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Phylogeny, biogeography, and ecology of Ficus section Malvanthera (Moraceae)

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ABSTRACT

We conducted the first molecular phylogenetic study of Ficus section Malvanthera (Moraceae; subgenus Urostigma) based on 32 Malvanthera accessions and seven outgroups representing other sections of Ficus subgenus Urostigma. We used DNA sequences from the nuclear ribosomal internal and external transcribed spacers (ITS and ETS), and the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (G3pdh) region. Phylogenetic analysis using maximum parsimony, maximum likelihood and Bayesian methods recovered a monophyletic section Malvanthera to the exclusion of the rubber fig, Ficus elastica. The results of the phylogenetic analyses do not conform to any previously proposed taxonomic subdivision of the section and characters used for previous classification are homoplasious. Geographic distribution, however, is highly conserved and Melanesian Malvanthera are monophyletic. A new subdivision of section Malvanthera reflecting phylogenetic relationships is presented. Section Malvanthera likely diversified during a period of isolation in Australia and subsequently colonized New Guinea. Two Australian series are consistent with a pattern of dispersal out of rainforest habitat into drier habitats accompanied by a reduction in plant height during the transition from hemi-epiphytic trees to lithophytic trees and shrubs. In contradiction with a previous study of Pleistodontes phylogeny suggesting multiple changes in pollination behaviour, reconstruction of changes in pollination behaviour on Malvanthera, suggests only one or a few gains of active pollination within the section.

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1. Introduction

Figs (Ficus, Moraceae) constitute one of the largest genera of angiosperms, with almost 750 species of terrestrial trees, shrubs, hemi-epiphytes, climbers and creepers occurring in the tropics and subtropics worldwide (Berg and Corner, 2005). All species of figs share the distinctive fig inflorescence (syconium), which is the site of an obligate mutualism with pollinating fig wasps of the family Agaonidae (Cook and Rasplus, 2003). Figs are important genetic resources with high economic and nutritional value. They also play an important role in generating biodiversity in the rainforest ecosystem by setting fruits throughout the year and providing an important source of food for most fruit-eating vertebrates in the tropics (Harrison, 2005). Most insects pollinate passively, but fig wasps are one of a few cases, where active pollination behaviour has evolved (Cook and Rasplus, 2003). While most genera of pollinating wasps are active pollinators, five out of 20 genera contain both passive and active pollinators (Kjellberg et al., 2001).

Recent classification divided the genus into six subgenera based primarily on morphology (Berg, 2003). The monoecious subgenus Urostigma, to which section Malvanthera belongs, is the largest with about 280 species worldwide, most of them displaying the characteristic hemi-epiphytic habit (banyans and stranglers). Ficus section Malvanthera Corner (subg. Urostigma) includes 23 species of hemi-epiphytes and lithophytes producing aerial, adventitious, or creeping root systems. The section has its primary centre of diversity in Australia and a second centre in New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago. A few species extend eastwards into Oceania (e.g. Lord Howe Island, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). Section Malvanthera includes species with two very distinct ecologies: hemi-epiphytic stranglers and free-standing trees in the rainforests of Eastern Australia and New Guinea, and lithophytic shrubs and trees occurring in more arid parts of Australia (Dixon, 2003).

The section was established by Corner (1959) who recognized 19 species characterized by features including: a slit-shaped or triradiate ostiole with all bracts descending; syconia with two or three basal bracts; reniform unilocular anthers with crescentic or transverse dehiscence; ovaries attached at the base to the receptacle or imbedded in the receptacle; a red spot at the base or the apex

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of the ovary; and a stigma that is either simple or bifid. Corner (1959) and again Berg and Corner (2005) noted the similarity between subg. Urostigma sections Malvanthera and Galoglychia in the inflexed apical bracts of the ostiole and internal bracts. Berg and Corner (2005) also noted that similarities in venation suggest a relationship between Malvanthera and the F. benjamina group of section Urostigma subsection Conosycea. Molecular phylogenetic studies have shown sections Conosycea and Malvanthera to be sister taxa (Rønsted et al., 2005).

Corner (1965) subdivided section Malvanthera into two series. Malvanthereae is distinguished by reniform anthers dehiscing longitudinally and crescentically. The series includes 18 species in four loosely defined subseries, Eubracteatae, Hesperidiiformes, Malvanthereae, and Platypodeae based on characters of the basal bracts and whether the ovaries are partly embedded in the receptacle or not. The monotypic series Cyclanthereae includes F. sterrocarpa from New Guinea, which has depressed-subglobose anthers (Table 1).

Chew (1989) followed Corner (1965) in treating Australian Ficus, whereas Australian Malvanthera were subsequently revised by Dixon (2001a-d, 2003), who proposed a new subdivison of the section into ser. Malvanthereae including species with imbricate basal bracts, and ser. Hesperidiiformes with valvate basal bracts (Table 1).

