

Timonius singularis (F.Muell.) L.S.Sm.

Family:

Rubiaceae

Smith, L.S. (1957) *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 68: 50.

Common name:

Fig, False; False Fig

Stem

Usually an epiphyte but occasionally found as a lithophyte, resembling a fig (*Ficus* spp.). Hard, brittle, longitudinal stripes usually visible in the inner blaze.

Leaves

Stipules glabrous, about 20-55 mm long, gradually tapering to a fine point at the apex. Leaf blades about 5.5-12 x 1.7-4.7 cm. Reticulate veins fine and parallel to the primary veins, visible only on dry leaves. Domatia, if present, are elongated slit-like foveoles along side the midrib.

Flowers

Inflorescence much shorter than the leaves. Corolla glabrous on the outer surface, tube about 6-12 mm long, lobes about 6-7 mm long with conspicuous, longitudinal, crenate, glandular ridges, margins wavy or crenate. Anthers sessile, about 5-7 mm long. Ovary about 3 mm long. Style about 5 mm long.

Fruit

Fruits depressed globular, about 10 x 15 mm. Seeds about 4 x 1-1.3 mm. Embryo about 3-4 mm long. Cotyledons about as wide as the radicle.

Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate, about 4-5 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade obovate or elliptic, apex acuminate, base attenuate, glabrous, secondary venation +/- parallel to primary veins; stipules interpetiolar, sheathing, oblong-triangular with a few hairs on the outer surface. Seed germination time 8 to 31 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in CYP and NEQ. Altitudinal range from 400-1200 m. Grows in well developed upland and mountain rain forest. Also occurs in New Guinea.

Natural History & Notes

Fruit eaten by several species of birds. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

Synonyms

***Abbottia singularis* F.Muell.**, *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae* 9: 181(1875), Type: In regione montana circum Rockingham Bay; Dallachy.

RFK Code

843



Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit, several views, cross section and seeds. © W. T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO

