University Botanical Garden, 50 m, 12-12-1992, T.K. Dominic, 45628 (CALI); Idukki, Vagamon hills, 1200 m, 24-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair & Ebin P J, 8706 (SHCH).

**9. *Ficus binnendijkii***(Miq.) Miq.

*Ficus binnendijkii* (Miq.) Miq. Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno – Batavi. 3: 288. 1867; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:41. 1888.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.3 – 0.5 cm across, ovoid, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, purple on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Hemi-epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Usually cultivated, planted as ornamental tree.

**Distribution:** Found in wild in the forests of Sumatra, Java, Borneo etc.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Throughout the year.

**Specimens examined:** Jawa, Anderson. T, K001050358;Brunei, Dransfield, J. et al., K000228216; Lesser Sunda, Maduarta, K000734540; Lesser Sunda, Maduarta, K000734541 (KEW).

**10. *Ficus callosa***Wild

*Ficus callosa*Wild. Mem. Acad. Roy. Sci. Hist. (Berlin) 1798: 102 1798; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:64. 1888; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1364. 1928; Manilal&Sivar., Fl. Calicut. 276. 1982; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 631.2002.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 3.0 – 2.5 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle 1.0 – 1.5 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, dark green on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Independent tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen and semi evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Indo-Malaysia. In the Western Ghats, from elevations of 600 to 1200 m.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – April.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Palakkad, Ayyappan Kovil, 900 m, 04-03-1975, E. Vajravelu, 46183 (MH);Thrissur, Peechi, 65 m, 19-03-1988, N. Sasidharan, 3946 (KFRI); Idukki, Kokkara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 900 m, 06-04-1994, Jomy Augustine, 13522, (CALI); Idukki, Thodupuzha, 40 m, 24-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8709 (SHCH).

**11. *Ficus caulocarpa*** Miq

*Ficus caulocarpa* Miq., Ann. Mus. Lugd.Bat. 3: 268. 1867; Ansari, Fl. Kasaragod Div. 354. 1985; Sasidh., Fl. Periyar Tiger Reserve 392. 1998; Sasidh. & Jomy., Rheedea 9: 77. 1999.

Inflorescence axillary, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.5 – 0.8 cm across, globose, puberulent. Peduncle 0.1 - 0.4 × 0.05 – 0.1 cm long, terete, puberulent. Green in young stage, white on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Semi-evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** India, Japan, Malesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Taiwan.

**Flowering and fruiting:** March – May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Idukki, Kokkara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 881 m, 04-04-1994, Jomy Augustine,13523 (KFRI); Idukki, Adimaly, 30-12-1993, A. Nazarudean, 19649 (TBGT).

**12. *Ficus costata*** Ait.

*Ficus costata* Ait., Hort. Kew. (ed. 1) 3: 452. 1789; Sasidh., Fl. Periyar Tiger Reserve 392. 1998; Sasidh. & Jomy., Rheedea 9: 79. 1999; Sasidh., Fl. Parambikulam WLS 311. 2002.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.2 – 1.6 × 1.0 – 1.5 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle 0.5 – 0.8 × 0.05 – 0.1 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, yellow on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen and moist deciduous forests.

**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** November-December.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Thrissur, Poringal, 500 m, 28-07-1987, N. Sasidharan & V V Sivarajan, 4943; Idukki, Pamba Valley, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 130 m, 23-11-1993, N. Sasidharan & Jomy Augustine, 12742 (KFRI).

**13. *Ficus dalhousiae*** (Miq.) Miq.

*Ficus dalhousiae*(Miq.) Miq.Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno - Batavi.3: 285. 1867; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 5: 499. 1888; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1364. 1928; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 428. 1996.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.0 – 1.6 × 0.6 – 0.8 cm across, obovoid, pubescent. Peduncle, 0.8 – 1.0 × 0.2 – 0.3 cm long, terete, pubescent. Green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Dry and moist deciduous forests. Mostly in rocky places.