In treating Ficus of the Malesian region, Berg and Corner (2005) united the monotypic section Stilpnophyllum (F. elastica, the rubber fig) and section Malvanthera as subsections of an expanded section Stilpnophyllum based on similarities between F. elastica and the Malvanthera species in the venation of the lamina, the length of the stipules and cucullate (hood-shaped) caducous basal bracts. However, F. elastica is distinct from the Malvanthera species in the shape of the ostiole and in having anthers with separate theca and connate stipules. The Indo-Chinese origin of F. elastica, which is widely cultivated, also has little geographical affinity to the Australian and Melanesian Malvanthera. A global molecular phylogenetic study (Rønsted et al., 2005) including F. elastica, 12 species of Conosycea figs and 11 species of Malvanthera figs strongly suggested that F. elastica is a member of section Conosycea with a derivative morphology.

Within subsection Malvanthera, Berg and Corner (2005) recognised 18 species in three informal groups, based on characters of the basal bracts and ostiole shape. Berg and Corner (2005) united most of Corners species from New Guinea (F. augusta, F. hesperidiiformis, F. heteromeka, F. mafuluensis, F. sterrocarpa and F. xylosycia)

Table 1

Historical classification of Ficus section Malvanthera

Rønsted et al. (present study, Fig. 1)	Corner (1965)	Dixon (2003)	Berg (2005) ^h	
Subsect. Malvantherae				
F. macrophylla	Subser. Malvanthereae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. pleurocarpa	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
Subsect. Hesperidiiformes				
Ser. Hesperidiiformes				
F. hesperidiiformis ^a	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	Subsect. Malvanthera A	
F. sterrocarpa	Ser. Cyclanthereae	Ser. Hesperidiiformis	F. hesperidiiformes ^a	
Ser. Glandiferae ^b				
F. baola ^c	F. obliqua ^c	F. obliqua ^c	Subsect. Malvanthera B	
F. glandifera	Subser. Malvanthereae	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	Subsect. Malvanthera B	
F. rhizophoriphylla	Subser. Malvanthereae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera B	
Ser. Xylosyciae				
F. augusta	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	F. hesperidiiformes ^a	
F. heteromeka	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	F. hesperidiiformes ^a	
F. mafuluensis	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidüformes	F. hesperidiformes ^a	
F. xylosycia	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiformes	F. hesperidiiformis ^a	
Subsect. Platypodeae				
Ser. Eubracteatae				
F. triradiata	Subser. Eubracteatae	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	Subsect. Malvanthera A	
Ser. Obliquae				
F. cerasicarpa ^d	F. leuchotricha ^d	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. lilliputiana ^e	F. brachypoda ^e	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. obliqua	Subser. Platypodeae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. platypoda ^d	Subser. Platypodeae ^d	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera A	
F. subpuberula	Subser. Platypodeae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
Ser. Crassipeae				
F. crassipes	Subser. Hesperidiiformes	Ser. Hesperidiiformes	Subsect. Malvanthera A	
F. destruens	Subser. Platypodeae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera B	
Ser. Rubiginosae				
F. atricha ^t	F. platypoda ^t	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. brachypoda ^t	F. platypoda ^t	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. rubiginosa ^g	Subser. Platypodeae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
F. watkinsiana	Subser. Malvanthereae	Ser. Malvanthereae	Subsect. Malvanthera C	
^a E hesperidiiformis includes E augusta E het	eromeka E mafuluensis E sterrocarna and E vi	vlosvcia in Bergs (2005) classification		

^b Series Glandiferae possibly includes F. baola and F. rhizophoriphylla based on morphological affinities such as a slit-shaped ostiole (Berg, 2002).

^c F. baola C.C. Berg was raised from F. obliqua (Berg 2002).

F. cerasicarpa has affinities to F. platypoda (Dixon 2001a). F. cerasicarpa and F. platypoda were included in F. leuchotricha in Corner's classification.

^e F. lilliputiana is a new species with affinities to F. brachypoda (Dixon 2001b).

^f F. atricha and F. brachypoda were included in F. platypoda in Corner's classification.

^g F. baileyana was included in F. rubiginosa by Dixon (2001d).

^h F. elastica constituted a monotypic section Stilpnophyllum in Corner's classification.

under a broadly circumscribed *F. hesperidiiformis* evidently based on the apparent presence of intermediate forms. At the same time, Berg accepted the narrow species concept of Dixon (2003) for the Australian taxa.

