

**TYPE STUDIES ON *FRULLANIA* SUBGENUS
METEORIOPSIS. VI. SUBGENERIC AFFILIATION OF
SELECTED ASIATIC SPECIES PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED
TO SUBG. *METEORIOPSIS***

**Estudios de ejemplares tipo de *Frullania* subgénero *Meteoriopsis*.
VI. Filiación subgenérica de algunas especies asiáticas asignadas
previamente al subgénero *Meteoriopsis***

JAIME URIBE-M.

*Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional de Colombia,
Apartado 7495, Bogotá D.C., Colombia. juribem@unal.edu.co*

ABSTRACT

A type revision of the types of Asiatic species previously assigned to *Frullania* subgenus. *Meteoriopsis* revealed that they were erroneously included in that subgenus. Evidence presented here shows that *F. seriatifolia* Steph., *F. ternatensis* Gottsche, *F. trichodes* Mitt. and *F. vaginata* (Sw.) Nees are members of *F.* subg. *Thyopsiella*, and *F. grandiclava* Steph. and *F. orientalis* Sande-Lac. of *F.* subg. *Frullania* sect. *Orientalis*.

Key words. *Frullania* subgenus *Frullania*, *Frullania* subgenus *Meteoriopsis*, *Frullania* subgenus *Thyopsiella*, Hepaticae, Asia, nomenclature, taxonomic revision.

RESUMEN

La revisión de los ejemplares tipo de especies asiáticas asignadas a *Frullania* subgénero *Meteoriopsis*, reveló que ellas habían sido erróneamente incluidas en ese subgénero. Aquí se presenta evidencia que muestra que *F. seriatifolia* Steph., *F. ternatensis* Gottsche, *F. trichodes* Mitt. y *F. vaginata* (Sw.) Nees son miembros de *Frullania* subgénero *Thyopsiella*, *F. grandiclava* Steph. y *F. orientalis* Sande-Lac. de *F.* subg. *Frullania* sect. *Orientalis*.

Palabras clave. *Frullania* subgénero *Thyopsiella*, *Frullania* subgenus *Meteoriopsis*, *Frullania* subgenus *Frullania*, Hepaticae, Asia, nomenclatura, revisión taxonómica.

INTRODUCTION

Spruce (1884) described the subgenus *Meteoriopsis* as one of his six subgenera within *Frullania*, for the inception of species with pendent growth. Since then, many species have been assigned to subg. *Meteoriopsis* Spruce. Stephani (1911) assigned 53 species from all over the Tropics to this subgenus, including 15 species from tropical Asia and

Oceania. In 1924, Stephani described eight further new species in subg. *Meteoriopsis*, but several of them were subsequently transferred to other subgenera.

Verdoorn (1930) in his treatment of *Frullania* from the Indomalayan archipelago recognized 11 species in subg. *Meteoriopsis* including several that were newly assigned to this subgenus. Verdoorn also presented a

discussion on the morphological limits of the subgenus, and proposed several characters as being diagnostic for subg. *Meteoriopsis*, such as stem and branches very long, growing almost unlimited [“Stamm und Hauptäste sehr verlängert, fast unbegrenzt weiter wachsend”]. Characters associated with leaf-lobes, leaf-lobules or leaf bases were not considered.

In 1972, Hattori published the new species *Frullania schusterana* which he assigned to the subg. *Meteoriopsis*. He also discussed the merits of *Meteoriopsis* as a subgenus and suggested that it corresponded with sect. *Vaginatae* of subg. *Thyopsiella* Spruce (the latter as subg. “*Frullania*”). In 1974, however, Hattori accepted *Meteoriopsis* again as a good subgenus (following Verdoorn 1930) while placing *F. schusterana* Hatt. in subg. *Thyopsiella*.

Uribe & Gradstein (2003) redefined *F.* subg. *Meteoriopsis* Spruce to include species with two auricles at leaf-base and with leaves convoluted around the stem when dry (not spreading widely when moistened). *Frullania peruviana* Gottsche was selected as the lectotype of the group. Subsequently, Uribe (2008) monographed subg. *Meteoriopsis* and accepted seven species in the subgenus, all of them from tropical America (Figure 2, clade 32; Uribe 2008). Species from the Old World previously assigned to subgenus *Meteoriopsis* were placed in other subgenera or left unclassified. The relationships of subg. *Meteoriopsis* to other members of the genus *Frullania* were analyzed based on a phylogenetic analysis of the genus using 36 morphological characters. The analysis showed that subg. *Meteoriopsis* is monophyletic and sister to the monophyletic subg. *Thyopsiella*. Together two groups formed a monophyletic group, clade 29, consisting of 2 lineages (Uribe 2008; Fig. 2): the *Thyopsiella* clade with 3 species (*F. atrata*, *F. brasiliensis*, *F. intumescens*)

and the *Meteoriopsis* clade with 7 species (*F. convoluta*, *F. darwinii*, *F. dulimensis*, *F. grandifolia*, *F. peruviana*, *F. phalangiflora*, *F. weberbaueri*).