**Distribution:** Endemic to the Western Ghats. Distributed up to 3000 m altitude.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – January.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala**, Palakkad, Mukkali forest, 650 m, 25-04-1977, E. Vajravelu, 49775(MH); Thrissur, Peechi, 65 m, 09-10-1979, N. Sasidharan, 797 (KFRI); Idukki, Neriyamangalam, 100 m, 20-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8710 (SHCH).

**14. *Ficus drupacea*** Thunb.

*Ficus drupacea*Thunb. Dissc. Fic.11.1786; Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 381. 1960; Manilal&Sivar., Fl. Calicut. 276. 1982; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 428. 1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 631.2002; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 661. 2009.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.5 – 3.8 × 1.5 – 3.5 cm across, oblong, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, yellow on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Hemi-epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Common inevergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and in the plains.

**Distribution:** India, China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar. Distributed up to 1025 m altitude. Native to India.

**Flowering and fruiting:** November – May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palakkad, Mandampally forest, 550 m, 15-04-1978, M. C. Nair, 56836 (MH); Thrissur, Kapipatcha, Vaztiani, 250 m, 24- 03-1988, N. Sasidharan, 5001(KFRI); Idukki, Kokkara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1100 m, 12-07-1993, Jomy Augustine, 12196 (CALI); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 25-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8711 (SHCH).

**15. *Ficus elastica*** Roxb. ex Hornem

*Ficus elastica*Roxb. ex Hornem. Hort. Bot. Hafn. Suppl. 7. 1818; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:45. 1888; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1369. 1928.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.0 – 1.2 × 0.6 – 0.8 cm across, oblong, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Hemi-epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Moist deciduous forests.

**Distribution:** Common as ornamental tree. Widely cultivated. Cultivated in India from 1874.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – February.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,**Cannore, Tellicherry, 75 m, 15-07-1978, V. S. Ramachandran, 57612, (MH); Thiruvananthapuram, Vithura, 05-02-1997, A. Nazarudean, 21294, (TBGT); Kozhikode, 50 m, 21-2-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8712 (SHCH).

**16. *Ficus exasperata*** Vahl

*Ficus exasperata*Vahl. Enum. Pl. 2: 197. 1805;King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:76. 1888; Manilal&Sivar., Fl. Calicut 275. 1982; Manilal, Fl. Silent Valley 259. 1988; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 429. 1996; Mohanan &Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 632. 2002.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 0.7 – 1.5 × 1.0 – 2.0 cm across, globose, hairy, scabrid. Peduncle 0.5 - 1.5 × 0.2 – 0.3 cm long, terete, scabrid. Green in young stage, orange on maturity and pale red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Independent tree.

**Habitat:** Moist deciduous and semi evergreen forests. Also found in plains and in the waste lands.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, East Africa. Found from sea level to 1500 m altitude.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December– May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Idukki, Kuttikanam, 1050 m, 19-11-1976, K. Vivekananthan, 46726 (MH); Thrissur, Peechi, 60 m, 06-02-1979, N. Sasidharan, 499; Idukki, Kurishumala, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1180 m, 15-01-1994, Jomy Augustine, 13053 (KFRI);Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 24-3-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8713 (SHCH).

**17. *Ficus guttata*** (Wight)Wight exKing.

*Ficus guttata*(Wight)Wight ex King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:167. 1888; Hook, f. Fl. Brit. Ind 5: 534, 1888; Mohanan &Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 633. 2002.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.5 - 3.2 × 2.5 -3.0 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle 1.2 - 1.5 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, pale red on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Climber.

**Habitat:** Common in ever green and semi evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Endemic to Southern Western Ghats from 900 – 2200 m altitude.

**Flowering & fruiting:** August–January.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Kottayam, Lock heart gap, 1700 m, 20-4-1964, K. M. Sebastine, 18343; Kottayam, Devicolam, 1875 m, 05-02-1970, B. V. Shetty, 33421, Idukki, Munnar to Badi road, 1800 m, 25-03-1980, K. Ramamurty, 66373 (MH); Idukki, Vagamon hills, 1200 m, 25-11-2017, Sreehari S Nair & Ebin P J, 8714 (SHCH).