The purpose of our study is to (1) infer phylogenetic relationships in section *Malvanthera* using three molecular markers: the internal and external transcribed spacers (ITS and ETS) of nuclear ribosomal DNA, and the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*G3pdh*) gene, (2) reconstruct the evolution of morphological characters used to subdivide the section in previous treatments, (3) trace the biogeographic history of the section, (4) identify evolutionary changes in habitat use, and (5) retrace the evolution of active pollination.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Taxon sampling

Taxon sampling was aimed at testing hypotheses of phylogenetic relationship among recognized species. Phylogeographic analyses of particular complexes are needed to clarify species limits in *Malvanthera* (Haine et al. 2006), as are population genetic analyses to identify the role that hybridization may have played, if any, in the diversification of *Malvanthera* (Machado et al. 2005). We inferred phylogenetic relationships in section *Malvanthera* using three molecular markers: the internal and external transcribed spacers (ITS and ETS) of nuclear ribosomal DNA, and the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*G3pdh*) gene. We did not include chloroplast DNA markers in the study based on the absence of phylogenetically informative variation in four regions (*rps16* intron, *trnL* intron, *trnL-F* spacer, and *psB–psbF* spacer) within *Ficus* according to Rønsted et al. (2007).

Contrary to Berg and Corner (2005), we follow the circumscription of *Malvanthera* sensu Corner (1965) treating *F. elastica* as an outgroup according to its historical taxonomic and molecular phylogenetic position (Rønsted et al., 2005).

Total genomic DNA was extracted from 29 Ficus specimens. In addition 19 ITS sequences, 16 ETS sequences, and 11 G3pdh sequences were retrieved from GenBank/EBI (following papers by Weiblen, 2000; Jousselin et al., 2003; Rønsted et al., 2005; Rønsted et al., 2008), resulting in a total of 34 Malvanthera and seven outgroups representing the other sections of subgenus Urostigma. Specimen determinations, vouchers, localities and GenBank/EBI Accession Nos. (EF545651-EF545669, ETS: EF538767-EF538785, and G3pdh: EF538786–EF538801) are listed in Table 2. Species concepts are primarily according to Dixon (2001a-d, 2003), for the Australian taxa and Corner (1959) for the remainder of the section. We included multiple individuals of some species to evaluate species limits and the extent of infraspecific variation. We included samples representing 19 of the 23 species of Ficus section Malvanthera. Material of F. cerasicarpa D.J. Dixon from Northern Australia, F. rhizophoriphylla King and F. mafuluensis Summerh. from New Guinea, and F. baola C.C. Berg from the Solomon Islands, was not available for this study.

2.2. DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing

DNA extractions were performed in two ways. Some specimens were extracted using the Qiagen DNeasy plant extraction kit (Valencia, CA, USA) from 15–20 mg of dried leaf-fragments or herbarium material. Other specimens were extracted using 0.2-0.3 g silica dried leaves and a modified version of the $2 \times$ CTAB method of Doyle and Doyle (1987). Before precipitation, an aliquot was purified using the Qiagen PCR purification kit (Qiagen, Inc., Santa Clarita, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's protocols. The

remainder of the DNA was purified using a caesium chloride/ethidium bromide gradient (1.55 g ml⁻¹ density) followed by a dialysis and was deposited in the DNA Bank at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (www.rbgkew.org.uk).

The internal and external transcribed spacers, ITS and ETS (Baldwin et al., 1995; Baldwin and Markos, 1998), were amplified using primers 17SE and 26SE (Sun et al., 1994) or ITS4 and ITS5 (White et al., 1990) and Hel1 and 18S ETS (Baldwin and Markos, 1998), respectively. The glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydroge-nase (*G3pdh*) region (Strand et al., 1997) was amplified using primers 7F and 9R (Strand et al., 1997).

All three regions were amplified and sequenced following protocols by Rønsted et al. (2008). Both strands were sequenced for each region for the majority of taxa. For some samples, internal primers (GCT <u>A</u>CG TTC TTC ATC GAT G<u>C</u>) and (GCA TCG ATG AAG AAC G<u>T</u>A GC) modified from ITS2 and ITS3, respectively (White et al., 1990) were used for sequencing of the ITS region, and internal primers 286F (TGT ATT CTG GTT GGG TTT C, Rønsted et al., 2008) and 437R (TTC TGA AGC CTG ACA GTG AGG, Rønsted et al., 2008) for sequencing of the *G3pdh* region in addition to the primers used for amplification. Internal primers were used to ensure overlap between sequenced fragments, where chromatograms could not be unambiguously interpreted throughout the whole region.

2.3. Phylogeny reconstruction

Sequences were edited and assembled using Sequencer 4.1.2TM software (Gene Codes Corp., Ann Arbor, MI, USA), and all sequences were aligned by eye in PAUP v. 4.0b10 for Macintosh (Swofford, 2002). Phylogenetic analyses were conducted using PAUP v. 4.0b10 (Swofford, 2002). All changes were assessed as unordered and equally weighed (Fitch parsimony; Fitch, 1971).

