

# *Ficus virens* Aiton var. *virens*

**Family:**  
**Moraceae**

Corner, E.J.H. (1960) *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 17: 377.

**Common name:**

Mountain Fig; Banyan; Fig, Green; Fig, Mountain; Fig, Strangler; Figwood; Green Fig; Strangler Fig; White Fig; Fig, White

**Stem**

A strangling fig or banyan fig. Deciduous; leafless for about a week in September, October or November. Lenticels often in horizontal lines. Bark exudate rapid and copious.

**Leaves**

Stipules about 0.5-1.5 cm long. Petiole with two ridges and three grooves on the upper surface. Leaf blades about 8-19 x 3.5-9 cm. Small oil dots visible with a lens, more conspicuous on the upper than on the lower surface of the leaf blade. Petiole producing a fairly clear watery to slightly watery-milky exudate.

**Flowers**

Male flowers produced around the ostiole. In the female flower, the stigma linear, lateral and tuberculate. Bracts at the base of the fig, three, persistent. Lateral bracts not present on the outside of the fig body.

**Fruit**

Figs sessile or pedunculate, peduncles up to 6 mm long, figs +/- globular, depressed globular or pyriform, about 8-13 x 7-12 mm. Orifice closed by interlocking apical and internal bracts.

**Seedlings**

Cotyledons orbicular to ovate, about 2-3 mm long, very small oil dots visible with a lens. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade ovate to lanceolate, apex acute, base cordate, glabrous; oil dots not visible or oil dots very small, visible with a lens; petiole glabrous; stipules sheathing the terminal bud, elongate-triangular, about 5-10 mm long, falling early. Taproot slightly swollen. Seed germination time 18 to 83 days.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range from sea level to 1150 m. Grows in well developed rain forest, drier, more seasonal rain forest, beach forest and monsoon forest. Also occurs in Asia, Malesia and the SW Pacific islands.

**Natural History & Notes**

A common and widespread species. Produces large spreading branches with numerous aerial roots. Suitable only for large parks and gardens where they make distinctive specimens.

Leaf material of this species was active against some tumors. Collins et al. (1990).

**Synonyms**

***Ficus virens* Aiton**, *Hortus Kewensis* 3: 451(1789), Type: Nat. of the West Indies. Introd. about 1762, by Mr. James Gordon. Cultivated at K. Holo: BM. ***Ficus glabella* var. *nesophila* (Miq.) K.Schum.**, *Die Flora der Deutschen Schutzgebiete in der Sudsee* : 273(1900). ***Ficus lacor* Buch.-Ham.**, *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Botany* 15: 150(1827), Type: Habitat ad Indiae Gangeticae pagos varius. ***Ficus infectoria* var. *typica* Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 563(1928). ***Ficus infectoria* var. *psychotriifolium* (Miq.) Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 562(1921). ***Ficus infectoria* var. *fraseri* (Miq.) Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 562(1921). ***Ficus infectoria* var. *cunninghamii* (Miq.) Domin**, *Bibliotheca Botanica* 89(4): 562(1928). ***Ficus virens* var. *sublanceolata* (Miq.) Corner**, *The Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 17: 377(1960). ***Ficus caulobotrya* var. *fraseri* (Miq.) Miq.**, *Annales Musei Botanici Lugduno-Batavi* 3: 287(1867). ***Ficus saxophila* var. *sublanceolata* Miq.**, *Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum* 3: 260(1867), Type: Sumatra, De Vriese. ***Ficus cunninghamii* (Miq.) Miq.**, *Annales Musei Botanici Lugduno-Batavi* 3: 286(1867). ***Urostigma psychotriifolium* Miq.**, *Hooker's London Journal of Botany* 6 6: 561(1847), Type: Ad Brisbane River, Novae Hollandiae Fraser, 1829 n. 73 in Herb. Hook. ***Ficus nesophila* (Miq.) Miq.**, *Annales Musei Botanici Lugduno-Batavi* : 268(1867). ***Urostigma nesophilum* Miq.**,



Figs, various views and cross section. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

*Journal de Botanique Neerlandaise* 1: 237(1861), Type: in insulis Quail ad oram Novae Hollandiae: Flood. Holo: K (?). **Ficus psychotriifolia (Miq.) Miq.**, *Annales Musei Botanici Lugduno-Batavi* 3: 286(1867). **Urostigma cunninghamii Miq.**, *Hooker's London Journal of Botany* 6: 560(1847), Type: Brisbane R., in densis sylvis, All. Cunningham. Holo: K. **Ficus infectoria Willd.**, *Species Plantarum ed. 4*: 1137(1806), Type: Habitat in India orientali. **Urostigma fraseri Miq.**, *Hooker's London Journal of Botany* 6: 561(1847), Type: Ad Bremer River, Novae Hollandiae, Fraser 1829 n. 704 in Hb. Hook.

RFK Code

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Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



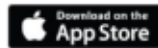
Female flowers or gall flowers. © CSIRO



Female flowers. © CSIRO



Group of male flowers, side view  
Anthers two-celled. © CSIRO



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