Based on a molecular-phylogenetic analysis of the genus *Frullania* using four molecular markers, Hentschel et al. (2009) established a much wider subgeneric concept of *F.* subg. *Meteoriopsis* which included many previous members of subg. *Thyopsiella* Spruce, in three different clades. The newly defined subgenus differed from subg. *Thyopsiella* s.str. (including the type, *F. tamarisci*) by the lack of ocelli and its tropical distribution. Subgenus *Meteoriopsis* Spruce was subsumed in a clade named “sect. *Intumescentes*”, containing 6 former members of *Thyopsiella* (*F. aculeata*, *F. atrata*, *F. brasiliensis*, *F. intumescens*, *F. moritziana*, *F. pittieri*) and 1 of genuine *Meteoriopsis* (*F. peruviana*). Thus defined, sect. *Intumescentes* corresponded with *Frullania* clade 29 recovered by Uribe (2008) on morphological grounds. However, only 4 species of clade 29 were studied by Hentschel et al. (2009), 3 of the *Thyopsiella* clade and 1 of the *Meteoriopsis* clade.

Hentschel et al. (2009) postulated that their sect. *Intumescens* largely corresponded to the subg. *Meteoriopsis* as circumscribed by Spruce (1884). This statement is erroneous. Spruce recognized four species in his subgenus *Meteoriopsis*: *F. atrata*, *F. atrosanguinea*, *F. peruviana* and *F. aculeata*. Of these, *F. aculeata* is actually a member of subg. *Thyopsiella* sensu Spruce, all others belong in subg. *Meteoriopsis* sensu Spruce (Uribe & Gradstein, 2003; Uribe, 2008; but specimens identified by Spruce as “*F. atrata*” proved to be misidentified *F. peruviana* or *F. convoluta*, and *F. atrosanguinea* appeared to be a synonym of *F. peruviana*). In contrast, all species included in sect. *Intumescentes* by Hentschel et al. (2009) are members of subg. *Thyopsiella* sensu Spruce with exception of *F. peruviana*.

Since only 1 out of 7 species of *F.* subg. *Meteoriopsis* Spruce (sensu Uribe 2008) was studied by Hentschel et al. (2009), sampling in the latter study was too low to decide on the status of this subgenus. Moreover, support of the clade of *F.* subgen. *Meteoriopsis* in Hentschel et al. (2009) was low (68) compared with the support of other clades, and no morphological characters were provided for the separation of the three sections in *Meteoriopsis* sensu Hentschel et al. Therefore, I think that it is better to keep using the concept of subgen. *Meteoriopsis* as defined by Uribe (2008) until more species of this group are analyzed by molecular methods.

The purpose of this present paper is to describe six Asiatic species previously assigned to subg. *Meteoriopsis* (*F. grandiclava*, *F. orientalis*, *F. seriatifolia*, *F. ternatensis*, *F. trichodes*, *F. vaginata*) and discuss their subgeneric affiliation.

SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

1. *Frullania* (subg. *Thyopsiella*) ***vaginata*** (Sw.) Nees, in Gottsche, Lindenber & Nees, Syn. Hepat. : 465 (1844). *Jungermannia vaginata* Swartz, Amoenitates Acad. Ed. II, vol. X, App.: 115 (1781); *Frullania vaginata* Dumort., 1835, Rec. Obs.: 13 (1835), *nom. inval.* (Art. 32.1 ICBN). Type: Java, without collector (holotype, S!). Fig. 1 A-F

Plants of large size, up to 20 cm long and 0.7 mm wide including leaves, dark reddish to brown, irregularly once or twice pinnate, growing more or less pendent. **Branches** 1-2 cm long. **Stems** to 90 μm wide, in cross section. **Leaf-lobes** remote, ovate-orbicular, obliquely spreading, with strongly incurved ventral margin, plane, ovate, asymmetrical, 740 x 600 μm , apex subacute (short acuminate on branch leaves), dorsal margins dentate, dorsal base auriculate, ventral base not auriculate, insertion line slightly curved.