We analysed the three gene regions separately to identify phylogenetic conflicts among the regions prior to performing a combined analysis. For the separate analyses, we show only the bootstrap tree (Fig. 1A–C) to establish that there were no cases of strong conflict, namely clades that are highly supported by bootstrap analysis in a single-loci analysis (e.g. *G3pdh*) that are incongruent with highly supported clades in another single-locus analysis (e.g. ITS). All data were therefore combined into one analysis, and we consider the combined analysis to provide the best estimate of phylogeny (Fig. 2).

We attempted to avoid potential problems with non-overlapping datasets in the combined analysis by including only samples for which at least ITS was sequenced. Taxon sampling was maximised in two cases by combining different accessions of the same species. We treated as a single taxon two accessions of *F. xylosycia*, which were both from the same site in the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea, and likewise, two accessions of *F. brachypoda*, from the same region of the Australian Northern Territory. In the case of *F. subpuberula*, however, only an ETS sequence was available.

Parsimony analysis of the combined matrix was not exhaustive due to large numbers of equally parsimonious trees at each step in the search. Most parsimonious trees (MP) were obtained using: (i) 1000 replicates of random taxon addition sequence and TBR branch swapping with only 25 trees held at each step to save time by avoiding swapping on suboptimal islands; (ii) the trees collectively found in these 1000 replicates were then used as starting trees for a second search using TBR branch swapping until up to a maximum of 15,000 trees were found. Relative levels of homoplasy in all the datasets were assessed using the consistency index (CI) and the retention index (RI). In all cases RI was at least 0.78, which suggests that multiple islands of equally parsimonious trees are unlikely (Maddison, 1991).

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Table 2

Voucher information and Genbank accession numbers of Ficus material included in this study

E. drichd D, J. Dixon E. drichd D, J. Dixon E. argustal Corner E. machyoda (Mq) Miq. E. machyda (Mq) Miq. Madhyda (Mq	Таха	Voucher	Origin	ITS	ETS	G3PDH
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E. brachypoda Dixon/Kerrigan 1101 NT. Australia, 2004	F. brachypoda (Mia) Mia.	Collector: John Zammit	Kulgera, NT. Australia, 1997	EF545652	EF538768	_
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F. lutea VahlJousselin 2003Jousselin 2003Rønsted 2008F. sundaica BlumeRønsted 2005Rønsted 2005Rønsted 2008	F. ingens (Miq.) Miq.			Rønsted 2005	Rønsted 2005	Rønsted 2008
F. sundaica Blume Rønsted 2005 Rønsted 2005 Rønsted 2008	F. lutea Vahl			Jousselin 2003	Jousselin 2003	Rønsted 2008
	F. sundaica Blume			Rønsted 2005	Rønsted 2005	Rønsted 2008

Notes: Abbreviations: Cult, cultivated; Liv. col, Living collections; NT, Northern Territory; NZ, New Zealand; PNG, Papua New Guinea; QLD, Queensland; WT, Western Australia. Herbarium codes: (BG), University of Bergen, Norway; (C), University of Copenhagen, Denmark; (DNA), Department of Natural Resources, Environment, and the Arts, Northern Territory, Australia; (K), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK; (MIN), University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, USA; (NOU), Institut de la Recherche pour le Developpement, Nouméa, New Caledonia. References: Jousselin 2003, Jousselin et al. (2003); Rønsted 2005, Rønsted et al. (2005); Rønsted et al. (2008).

The combined dataset was also analysed under maximum likelihood (ML). We first selected a best fitting model of molecular evolution using Modeltest (Posada and Crandall, 1998). Model parameters thus obtained were then used in 25 heuristic search replicates under the ML criterion.

Clade support was assessed using non-parametric bootstrap re-sampling and Bayesian analysis of the combined dataset. Bootstrap analyses (Felsenstein, 1985) of the three individual datasets and the combined dataset were carried out using 1000 replicates each consisting of 100 simple addition sequence replicates, with TBR swapping, and a limit of 10 trees retained for each replicate. We defined scores between 50 and 74 bootstrap percentages (BS) as weak support, scores between 75% and 89% BS as moderate support, and scores of greater than 90% BS as strong support. We consider percentages <50 % to be unsupported because such clades are not present in the majority of trees for the re-sampled datasets.