**18. *Ficus heterophylla*** L.f.

*Ficus heterophylla*L.f. Suppl. Pl. 442. 1782; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:75. 1888; Hook. Fl. Brit. India. 5:518.1888; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 663. 2009.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 2.8 - 3.5 × 1.7 - 2.0 cm across, globose, glabrous with scars. Peduncle 0.6 – 1.0 ×0.2 – 0.3 cm long, terete, hairy with scars. Pale green in young stage, green on maturity and green on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Shrub.

**Habitat:** In deciduous forests along river banks and also in plains, moist shady areas.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – June.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Alappuzha, Edathuva, Sea level, C. N. Sunil, 2206 (CALI); Cannore, Panathr, 250 m, 29-06-1980, R. Ansari, 67894; Thrissur, Triprayar, 10 m, 08-09-1946, K. Ramamurthy, 48411 (MH); Alappuzha, Edathuva, 2 m, 24-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8715(SHCH).

**19. *Ficus hispida*** L.f.

*Ficus hispida*L.f. Suppl. Pl. 442.1782; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:116. 1888; Hook. Fl. Brit. India. 5: 522.1888; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 429.1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 629. 2002.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.0 - 3.0 × 2.0 - 2.5 cm across, globose, hairy at immature and strigose at mature stage. Peduncle, 0.5 -2.0 × 0.25 – 0.3 cm long, terete, strigose. Green in young stage, green on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Tree with cauliflorous inflorescence.

**Habitat:** In Evergreen semi evergreen and deciduous forests. Also found in the plains and in waste lands.

**Distribution:** Found up to 1200 m from sea level.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Almost throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palakkad, Walayar forest, 75 m, 22-05-1964, E. Vajravelu, 19038(MH); Thrissur, Peechi, 65 m, 12-03-1980, N. Sasidharan, 1142 (KFRI); Wayanad, Pookod, 740 m,10-04-2001, A. K. Pradeep, 70558(CALI); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 13-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8716 (SHCH).

**20. *Ficus krishnae*** C. DC.

*Ficus krishnae* C. DC.,Curtis Bot. Mag. 132: t. 8092. 1906.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 1.5 -2.0 cm across, globose, puberulent. Sessile. Green in young stage, orange on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic Tree.

**Habitat:** Cultivated.

**Distribution:** Found only in gardens as cultivated.

**Flowering and Fruiting:** Almost throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**,**Tamil Nadu**, Chennai District, Teynampet Garden, 29-11-1949, Superintendent of Garden, 93750; Coimbatore District, Near Valayar, Chandra Garden, 05-12-2010, J.V. Sudhakar, 122958 (MH); **Kerala,** Malappuram, Calicut University Botanical Garden, 20-5-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8717 (SHCH).

**21. *Ficus microcarpa***L.f.

*Ficus microcarpa*L.f. Suppl. Pl. 442. 1782; Blume. Manilal&Sivar., Fl. Calicut 276. 1982; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 429. 1996; Mohanan &Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 634. 2002; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 664. 2009.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.8 -1.0 cm across, globose, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and orange on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Hemi-epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Common in evergreen forests. Occasional in semi evergreen and riparian forest.

**Distribution:** Throughout in the Western Ghats, China, Sri Lanka. Distributed up to 1050 m from sea level.

**Flowering and fruiting:** April – October.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palakkad, Bank of Kunthipuzha, 850 m, 04-12-1980, M. C. Nair, 69108 (MH); Idukki, Swamikkayam, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1070 m, 29-09-1993, Jomy Augustine & N Sasidharan, 12488 (KFRI); Idukki,Kottamala, 1700 m,26-04-1995, Jomy Augustine,15359 (CALI); Palakkad, Nelliampathy, 1500 m, 31-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8718 (SHCH).