Leaf cells: apical cells 10-12 x 8-9 μm , median cells 12-14 x 9-11 μm , basal cells 23-33 x 8-12 μm , all cells with thick, sinuous walls and with trigones and intermediate thickenings, pale orange, basal ocelli distinct, 10-17 per leaf-lobe. **Lobules** cylindrical to clavate, 220-230 x 100-110 μm , contiguous and almost parallel to the stem, with arched and crenulate mouth. **Stylus** composed of a row of 3 uniseriate cells and of a rounded disc of 6-8 cells long and 5 cells wide. **Underleaves** ovate-rectangular, distant, slightly wider than the stem, 540-560 x 230-240 μm , margins strongly recurved, bifid to 1/3 the length, segments subtriangular, apex acute or acuminate, diverging, base short auriculate, insertion line straight. **Branch appendages:** first branch underleaf divided to the base into a lanceolate, bifid segment and a saccate segment, first leaf transformed into two saccate lobules. Plants **dioicous**. **Androecia** not seen. **Gynoecea** lateral on primary branches, or terminal on stems, the bracts and bracteoles in three series, bracts unequally bifid, the segments acute or acuminate, margin dentate. **Perianth** not seen.

Distribution Java, Sumatra. Stephani (1911) reported this species from Borneo and New Guinea, and Menzel (1988) listed the species in his Borneo catalogue based on literature compilation. However, according to Verdoorn (1930) and Hattori (1976a) this species is restricted to Sumatra and Java, and is absent of Borneo and New Guinea.

Comments Verdoorn (1930) assigned *F. vaginata* to subg. *Meteoriopsis*, mostly on the basis of its long stems, whereas Hattori (1976a) treated it as a member of *Frullania* subg. *Thyopsiella*. Uribe (2008) excluded the species from subg. *Meteoriopsis* and did not assign it to subgenus by lack of study of the type. Following examination the holotype, I now confirm that the species belongs to subg. *Thyopsiella*.