Bayesian analysis of the combined dataset was performed with MrBayes 3.1.2 (Ronquist and Hulsenbeck, 2003). We used an

HKY85 model of evolution (lset NST = 2 RATES = equal). The analysis was performed with 2,000,000 generations on four Monte Carlo Markov chains with equal rates and trees sampled every 100 generations (mcmc NGEN = 2,000,000, PRINTFREQ = 1000, SAMPLEF-REQ = 100, NCHAINS = 4). The average standard deviation of the split frequencies was 0.0022 after 1,685,000 and also after 2,000,000 generations indicating that there was no great advantage to be gained by sampling additional generations. The first 10,000 trees of low posterior probability were deleted and all remaining trees were imported into PAUP. A majority rule consensus tree was produced showing the posterior probabilities (pp) of all observed bi-partitions. We consider posterior probabilities of at least 0.95 as strong clade support.

To investigate if the Australian lithophytes (*F. atricha*, *F. brachypoda*, *F. lilliputiana*, *F. platypoda*, and *F. subpuberula*) could have originated only once, they were constrained as monophyletic and all other ingroup and outgroup branches were collapsed. This tree was then used as a topological constraint in 1000 replicates of MP analysis in PAUP. We then used the Templeton test (Templeton,

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Fig. 1. Bootstrap consensus trees from analysis of (A) G3pdh nrDNA sequences, (B) ITS nrDNA sequences, and (C) ETS nrDNA sequences. Ficus americana, F. benjamina, F. binnendykii, F. elastica, F. ingens, F. lutea, and F. sundaica were designated as an outgroup.

1983) to compare the length of the constrained and the unconstrained trees.

2.4. Morphological characters

Five morphological characters used for delimiting subsections, series and informal groups of section *Malvanthera* in previous classifications were scored for all species (Fig. 3). Characters were taken from descriptions in the literature (Corner, 1959; Chew, 1989; Dixon, 2001a–d, 2003; Berg and Corner, 2005) and supplemented by personal observations of herbarium specimens. The characters are described in the legend of Fig. 3. Although seed ovaries embedded in the receptacle or attached at the base to the receptacle has been used to distinguish subseries in the past (Corner, 1965), we found this character difficult to score and we did not include it Fig. 3.

2.5. Mapping habitat use

Habitat use was scored for all species (Fig. 3). Character states were taken from descriptions in the literature (Corner, 1959; Chew, 1989; Dixon, 2001a–d, 2003; Berg and Corner, 2005) and supplemented by personal observations of herbarium collections and during fieldwork in Australia and Papua New Guinea. The characters are described in the legend of Fig. 3.

2.6. Mapping changes in pollination behaviour

Previous studies have shown a strong association between active pollination, low anther/ovule ratios (floral sex ratio, FRS), and the presence of coxal combs (a line of setae or dense, parallel and long hairs on the fore coxa) on the pollinator, whereas the presence of pollen pockets provide a good, but imperfect index of active pollination (Cook et al. 2004; Jousselin et al. 2003; Kjellberg et al. 2001). Floral sex ratios, the presence or absence of coxal combs, pollen pockets, and pollination behaviour were taken from the literature and supplemented by personal observations of *F. glandifera*, *F. heteromeka*, *A. Sterrocarpa* as well as the pollinators of *F. glandifera*, *F. heteromeka*, and *F. cf. sterrocarpa* (see Fig. 4).

Following Cook et al. (2004), we estimated floral sex ratios (FSR) as the proportion of flowers that are male (i.e. anthers/anthers + o-vules), by counting and sexing all flowers in one syconium for each of *F. glandifera*, *F. heteromeka*, *F. sterrocarpa* and *F. cf. sterrocarpa*. All syconia were collected from trees growing within their natural ranges.

We mapped pollination behaviour onto the ML tree presented in Fig. 2, collapsing all duplicate samples of the same species, and analysed the patterns of changes using parsimony techniques in MacClade version 4.03 (Maddison and Maddison, 2001). We

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Fig. 2. One of 14 maximum likelihood trees with ML branch lengths, and with bootstrap percentages and posterior probabilities below and above branches, respectively. Arrowheads indicate branches that collapse in the strict consensus of 14 ML trees. Our preferred classification of *Malvanthera* suggested in the present study is indicated on the right.

treated behaviour as an unordered, binary (active/passive) character and weighted gains and losses of active behaviour

equally in seeking the most parsimonious reconstruction of changes.

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Fig. 3. Maximum likelihood (ML) tree from Fig. 2 showing the distribution of macro-morphological characters used in previous classifications and the distribution of biogeography and habitat use. White, black, and grey boxes show character states 0, 1, or polymorphic, respectively. 1. Prominence of basal or primary lateral veins on leaves: basal veins distinct (1) or not (0). 2. Persistence of basal bracts: Basal bracts persistent (1) or cauducous (0). 3. Shape of basal bracts: Bracts imbricate (1) or valvate (0). 4. Ostiole shape: Triradiate (1) or slit-shaped (bilabiate; 0). 5. Shape of stigma: Stigma bifd (1) or simple (0). LH–Lord Howe Island, NG–New Guinea, NSW–New South Wales, NT–Northern Territory, PAC–Pacific islands, QLD–Queensland, SA–South Australia, SOL–Solomon Islands, WA–Western Australia.