**22. *Ficus mollis***Vahl

*Ficus mollis*Vahl, Symb. Bot. 1: 82. 1790; Sasidh., Fl. Chinnar WLS 298. 1999; Sasidh., Fl. Parambikulam WLS 312. 2002.

Inflorescence axillary, sessile. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.8 -1.1 × 0.5 – 0.8 cm across, globose, tomentose. Sessile. Green in young stage, grey on maturity and brown on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic Tree.

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous forests.

**Distribution:** India and Sri Lanka.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** December-June.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Idukki, Churullipetty, CWS, 475 m,06-01-1995, N. Sasidharan & K K Sajeev, 11656; Idukki, Alampetty, CWS, 850 m, 28-11-1979, Nambiar, 1074; Idukki, Peechi, 65 m, 12-03-1980, N. Sasidharan, 1144 (KFRI); Thiruvananthapuram, Athirumala, 1000 m, 01-04-1989, N. Mohanan, 5517 (TBGT).

**23. *Ficus nervosa*** B.Heyne ex Roth

*Ficus nervosa* B.Heyne ex Roth.Nov. Pl. Sp. 388. 1821; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1:53. 1888; Hook. Fl. Brit. India. 5: 512.1888; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 429.1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 634.2002.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 1.5 - 2.0 × 1.3 – 1.7 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle 0.8 – 1.0 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen and semi evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, to elevations up to 1200m.

**Fruiting and flowering:** December – May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palakkad, Mukkali forest, 525, 23-12-1969, E. Vajravelu, 33321 (MH); Thrissur, Vellanimala, 250 m, 10-05-1985, N. Sasidharan, 3480 (KFRI); Idukki, Arjunankotta, 110 m, 21-04-1995, Jomy Augustine, 15080 (CALI); Palakkad, Nelliampathy, 1500 m, 21-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8719 (SHCH).

**24. *Ficus pumila*** L*.*

*Ficus pumila*L*.* Sp. Pl. 1060.1753; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 124. 1888; Lour, Fl. Cochinch. 2: 667. 1790; Linn, Sp. Pl. 2: 1060. 1753.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.7 – 5.5 × 2.0 – 3.0 cm across, obovoid, pubescent. Peduncle 1.0 – 0.5 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, villous. Pale green in young stage, dark green on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Climber.

**Habitat:** Planted on the walls, buildings etc. for ornamental purposes.

**Distribution:** Cultivated throughout the world.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** February-September.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Kottayam, SBC Botanical Garden, 12-04-1984, V. T. Antony, 376 (MH); Thiruvananthapuram, TBGT Forest, 13-10-1995, Jayendra Chauhan, 26323 (TBGT); Ernakulam, Cochin, 24-2-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8720 (SHCH).

**25.** ***Ficus racemosa*** L.

*Ficus racemosa*L. Sp. Pl. 1060.1753; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 183. 1888; Linn, Sp. Pl. 2: 1060. 1753; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 430.1996; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 664. 2009; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 635.2002.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.0 – 2.5 × 2.0 - 2.6 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle, 0.3 – 0.8 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, yellow on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Tree with cauliflorous inflorescence.

**Habitat:** In evergreen, semi evergreen and deciduous forests. Common along the roadsides, plains etc.

**Distribution:** Indo Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar in elevations up to 1200m.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Almost through the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Idukki, Panamkutty, 400 m, 22-02-1983, N. Mohanan, 77323 (MH); Thiruvananthapuram, Athirumala, 1000 m, 15-05-1988, N. Mohanan, 9747 (TBGT)**;** Idukki, Chenthamara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 500 m, 16-03-1994, Jomy Augustine, 13450 (KFRI); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 27-11-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8721 (SHCH).