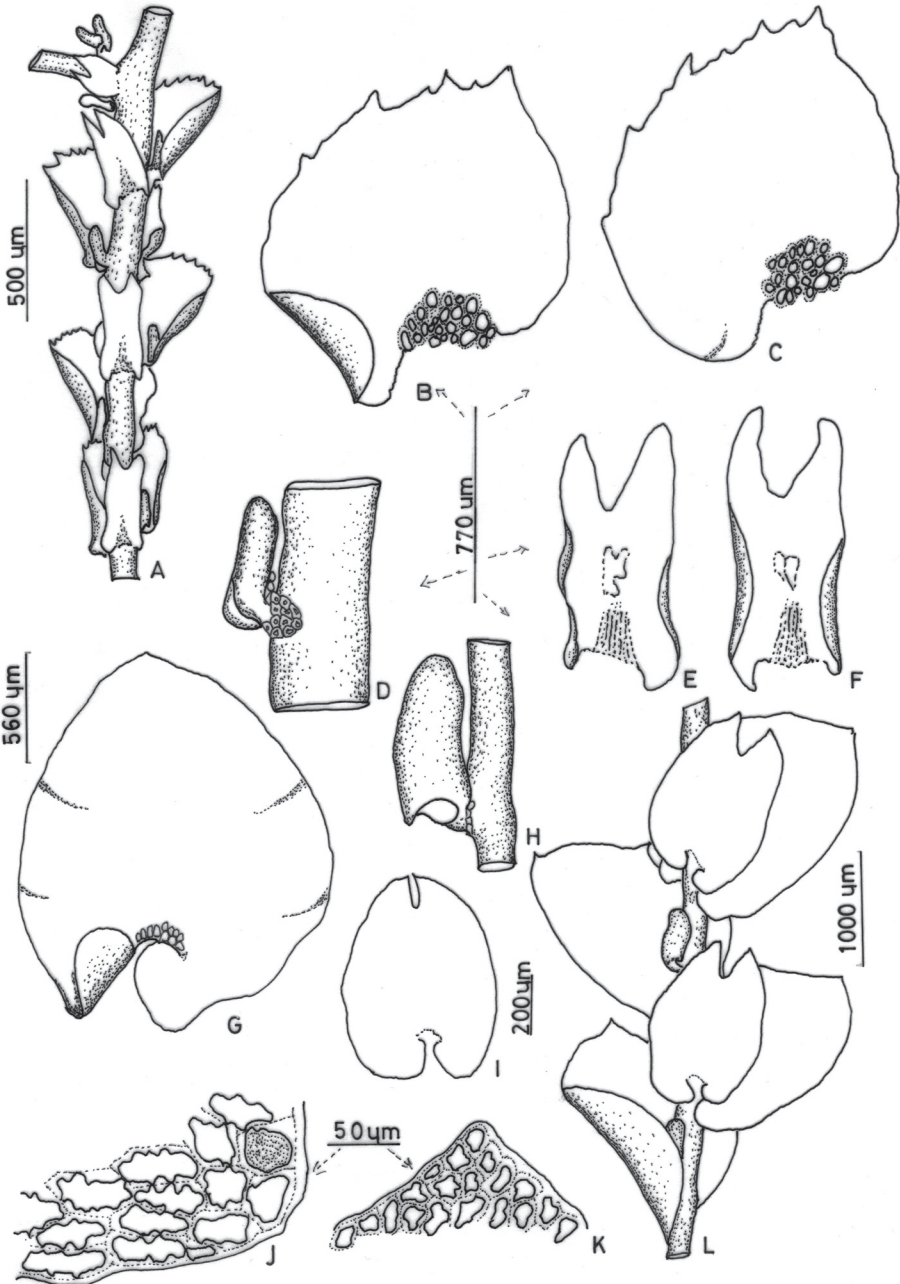


Figure 1. *Frullania vaginata* (Sw.) Nees – A. Part of shoot, ventral view, note the distant underleaves; B. C. Leaves of stem with dorsal base not auriculate; D. Ventral lobules with laminate stylus; E. F. Underleaves. *Frullania orientalis* Sande-Lac. – G. Leaf-lobe; H. Leaf-lobule with mouth and peak; I. Underleaf; J. Basal leaf cells; K. apical leaf cells; L. Part of shoot, ventral view. (A-F from the type of *F. vaginata* (Sw.) Nees. G-L from the type of *F. obliqua* Steph.).

2. *Frullania (Frullania) orientalis* Sande Lac. Nederl. Kruidk. Arch. IV: 94 (1855). Type: Java, *Teysmann* s. n. (holotype, L!).

Fig. 1 G-L

Frullania obliqua Steph., Sp. Hepat. IV: 616 (1911). Type: Nova Guinea, Moroka, *Loria* s.n. (holotype, G!).

Plants of medium to large size, up to 10 cm long and 2 mm wide including leaves, loosely branching, branch long, to 5 cm long, distant, dark reddish brown to almost black, irregularly pinnate, growing more or less pendent. **Stems** to 200-500 μm wide in cross section. **Leaf-lobes** distant, rounded, entire, convolute around the stem when dry and wet, plane, ovate, symmetrical, 1850-1900 x 1550-1575 μm , apex obtuse or rounded, to slightly acute, margins entire, dorsal base auriculate or sometimes subtruncate, ventral base auriculate, auricles sometimes superposing each other, mostly the leaves subtending branches, insertion line arched. **Leaf cells:** apical cells 12.5-17.5 x 10-12.5 μm , median cells 30-42.5 x 10-17.5(-20) μm , basal cells 50-67.5 x 35-45 μm , all cells with thick, sinuous walls and with trigones and intermediate thickenings. **Leaf-Lobules** cylindrical to clavate, often forming at mouth a distinct short beak, 210-240 x 60-90 μm , contiguous and parallel to the stem, occasionally slightly inclined to the stem. **Stylus** filiform, erect, linear, three cells long, with a terminal, 50 μm long slime papilla. **Underleaves** ovate, distant, slightly wider than the stem, 270-560 μm x 220-360 μm , margins recurved, undulate, bifid to 1/4 the length, segments acute or obtuse, diverging, base short auriculate, insertion line straight. **Branch appendages:** first branch underleaf divided to the base into a lanceolate segment and a saccate segment, first leaf transformed into two saccate lobules. Plants **dioicous**. **Androecia** not seen. **Gynoecia** terminal on the stem, the bracts and bracteoles in three series, bracts unequally bifid, the segments acute or acuminate, entire. **Perianth** pyriform,

500 μm long, with three keels, the ventral keel narrow.

Distribution – New Guinea, Taiwan, Philippines, Sulawesi, Borneo, Java, Vietnam, Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, Sri Lanka, and other, smaller Asian and Pacific islands (Hattori, 1976b). In addition, the species has been reported from Fiji (Campbell, 1971), China (Yunnan) (Piippo et al., 1998) and India (Parihar, 1962).

Comments – This species was treated by Verdoorn (1930) within a new section “*Orientalis*”, along with *F. nigricaulis* (Reinw., Blume & Nees) Nees. However, Hattori (1972) transferred this species to subg. *Frullania* (“*Trachycolea*”) sect. *Ornitocephalae* Verd. Based on study of the type material, I confirm that the species belongs to subg. *Frullania*. Following Hentschel et al. (2009), the species may be placed in subg. *Frullania* sect. *Orientalis*.