3. Results

3.1. Analyses of the combined dataset

Since there were no strongly supported conflicting clades within the ingroup, we considered it appropriate to directly combine all data. The aligned combined matrix of all three regions contained 32 ingroup taxa and 7 outgroups, and a total of 2024 base pairs of which 186 (9%) were parsimony informative. MP analysis with a limit of 25 trees per replicate produced 4286 trees of 557 steps with CI = 0.75 and RI = 0.78. These trees were used as starting trees in a second search with no limit on the number of trees per replicate, but with a maximum of 15,000 trees. This search produced the maximum number of trees, which were then swapped to completion.

The strict consensus tree of the combined MP analysis is not fully resolved and a considerable number of clades do not obtain more than 50% BS. The ingroup is monophyletic (80% BS). Within the ingroup, we find a soft polytomy with four clades. One clade includes *F. pleurocarpa* and *F. macrophylla* samples

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Fig. 4. Parsimony reconstruction of changes (*) between passive (white) and active (black) pollination behaviour showing the distribution of flower sex ratios (FSR) of *Malvanthera* species and correlated morphology of their pollinators. White and black boxes show character states 0 and 1, respectively. 1. FSRs from Cook et al. (2004), except *Ficus glandifera*, *F. heteromeka*, *F. sterrocarpa* and *F. cf. sterrocarpa*, which were counted for the present study. 2. Coxal combs absent (0) or present (1). 3. Pollen pockets absent (0), present, but small (grey boxes), or present and large (1). 4. Pollination mode passive (0) or active (1). 5. Pollinating *Pleistodontes* species. Wasp data from Cook et al. (2004), Lopez-Vaamonde et al. (2002), and Wiebes (1994), except for *Pleistodontes blandus*, *P. ex. F. heteromeka* and *P. ex. F. cf. sterrocarpa*, which were observed for the present study. Some *Malvanthera* species have more than one pollinator, but no differences in pollination behaviour between pollinators of the same *Malvanthera* species have been described.

(80%), another clade includes *F. hesperidiiformis* and *F. sterrocarpa* (100% BS), a third clade includes *F. augusta*, *F. glandifera*, *F. heteromeka* and *F. xylosycia* (55%), and a last clade includes the remainder of the Australian taxa (84%). The MP consensus tree is not shown, but MP bootstrap support is indicated on the ML tree in Fig. 2.

For the ML analysis, Modeltest suggested TrN + I + G as the best fitting model using both hierarchical likelihood ratio tests (hLRTs) and the Akaike information criterion (AIC). Based on recommendations by Posada and Buckley (2004), we used the model selected by the Akaike criterion for the ML search (Parameters: Lset Base = (0.2393, 0.2548, 0.2819) Nst = 6 Rmat = (1.0000, 3.9211, 1.0000, 1.0000, 4.9209) Rates = gamma Shape = 0.8798 Pinvar = 0.5620). This analysis produced 14 trees and the strict consensus tree provided resolution between and within most of the clades found in the MP analysis. One of the 14 trees is shown in Fig. 2 with Bayesian posterior probabilities and MP bootstrap support indicated above and below the branches, respectively. The ingroup is monophyletic and the first split is between a *F. pleurocarpa* plus F. macrophylla clade and the rest of the section. Among the rest of Malvanthera we find two major clades. In the first major clade, F. glandifera is sister to the F. augusta, F. heteromeka plus F. xylosycia clade, and F. hesperidiiformis plus F. sterrocarpa is sister to all. In the F. hesperidiiformis-F. sterrocarpa clade, there were multiple well-supported clades that indicate the presence of at least three species in the complex (see discussion in Section 4.3). The other major clade includes F. triradiata as sister to the remainder of the Australian taxa, which form a trichotomy of (1) F. crassipes and F. destruens; (2) F. lilliputiana F. obliqua, F. platypoda, and F. subpuberula; and (3) F. atricha, F. brachypoda, F. rubigionosa and F. watkinsiana.

The Bayesian analysis provided a tree that was identical to the ML consensus tree, except that two more clades were resolved, but only with pp = 0.51. These weakly supported clades included *F. crassipes–F. destruens* as sister to the *F. atricha–F. watkinsiana* clade, and within this clade, *F. brachypoda* as sister to the remainder.

The analysis constraining Australian lithophytes to be monophyletic produced 247 trees, which were only 8 steps longer (565 steps) and were not significantly different from the 15,000 trees from the unconstrained combined analysis (p = 0.1276).