**26. *Ficus religiosa*** L.

*Ficus religiosa*L. Sp. Pl. 1059. 1753; King,Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 55, 62. 1888; Linn. Sp. Pl. 2: 1059. 1753; Thunb, Dissert. Ficus. 5.1786; Vahl, Enum. Pl. 2: 181. 1805; Hook, Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 512. 1888; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 665. 2009.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.4 × 1.0 – 0.4 – 0.8 cm across, globose, glabrous. Sessile. Green in young stage, pale red on maturity and red on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic Tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen, semi evergreen and deciduous forests. Planted along road sides, in plains, as shade tree, in temple premises.

**Distribution:**  throughout India, China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar. Found wild in Sub Himalayan forest, Bengal.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – April.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Kozhikode, Kallai, Sea level, 29-03-1977, C. R. Suresh, 22163 (CALI); Cannore, Tellicherry, 75 m, 15-07-1978, V. S. Ramachandran, 57656; Thiruvananthapuram, Pulimath,125 m,18-03-1980, M. Mohanan, 66679 (MH); Ernakulam, Thevara, 4 m, 13-2-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8722 (SHCH).

**27. *Ficus rigida* var. *bracteata*** (Corner) Bennet

*Ficus rigida* Jack, Malay. Misc. 2: 72. 1822, var. *bracteata* (Corner) Bennet, Indian J.Tanya, For. 5:326. 1982; Vajr., Fl. Palghat Dist. 449. 1990; Pandura. & V. J. Nair, Journ. Econ. Tax. Bot. 17: 176. 1993; Sasidh., Fl. Parambikulam WLS 313. 2002; Mohanan &Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 636. 2002; Ratheesh Narayanan, Fl. Stud. Wayanad Dist. 774. 2009.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.8 - 1.2 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle, 0.5 – 1.0 × 0.05 – 0.1 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, pale brown on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Epiphytic climber.

**Habitat:** Semi evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Endemic to Southern Western Ghats.

**Flowering and Fruiting:** March – May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Kollam, Kallar, Shenduruny WLS, 800 m, 14-01-1994, Sasidharan, 10789 (KFRI); Kozhikode, Udumbanpara, Vattachira, 20-07-1994, A. Nazarudean, 22708; Idukki, Adimaly, 20-02-1991, A. E. Shannavas Khan, 7536; Thiruvananthapuram, Attayar , 16-6-1992, N. Mohanan, 11099(TBGT).

**28. *Ficus superba*** Miq

*Ficus superba* Miq., Ann. Mus. Lugd.-Bat. 2: 200. 1866; Priyadarsan, Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. soc. 96: 492. 1999.

Inflorescence cauliflorous, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 1.0 - 1.2 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle, 0.5 – 1.0 × 0.05 – 0.1 cm long, terete, glabrous. Green in young stage, white on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Hemi-epiphytic shrub with cauliflorous inflorescence.

**Habitat:** Semi evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** South East Asia to Australia, Japan and China.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** January – May.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palaghat, Shornur, 1991, Priyadarsanan, DRP 6.ii.1991; Wayanad, Vaithiri, 1993, Priyadarsanan, DRP 7.v.1993 (HZDC); Sarawak, Eja, 61670, K000639847 (KEW).

**29. *Ficus talbotii*** King

*Ficus talbotii* King. Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 51. 1888; Hook, Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 512. 1888; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras. 1363. 1928; Anilkumar*et al*., Fl. Pathanamthitta. 465. 2005;Sivar., Bio. Docu. Kerala part 6: 441. 2004.

Inflorescence axillary, solitary. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.7 -1.0 × 0.5 – 0.7 cm across, globose, glabrous with scars. Sessile. Pale green in young stage, green on maturity and dark green on ripening. Lenticels present.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** In evergreen, semi evergreen and deciduous forests.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar.

**Flowering and fruiting:** November – January.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,**Cannore, Thirunelli Range Forest, 825 m, 09-08-1979, V. S. Ramachandran , 62772; Idukki, Moolamattom, 125 m, 18-02-1982, C. N. Mohanan, 73358; Kasargod, Parappa, 300 m, 08-05-1982, V. J. Nair, 71089 (MH);Kottayam,Vaikom, 6 m, 12-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair, 8723 (SHCH).