3. *Frullania* (subg. *Frullania*) *grandiclava* Steph., Sp. Hepat. 4: 676 (1911). Type: New Caledonia, VII 1909, *Le Rat* s.n. (holotype, G!).

Fig. 2 A-H

Plants slender, medium to large size, to 10 cm long and 2 mm wide including leaves, reddish brown. Irregularly pinnate, branches widely spreading, usually to 5 mm long, branches remote. **Stems** to 175 μm wide in cross section. **Leaf-lobes** loosely imbricate to contiguous, slightly squarrose, convoluted around the stem when dry and spreading when wet, ovate, 1250-1325 – 1000-1300 μm , margin entire, incurved to ventral side, apex acute to short apiculate, base cordate, dorsal base widely auriculate and ventral base auriculate or truncate, ventral auricle shorter than dorsal one. Insertion line curved. **Leaf-lobe cells:** apical cells 12-20 x 10-15 μm , median cells 25-37 x 17-20 μm and basal cells 35-45 x 25-32 μm , cell wall thick, sinuous, trigones conspicuous, intermediate

thickenings present, walls of basal cells more reddish than the others cells. **Leaf-lobules** clavate to cylindric, 520-600 x 250-370µm, with mouth rostrate with a long beak, contiguous and parallel to the stem. **Stylus** short, filiform, five cells long, with terminal slime papilla. **Underleaves** distant, elliptical or subcuadrate, concave, bifid to 1/3 of length, 1000-1125 x 770-825 µm, sinus wide, lobes triangular with acute apex, one or two marginal tooth, base cordate, insertion line very short and straight. **Branch appendages**: first branch underleaves (BUL1) ventral segment laminar, ovate, bifid to ½ of length, insertion line very long and curved. First branch leaf-lobes not seen. **Plants dioicous**. **Androecia** not seen. **Gynoeceia** on short lateral branches, bracts and bracteoles entire and bifids. **Perianth** 2/3 exerted, ovate to elliptical, 1100-1200 x 600-650 µm, with three keels, ventral keel prominent, long beak at apex, rough by scattered tubercles or scale-like outgrowths.

Distribution – Known only from the type locality from New Caledonia.

Comments: Verdoorn (1930) and Hattori (1977) treated *F. grandiclava* as a synonym of *F. capillaris* without justification. In my study I found that *F. grandiclava* differs from *F. capillaris* as described by Hattori by its toothed underleaves, leaves longer than wide and leaf-lobules smaller, therefore *F. grandiclava* is treated here as a separate species, not as a synonym of *F. capillaris*.

By its underleaves with a toothed margin, lobule with a rostrate mouth and long beak, and perianth with scattered tubercles, *F. grandiclava* is clearly a member of subg. *Frullania* sect. *Orientalis*.

4. *Frullania* (subg. *Thyopsiella*) *seriatifolia* Steph., Hedwigia 33:167 (1894). Type: Nova Guinea, Mt. Yule, without collector (holotype, G! 13663).

Fig. 2 I-P

Frullania yulensis Steph., Spec. Hepat. IV: 536 (1911). Type: New Guinea, Mt. Yule, *McGregor s.n.* (holotype, G!).

Plants slender, short size, to 1,5 cm long and 300 µm wide including leaves, reddish brown. Pinnately branched; widely spreading, usually to 2 mm long, branches remote. **Stems** to 100 µm wide in cross section. **Leaf-lobes** distant, patent, ovate to suborbicular, plane, 450-490 x 330-350 µm, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate, dorsal base widely auriculate and ventral base truncate. Insertion line straight. **Leaf-lobe cells**: apical cells 7-12 x 5-7µm, median cells 12-20 x 5-8µm and basal cells 18-22 x 6-10 µm, cell wall thick, sinuous, trigones conspicuous, intermediate thickenings present, walls of basal cells more sinuous than the others cells. **Leaf-lobules** cylindric to long cylindric, 207-210 x 62-65µm, distant to the stem, forming an angle of 45° to the stem (patent). **Stylus** short, filiform, three cells long, with terminal slime papilla and laminal portion at base. **Underleaves** long distant, subcuadrate to rectangular, concave, margins strongly recurved, bifid to 1/3 to 1/4 of length, slightly wider than the stem, 310-350 x 200-210 µm, sinus narrow, lobes triangular with subacute apex, base truncate, insertion line long and straight. **Branch appendages**: first branch underleaves (BUL1) ventral segment laminar, ovate, bifid to 1/3 of length. First branch leaf-lobes not seen. **Plants dioicous**. **Androecia** on short lateral branches, capitate, three pair of bracts. **Gynoeceia** not seen. **Perianth** not seen.