4. Discussion

4.1. Infrasectional relationships of section Malvanthera

The results of our molecular phylogenetic study do not support any of the previous classifications of section *Malvanthera* (Corner, 1965; Dixon, 2003; Berg and Corner, 2005, Table 1). Instead we find correspondence with geography. Two major lineages (subsections *Malvantherae* and *Platypodeae*) are primarily Australian and a third major lineage (subsection *Hesperidiiformes*) has its centre of diversity in New Guinea. Based on these results we propose a new subdivision of section *Malvanthera* that reflects phylogenetic relationships (Table 1, Fig. 2).

4.2. Homoplasy of characters previously used for subdivision of section Malvanthera

The connection between phylogenetic subdivisions and biogeography was not apparent in any of the previous subdivisions of section *Malvanthera*, because all of the macro-morphological characters used for subdivision are homoplasious. Most of the characters mapped in Fig. 3 vary even between closely related species. For example, *F. macrophylla* has imbricate bracts, a triradiate ostiole, and a simple stigma, whereas its sister species, *F. pleurocarpa*, has valvate bracts, a bilabiate ostiole, and a bifid stigma. However, the close relationship of *F. macrophylla* and *F. pleurocarpa* is supported by several other lines of evidence. Both species are hemiepiphytes or trees occurring in tropic rainforest in Northeast Queensland and in coastal habitats from Queensland to New South Wales and both species have distinct basal veins, three ostiolar bracts, female florets embedded in the receptacle, and a similar indumentum on the abaxial surface of the leaves.

Dixon (2003) used the shape of the basal bracts to divide ser. *Malvanthereae* with imbricate bracts from ser. *Hesperidijformes* with valvate bracts. All species from New Guinea have valvate bracts, and Dixon's scheme was the first to unite *F. glandifera* with the other species from New Guinea. However, the Australian *F. pleurocarpa* (subsect. *Malvanthereae*), as well as *F. crassipes* and *F. triradiata* (subsect. *Platypodeae*) also have valvate bracts, and were therefore placed in ser. *Hesperidijformes* with geographically disjunct species from New Guinea.

Some of the morphological characters used previously to delimit groups are still useful. For example, within subsection *Platypodeae*, the persistence of basal bracts separates series *Eubracteatae* and *Crassipeae* with persistent basal bracts from series *Rubiginosae* and *Obliqua* with cauducous basal bracts. Some characters appear to be associated with aspects of ecology, such as the basal or primary lateral veins of leaves, which are inconspicuous in the Australian lithophytes, but prominent in the rainforest species. In summary, phylogenetic relationships were not reflected in previous subdivisions of *Malvanthera* because the morphological characters used to delimit taxa are quite homoplasious.

4.3. Species delimitation within subsection Hesperidiiformes in New Guinea

Berg and Corner (2005) united most of Corner's (1965) New Guinean species under an expanded *F. hesperidiiformis*. Our results suggest that Corner's species must be maintained. Based on phylogeny alone, it is clear that an expanded *F. hesperidiiformis* concept is not monophyletic unless it also includes *F. glandifera*, which was retained as a species (Berg and Corner, 2005).

Berg and Corner (2005) recognised no clear separation of *F. hesperidiiformis* and *F. sterrocarpa* and species delimitation in this complex remains uncertain. Our phylogenetic analyses (Figs. 2 and 3) show a clade of coastal samples from the Wewak and Madang provinces, which we recognize as *F. hesperidiiformis*. The *F. sterrocarpa* samples are divided into two clades, a clade with hill forest samples found at 500–900 m, which we recognize as *F. sterrocarpa*, and a second clade with lowland samples from Sepik, which may represent a separate species here designated *F. cf. sterrocarpa*. We think that there are at least three species in this complex, but further studies including more extensive sampling and comparison of morphological characters are needed.

The existence of several species in the *F. hesperidiiformis–F. sterrocarpa* complex is further supported by preliminary tests of pairwise distances of ITS among figs and the *cox1* gene among their specific pollinators (Rønsted and Weiblen, unpublished data). Distances between *F. hesperidiiformis* and *F. sterrocarpa* are in the same range as distances between other New Guinean species or between closely related Australian species. Likewise, pairwise distances of *Pleistodontes immaturis*, *P. cf. immaturis*, and *P. plebejus* pollinating *F. sterrocarpa*, *F. cf. sterrocarpa* and *F. hesperidiiformis*, respectively, are comparable to distances between pollinators of closely related Australian *Malvanthera* species (Lopez–Vaamonde et al. 2001).