**30. *Ficus tinctoria*** G. Frost.**ssp. *gibbosa*** (Blume) Corner **var. *cuspiderifera***(Miq.)

*Ficus tinctoria* G. Frost.ssp. *gibbosa* (Blume) Corner var*.cuspiderifera*(Miq.) Chithrain Henry *et al*., Fl. Tamil Nadu 2: 255. 1987; Sivar., Bio. Docu. Kerala part 6: 441. 2004.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 0.5 - 0.7 cm across, globose, hairy. Peduncle, 0.4 – 0.6 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, puberulent. Pale green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Seen in evergreen and semi evergreen forest. Commonly seen along road sides, along the walls etc., distributed above 25 m – 1200 m above sea level.

**Distribution:** Throughout India. Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar.

**Flowering and fruiting:** January - March.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Idukki, Thekkady, 850 m, 28-09-1972, B. D. Sharma, 42087; Idukki; Anjurili 875m, 05-10-1972, B. D. Sharma, 73265;Idukki, Kumily, 825 m, 24-12-1974, K. Vivekananthan, 45680; Palakkad, Ayyappan Kovil, 950 m, 04-03-1975, E. Vajravelu, 46177; Idukki, Kulamavu, 700 m, 15-12-1982, C. N. Mohanan, 76035; Idukki, Meenmutty, 600 m, 15-02-1982, C. N. Mohanan, 73265 (MH); Thrissur, Sholayar, 725 m, 17-04-1989, Sasidharan, 5414; Idukki, Mlappara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1000 m, 24-10-1993, Jomy Augustine, 12612 (KFRI); Alappuzha, Aroor, Sea level, 07-05-1993, C. N. Sunil, 1586; Idukki, Kurishumala, Peryar Tiger Reserve, 1000 m, 07-05-1993, Jomy Augustine, 12544; Wayanad, Vythiri, 650 m, 05-02-2001, Rathesh Narayanan, 1416 (CALI); Idukki, Vagamon, 1200 m, 24-1-2018, Sreehari S Nair & Ebin P J, 8724 (SHCH).

**31. *Ficus tinctoria*** G. Frost.**ssp. *parasitica*** (Koen. Ex Wild.)

*Ficus tinctoria* G. Frost.ssp. *parasitica*(Koen. Ex Wild.) Corner, Gard. Bulll. Singapore 17: 476. 1960; Manilal&Sivar., Fl. Calicut 276. 1982; Sasidh. &Sivar., Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 430. 1996; Mohanan &Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 636. 2002; Anil Kumar *et al*., Fl. Pathanamthitta 466. 2005; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 666. 2009;Sivar., Bio. Docu. Kerala part 6: 441. 2004.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts absent. Syconium 0.8 – 1.2 CM across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle, 0.5 – 1.0 × 0.1 – 0.3 cm long, terete, hairy. Pale green in young stage, pale yellow on maturity and yellow on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic tree.

**Habitat:** Moist deciduous forests and semi evergreen forests. Also found in the plains.

**Distribution:** Throughout India. Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar.

**Fruiting and flowering:** June – December.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Cannore, Kuthuparambu, 100, 20-02-1978, V. S. Ramachandran, 54094; Cannore, Kalliasseri, 125 m, 22-06-1980, R. Ansari, 64944; Idukki, Pulianmala, 25-12-1983, A. G. Pandurangan, 66481;Palakkad, Vattaparai forest, 650 m, 28-05-1979, E. Vajravelu , 62857; Palakkad, Karivara, 550 m, 25-01-1980, P. Bhargavan, 65694 (MH); Thrissur, Peechi, 80 m, 28-10-1986, Sasidharan, 3874; Thiruvananthapuram, Athirumala, 1000 m, 15-05-1988, N. Mohanan, 9747; Thiruvananthapuram, Chemungi, 800 m, 25-01-1994, N. Mohanan, 11659; Idukki, Olikudy, Chinnar Wild life Sanctuary, 1050 m, 11-05-1995, K. K. Sajeev, 15669; (TBGT); Ernakulam, Cherai, Sea level, 21-08-1977, C.R. Suresh & K. S. Manilal, 32824 (CALI); Kottayam, Vaikom, 6 m, 25-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8725 (SHCH).