Distribution – Known only from type locality, New Guinea.

Comments - Stephani (1894, 1911) and Uribe (2008) placed this species in subg. *Diastaloba*, Verdoorn (1930) assigned it to *Meteoriopsis* and Hattori (1973) to subg. *Thyopsiella*. Hattori also concluded that *F. yulensis* Steph. is a synonym of *F. seriatifolia*. My study of the type specimens confirm the conclusions of Hattori (1973).

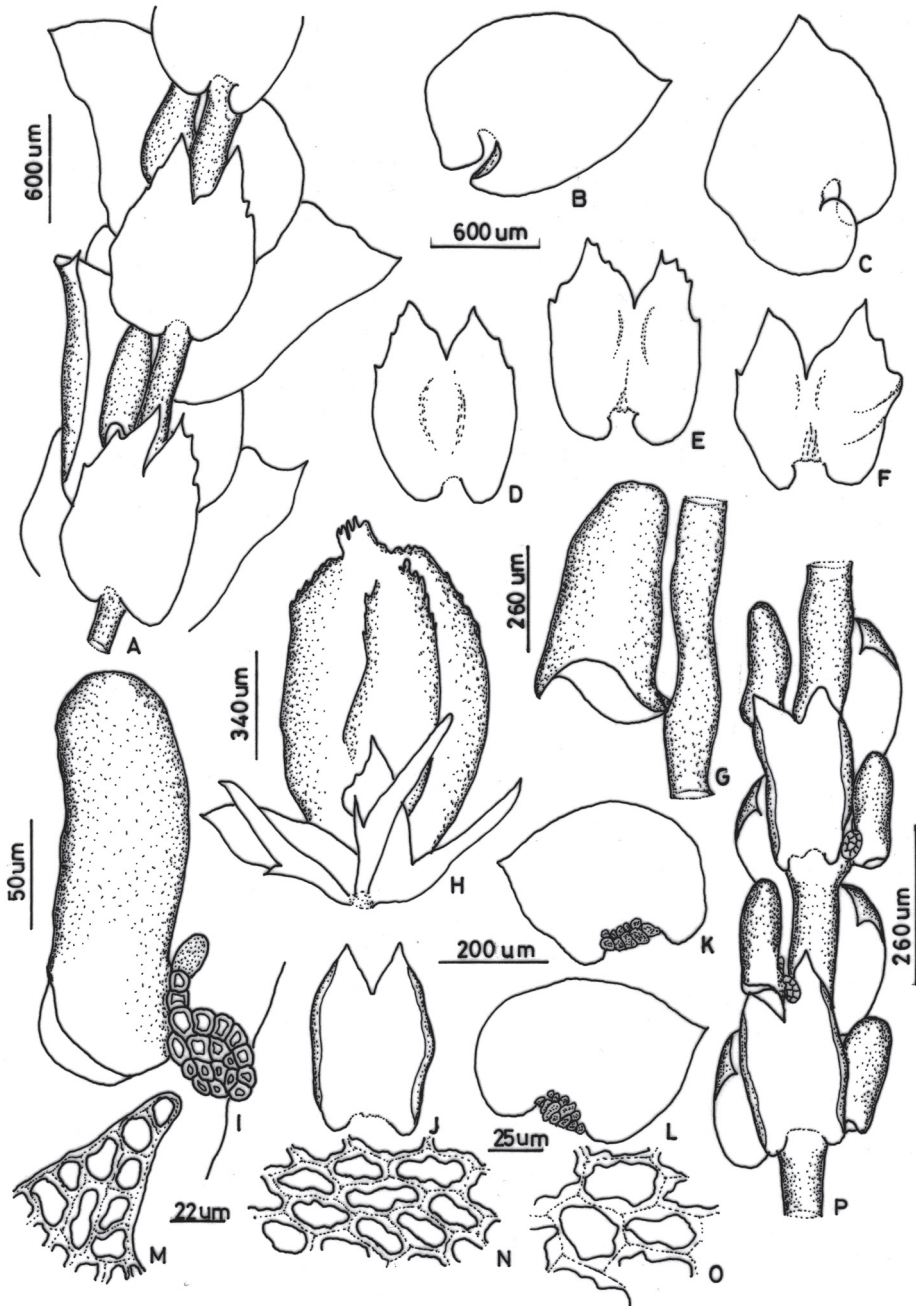


Figure 2. *Frullania grandiclava* Steph. – A. Part of shoot, ventral view; B. C. Leaves-lobes; D, E, F. Underleaves; G. Leaf-lobule, with mouth and peak; H. Perianth. *Frullania seriatifolia* Steph. I. Leaf-lobule, with stylus laminate; J. Underleaf; K. L. Leaves with basal ocelli; M. Apical leaf cells; N. medial leaf cells; O. basal leaf cells; P. Part of shoot, ventral view. (A-H from the type of *F. grandiclava* Steph.; I-P from the type of *F. seriatifolia* Steph.).

