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Title: Taxonomy, systematics, and biogeography of *Ficus* subsection *Urostigma* (Moraceae)

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STELLINGEN

Behorend bij het proefschrift:
Taxonomy, Systematics, and Biogeography of *Ficus* subsection *Urostigma*
(Moraceae)
van Bhanumas Chantarasuwan

1. The forms which possess in some considerable degree the character of species, but which are so closely similar to other forms, or are so closely linked to them by intermediate gradation, that naturalists do not like to rank them as distinct species, are in several respects the most important for us (Darwin, 1871).
2. The point is that most of the species concepts adopt different properties of lineages as secondary defining properties. Thus, under all species concepts, a species is a separately evolving metapopulation lineage (de Queiroz, 2007).
3. Botanists should realise that the species concept in *Ficus* is not an ivory-tower of the species-monger, but a scientific problem (Corner, 1958).
4. The excessive multiplication of names in *Ficus* is largely due to the fact that trivial variations from the typical form of a species have been considered sufficient warrant for the formation of new species (King, 1887).
5. The variation within species can be high, easily causing misidentifications if only morphology is used to recognise species. However, morphology combined with leaf anatomy provides conclusive characters for species recognition. (This thesis).
6. Pollen morphology does not provide good characters to diagnose species or even the subsection *Urostigma* (This thesis).
7. The phylogeny of subsection *Urostigma* and various related infrageneric groups demonstrated high levels of homoplasy in the morphology, but also helped to unravel or indicate cryptic species (This thesis)
8. The origin of *Ficus* subsection *Urostigma* was probably on Madagascar at the end of the Paleocene or early-Eocene, birds may have been the main dispersal agent (This thesis).
9. *Ficus religiosa* has been referred to as the tree of life in Hinduism and Buddhism (Berg & Corner, 2005).
10. Figs are no food for vegetarians.
11. Experience comes from practice, leads to confidence, and ends up with successfulness.