

A NEW SPECIES OF *FICUS* FROM THE BORDERS OF MOCAMBIQUE AND NYASALAND.

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Ficus kiloneura A. J. W. Hornby sp. nov., affinis *F. populifoliae* Vahl, sed receptaculis majoribus non reticulatis cortice cinereo (non luteo) differt.

Arbor magna circa 15m. alta, multo ramosa; ramuli cortice cinereo glabro obtecti. *Stipulae* glabrae, lanceolatae, 1 cm. longae, caducae. *Folia* late ovata, breviter acuminata, basi late cordata vel rotundata, 9-18 cm. longa, 7-11 cm. lata, chartacea, glabra; costa media supra impressa vel proparte prominens, subtus prominens apice extenuata; nervi laterales utrinsecus circa 15, utrinque prominentes, angulo 70° abeuntes, pellucidi, paralleli, marginem versus conjuncti; veni numerosi utrinque prominentes, reticulati; margines integri, incrassati; petioli 4.5-10 cm. longi, glabri, sulcati. *Receptacula* axillaria, pedunculata, oblongo-globosa, 1.5-2 cm. diametro, glabra, aureo-lepidota, umbonata; ostiolum bilabiatum bracteis omnibus in receptacula descendentibus; pedunculi 1.8 cm. longi. *Bractae* basales rudimentalae.

N. MOCAMBIQUE.—Province do Niassa, *Hornby* 2471 in National Herbarium, Pretoria (type); 2581; 2571.

Large trees up to 15 metres, much branched, flat crowned. Trunk buttressed by anastomosing growths, aerial roots present. Profuse exudation of milky juice on wounding, which is used as bird lime. Branches numerous, grey, irregularly ribbed and cracked. Bark on trunk irregularly cracking, or widely reticulate; on branches smooth and grey with vertical and horizontal cracks. Assimilating green tissue lightly covered with thin bark on younger trees. *Stipules* about 1 cm. long, lanceolate, glabrous, caducous; petiole 4.5-10 cm. long, slender, glabrous, channelled; leaf margin decurrent on upper side of petiole. *Leaf-blade* broadly ovate, 9-18 cm. long, 7-11 cm. broad, chartaceous, glabrous and dull on both sides; midrib depressed or partly prominent above, prominent below, continued to apex; lateral veins about 15 pairs, spreading from the main vein at about 70°, prominent above and below, looping prominently near the margin, pellucid, lowest three main lateral veins arising from cordate base and curving upwards, the rest straight, parallel, net veins very numerous, close and slender, forming prominent reticulation above and below; margin entire, thickened; apex acute to shortly acuminate, acumen about 8 mm. long; base widely cordate or rounded. *Receptacles*, axillary in pairs, pedunculate, oblong-globose, not over 2.0 cm., usually 1.5 cm. diameter, glabrous, golden-lepidote, umbonate, osteole pore-like, bracteoles descending into fig; basal bracts, rudimentary at apex of peduncle; peduncle up to 1.8 cm. long.

OCCURRENCE.—Type specimens found 100 yards south of Nyasaland Police and Customs Post at Chiponde fork roads west of frontier between Provincia do Niassa, Mocambique and Nyasaland.

This species of *Ficus* also occurs as single large trees in the south-western zone of the Province of Niassa near the frontier of Nyasaland at an altitude of about 750 metres and where the average annual rainfall is about 900 mm. They are found both in *Brachystegia* associations on fertile sandy loams under dominant *B. spicaeformis*, and in open woodland on deep brown loams associated with large *Ostryderris stuhlmannii*, *Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia*, and smaller trees of *Voacanga lutescens*, *Vitex buchananii*, *Schrebera* sp., *Strychnos spinosa*, *Bauhinia petersiana*, *Ficus stuhlmannii*.

There is extensive shrub growth in these open woodlands consisting of *Cassia petersiana*, *Cassia absus*, *Crotalaria intermedia*, *C. comosa*, *C. natalitia*, *Byrsocarpus tomentosus*, *Temnocalyx obovatus*, *Clerodendrum triplinerve* with medium high species of *Hyparrhenia Cymbopogon*, *Brachiaria*, etc.

The zone in which this species of *Ficus* occurs is regarded as one of the best for cultivation of flue-cured tobacco.

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