

Milusa horsfieldii (Benn.) Baill. ex Pierre

Family:

Annonaceae

Pierre, J.B.L. (1881) *Flore Forestiere de la Cochinchine* : 38.

Common name:

Beech; Milusa

Stem

Living bark very fibrous and tough. Blaze layering fine and inconspicuous. Brownish stripes usually visible in the blaze.

Leaves

Leaf blades about 4-14 x 2.5-4 cm. Petioles short. Lateral veins curving but not forming definite loops. Oil dots visible with a lens. Buds and very young shoots densely clothed in pale brown hairs. Oak grain in the twigs and expanded rays in the bark. Twig bark strong and fibrous when stripped.

Flowers

Sepals and outer petals similar, +/- linear-subulate, reflexed and persistent at anthesis. Inner petals mostly 30-38 mm long. Pedicels at flowering usually less than 15 mm long. Stamens about 48. Ovaries about 23.

Fruit

Fruiting carpels ellipsoid or subglobular, about 20-35 x 17-20 mm, stalks about 10-20 mm long. Seeds usually 2-5 per fruiting carpel, testa smooth. Embryo minute.

Seedlings

Cotyledons broadly ovate, about 30 x 20 mm, hairy on the upper surface along midrib. At the tenth leaf stage: leaves ovate-oblong or ovate-lanceolate, apex acute to acuminate, mucronate, base cordate, hairy on the upper surface along midrib; petiole and young terminal bud densely clothed in pale brown hairs.

Distribution and Ecology

Widespread in CYP and NEQ as far south as Cairns. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 200 m. Grows in lowland rain forest. Also occurs in Malasia.

Natural History & Notes

Food plant for the larval stages of the Fourbar Swordtail, Green Spotted Triangle and the Pale Green Triangle Butterflies. Sankowsky & Neilsen (2000).

Synonyms

Saccopetalum horsfieldii Bennett, *Pl. jav. rar.* : 165(1840), Type: Province of Banyumas, Java, 1814, T. Horsfield; holo: BM. Fide Jessup (1988).

RFK Code

598



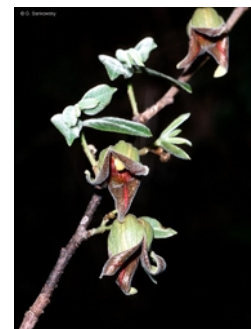
Flowers [not vouchered]. © G.

Sankowsky



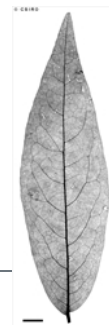
Flowers [not vouchered]. © G.

Sankowsky



Flowers [not vouchered]. © G.

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Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO

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