5. *Frullania* (subg. *Thyopsiella*) *ternatensis* Gottsche, in Gottsche, Lindenberg & Nees, Syn. Hepat. : 465 (1844). Type: Java, *Hasskarl* s.n. (lectotype **nov.**, G!, designated here). Paralectotypes: Ternate, *Reinwardt s.n.*; Java, *Belanger s.n.* Fig. 3 A-F

Frullania pendula Mitt., J. Proc. Linn. Soc., Bot. 5: 122 (1861). Type: Sri Lanka, *Gardner 134* (holotype, NY!; isotypes, BM!, FH!).

F. concava Horik., Journ. Sci. Hiroshima Univ., ser. B, div. 2, 2: 238, pl. 18:19-23 (1934). Type: Taiwan: prov. Taitô, between Shinsuieï and Shûchôkyôkai, Jan. 1933, *Y. Horikawa 10663b*.

Plants of medium or large size, 8 to 20 cm long and 0.7 mm wide including leaves, brown, irregularly once or twice pinnate, growing more or less pendent. **Branches** 1-3 cm long. **Stems** to 60 µm wide, in cross section. **Leaf-lobe** more or less imbricate, ovate or triangular-ovate, convoluted around the stem when dry and spreading when wet, with strongly incurved ventral margin, plane, asymmetrical, 1200-1250 x 900-950 µm, apex acute (short acuminate on branch leaves), dorsal base auriculate, ventral base not auriculate, insertion line straight or slightly curved. **Leaf cells:** apical cells 11-12 x 7-9 µm, median cells 18-25 x 8-13 µm, basal cells 27-50 x 12-23 µm, all cells with thick, sinuous walls and with confluent trigones and intermediate thickenings. **Leaf-lobules** cylindrical to clavate, 220-230 x 60-70 µm, 3 times as long as wide, contiguous and almost parallel to the stem, with arched and crenulate mouth. **Stylus** triangular, composed of a row of 3 uniseriate cells. **Underleaves** oblong, distant, wider than the stem, 600-800 x 200-400 µm, margins strongly recurved, bifid to 1/4 the length, segments triangular, apex acute or acuminate, diverging, insertion line straight. **Branch appendages:** first branch underleaf divided to the base into a lanceolate, bifid

segment and a explanate segment, first leaf transformed into one saccate lobule. **Plants dioicous.** **Androecia** capitate, on lateral short branches, 1-3 pairs of bracts. **Gynoecia** lateral on primary branches, or terminal on stems, the bracts and bracteoles in 1-3 series. **Perianth** oblong, exserted, 1500 x 550 µm, 3-keeled, smooth, apex obtuse (Hattori, 1973).

Distribution – Taiwan, Philippines, Sulawesi, Borneo, Java, Vietnam, Sumatra, Malacca, Sri Lanka.

Comments: According to Verdoorn (1930) the inclined, triangular stylus (Fig. 3D) is characteristic of this species. The different sizes of the auricles at the dorsal and ventral bases of the leaf-lobe, and the shape of the lobule indicate that the species belongs in subg. *Thyopsiella* (Verdoorn, 1930; Hattori, 1973).

6. *Frullania* (subg. *Thyopsiella*) *trichodes* Mitt., Bonplandia 10: 19 (1862). Type: Fiji, *Seeman s.n.* (holotype, NY!). Fig. 3 G-N

Frullania vethii Sande Lac., Reiz. Onderz. Sumatra-Exped. 4 (2), Flora: 44 (1884). Type: Indonesia, Sumatra, "Barisan Gebirge bei Alahan Pandjang", 1877-1879, *Veth & van Hasselt s.n.* (holotype, L!).

Frullania tenuicaulis Mitt., Trans. Linn. Soc. London, Bot. 3: 203 (1899), syn. fide Hattori (1982). Type: China, Prov. Quantung, without collector (holotype, NY!);

F. picta Steph., Hedwigia 3: 166 (1894), syn. fide Kamimura (1961). Type: Indonesia, Ambon, Wawani Hila, *G. Karsten s.n.* (holotype, G).