**Note:** At present both the species, *Ficus tinctoria* G. Frost.ssp. *gibbosa* (Blume) Corner var*. cuspiderifera*(Miq.) and *Ficus tinctoria* G. Frost.ssp. *parasitica* are merged. *Ficus tinctoria* G. Forst. subsp. *gibbosa*(Blume) is the current accepted name. According to Chaudhary et al., (2012), being a variable taxon, the Indian materials must be rechecked to understand the correct identity of the species. The current study with live specimens and observing multiple specimens from herbarium collections, both the species seems to be separate. The species differ in its vegetative and floral characters. The syconium features itself showed variations among the species. Detailed study with precise taxonomic characters and molecular data could clearly establish the identity as separate species. Hence, in the current study, they are considered as separate species.

**32. *Ficus tsjahela*** Burm.

*Ficus tsjahela*Burm. f. Fl. Indica. 227. 1768; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 57, 60, 62. t. 70. 1888; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 514. 1888; Sunil & Sivadasan, Fl. Alappuzha Dist. 666. 2009; Fl. Pl. Thrissur For. 430. 1996; Mohanan & Sivadasan, Fl. Agasthyamala. 637.2002.

Inflorescence axillary, clustered. Outer bracts present. Syconium 0.5 – 0.6 cm across, globose, glabrous. Sessile. Pale green in young stage, green on maturity and pale brown on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic Tree.

**Habitat:** Found in evergreen, deciduous and moist deciduous forests. Also found in plains, along the road sides etc.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

**Flowering and fruiting:** Almost throughout the year.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Palakkad, Attapadi, 525 m, 31-05-1966, E. Vajravelu, 27744; Palakkad, Panthenthode, Silent Valley Range Forest, 850m, 16-04-1978, N. C. Nair, 56849 (MH)**;** Idukki, Mlappara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1100 m, 20-10-1993, Jomy Augustine & N Sasidharan, 12574, (KFRI); Idukki, Mlappara, Periyar Tiger Reserve, 1100 m, 25-10-1993, Jomy Augustine, 12574 (CALI); Ernakulam, Thevara, 4 m, 24-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8726 (SHCH).

**33. *Ficus virens*** Aiton

*Ficus virens* Aiton, Hort. Kew. 3: 451. 1789; Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 376. 1960; 21: 9. 1965 & in Dass. &Forsb., Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 3: 238, f. 7. 1981; Berg & Corner in Nooteboom, Fl. Malesiana 17(2): 614. 2005.

Inflorescence axillary, paired. Outer bracts present. Syconium 2.0 – 2.5 cm across, globose, glabrous. Peduncle, 0.1 – 0.3 × 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, terete, glabrous. Pale green in young stage, green on maturity and purple on ripening. Lenticels absent.

**Habit:** Epiphytic Tree.

**Habitat:** Evergreen forests.

**Distribution:** Peninsular India. Indo Malaysia.

**Flowering and fruiting:** December – April.

**Specimens examined**: **India**, **Kerala,** Kollam, Vilakkumaram, Shenduruny WLS, 09-12-1993, Sasidharan, 10687; Idukki, 1101 m, 16-05-1994, N. Sasidharan & Jomy Augustine, 13740 (KFRI); Thiruvananthapuram, Peringammala, 19-06-1984, N. Mohanan, 174 (TBGT); Wayanad, Vythiri, 900 m, 15-05-2000, Rathesh Narayanan, 2547 (CALI); Palakkad, Nelliampathy, 21-12-2017, Sreehari S Nair, 8727 (SHCH).