4.4. Biogeography and habitat use within section Malvanthera

We suggest that section *Malvanthera* is of Australian origin (Figs. 2 and 3) given that the sister lineage to the New Guinean *Malvanthera* and most Australian *Malvanthera* is a *F. pleurocarpa–F. macrophylla* clade (subsection *Malvantherae*). *Ficus pleurocarpa* and *F. macrophylla* subsp. *macrophylla* are endemic to the Australian mainland, while *F. macrophylla* subsp. *columnaris* probably represents a later colonization event to Lord Howe Island, where

this subspecies is endemic (Dixon, 2001c). Our analyses indicate that subsp. *columnaris* could be the oldest lineage in the clade, but more sampling of both subspecies is needed to clarify this. According to Rønsted et al. (2005), section *Malvanthera* originated at least 41 million years ago and radiated gradually from about 35 million years ago. The section probably colonized New Guinea once (subsection *Hesperidiiformes*) with *F. glandifera* and *F. xylosycia* subsequently colonising other islands in Oceania.

In subsection Platypodeae, (Figs. 2 and 3), F. triradiata (series Eubracteatae), is a rainforest hemi-epiphyte and represents the first diverging lineage, although only well supported by the Bayesian analysis. Series Crassipeae (F. crassipes and F. destruens) are also hemi-epiphytic rainforest species. In series Obliquae, the first diverging lineage is F. obliqua, which occurs both as a hemi-epiphyte and as a lithophyte throughout its range, whereas the remaining species in this series are all lithophytes. Our results are consistent with a pattern of radiation within series Obliquae from the rainforest into drier habitats in Australia with a transition from tall hemi-epiphytic trees to small trees and shrubs. Within series Rubiginosae, F. watkinsiana is restricted to rainforest, F. rubiginosa can both be hemi-epiphytic and lithophytic, whereas F. atricha and F. brachypoda are both lithophytic shrubs or small trees. Relationships within series Rubiginosae are not well resolved in this study, but this clade possibly represents a second radiation from the forest into drier habitats in Australia parallel to series Obliquae. A Templeton test showed that trees with all five Australian lithophytes constrained as monophyletic was not significantly different from unconstrained trees, indicating that the transition from forest to arid zones might have happened only once.

However, in addition to the lithophytes, we also find transitional species, such as *F. rubiginosa* and *F. obliqua* in Australia and *F. glandifera* in New Guinea and Oceania. *Ficus glandifera* is part of a New Guinean rainforest clade and is not closely related to the Australian lithophytic and transitional species further supporting the possibility that colonisation of arid environments may have evolved at least twice. In conclusion there seems to be more homoplasy in morphology and ecology within section *Malvanthera* than previous subdivisions of the section indicated. This agrees with a hypothesis of multiple gains of active pollination behaviour in *Pleistodontes* species pollinating section *Malvanthera* (Cook et al., 2004).

4.5. Evolution of pollination behaviour

Cook et al. (2004) mapped changes in pollination behaviour onto a phylogeny of *Pleistodontes*. They found that there have been three to six changes in pollination behaviour within *Pleistodontes*, emphasizing that co-evolution does not reach an endpoint and that selection pressures on mutualists are not constant. Changes in pollination behaviour correlated perfectly with changes in anther/ ovule ratio in the host figs as also found by Kjellberg et al. (2001) and no evidence was found of phylogenetic restrictions at the species level (Cook et al. 2004). Although all actively pollinated *Malvanthera*, have a simple stigma (Figs. 3 and 4), passively pollinated species either have a bifid or a simple stigma, implying limited correlation between this stigma trait and pollination behaviour.

We used *F. ingens* (subgenus *Urostigma* section *Urostigma*) and its active pollinator *Platyscapa soraria* as an outgroup. As in Cook et al. (2004) the ancestral state for *Malvanthera/Pleistodontes* was inferred to be passive pollination, implying one change from active pollination, although this is wholly dependent on outgroup status. Within *Malvanthera*, one change to active pollination is needed for series *Obliquae*, and at least one change to active pollination within the ser. *Rubiginosae*. With the presence of small pollen pockets, *F. watkinsiana* and its pollinator *P. nigriventris*, could represent a secondary loss of active pollination, depending on the true relationship within this series. However, the number of pollination mode changes is not certain and at least one inferred ingroup change depend on weakly supported nodes within subsect. *Platypodeae*. Accordingly, mapping traits associated with pollination behaviour onto our phylogenetic hypothesis for *Malvanthera*, implies only 1–3 changes within the section, in contradiction with 3–6 changes previously inferred by mapping pollination behaviour onto a phylogenetic hypothesis for *Pleistodontes* (Cook et al. 2004).

It is noteworthy, that the pattern of radiation out of the rainforest habitat into drier habitats associated with a transition from tall hemi-epiphytic trees to small trees and shrubs (Fig. 3), also seems to be associated with a gain of active pollination behaviour (Fig. 4). However, both the phylogenies of the figs and the pollinators needs improved resolution and support before we can really understand the patterns and processes of co-evolution in the *Malvanthera– Pleistodontes* mutualism.

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