

A New Treatment in *Sciaphila* (Triuridaceae) in Taiwan and Japan

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(Manuscript received 20 October, 2000; accepted 17 November, 2000)

ABSTRACT: *Sciaphila tosaensis* Makino, endemic to Japan, and *S. megastyla* Fukuy. & T. Suzuki, endemic to Lanyu Island in Taiwan, are regarded to be identical with *S. secundiflora* Thwaites ex Benth., which is widely distributed in the Pacific islands, Malesia, Hongkong and Sri Lanka.

KEY WORDS: Japan, *Sciaphila*, *Sciaphila secundiflora*, Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION

In preparing a manuscript of Triuridaceae for the Flora of Taiwan second edition which will be published at the end of 2000, a poorly known species of *Sciaphila*, *S. megastyla* Fukuy. & T. Suzuki, was studied. This species was described by Fukuyama and Suzuki (1936) based on several plants collected by Suzuki in a tropical rain forest in a mountain, west of Mt. Omori-yama, in southern Lanyu Island (Botel Tobago) in 1935. There are no specimens of the species in Taiwan and Japan, although it was recorded as its holotype is kept in TAI. However, the original publication with description, illustration and notes were well prepared. Based on the publication, I could compare *S. megastyla* with related species. In this paper I intended to clarify the taxonomic position of *S. megastyla* and its relation with other species for the Flora of Taiwan second edition.

Sciaphila megastyla Fukuy. and T. Suzuki was distinguished from *S. tosaensis* Makino in having the exerted club-shaped style as indicated by its specific epithet. They recognized, based on its original description by Makino (1905), *S. tosaensis* as having its style slightly exceeding the ovary (Fukuyama and Suzuki, 1936). This character seems, however, to be not stable in *S. tosaensis*, because Nakai and Maekawa (1936) clearly showed that the style of *S. tosaensis* (as *Parexuris tosaensis*) is exerted from the ovary. They described that the style is laterally and adaxially inserted at below the half of the ovary and that the style exceeds the ovary; and the fruits become larger and the ovary exceed the style. Also, according to Meerendonk (1984), in genus *Sciaphila* fruits are 3-8 times as large as the ovaries with persistent, partly shriveled style. It is clear that the diagnostic character of *S. megastyla* is not useful. *Sciaphila megastyla* very closely resembles *S. tosaensis* in other characters as stated by Fukuyama and Suzuki (1936). Although new material is much needed to be discovered in Lanyu Island, *S. megastyla* Fukuy. & T. Suzuki is indistinguishable from *S. tosaensis* Makino.

Makino (1905) noted in the original publication that *Sciaphila tosaensis* Makino is close to *S. secundiflora* Thwaites, although distinction between the two was not mentioned. *Sciaphila secundiflora* was found by Thwaites in Ceylon and was described simply by