F. grebeana Steph., Sp. Hepat. 4: 537 (1911), syn. fide Kamimura (1961). Type: Indonesia, Borneo, Tamelayang, without collector (holotype, G!).

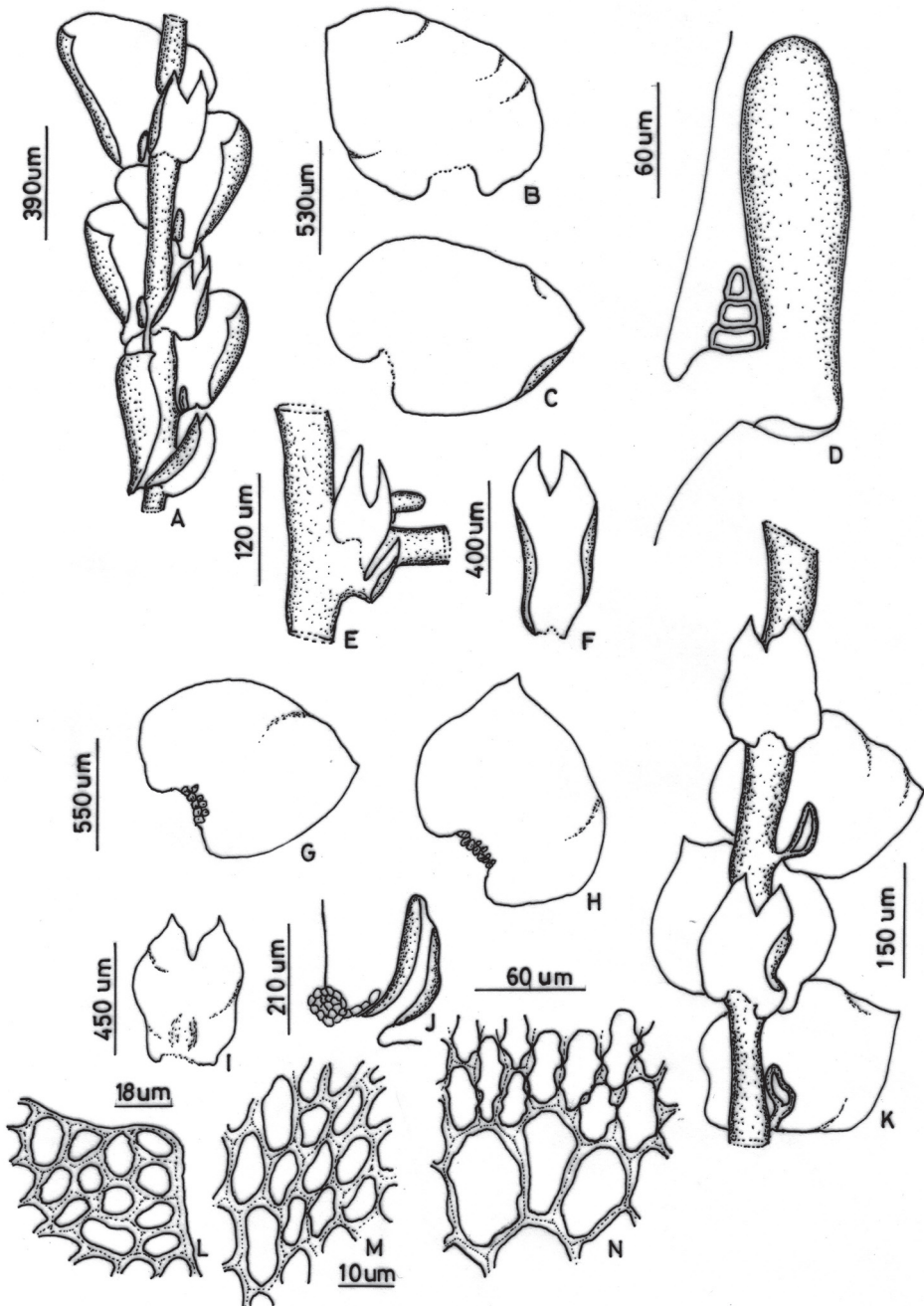


Figure 3. *Frullania ternatensis* Gottsche. – A. Part of shoot, ventral view; B, C. Leaves; D. Leaf-lobule, with triangular stylus; E. First branch underleaf and leaf; F. Underleaf. *Frullania trichodes* Mitt. – G, H. Leaves; I. Underleaf. J. Leaf-lobule, with laminate stylus; K. Part of shoot, ventral view; L. Apical leaf cells; M. Medial leaf cells; N. Basal leaf cells. (A-F from the type of *F. ternatensis* Gottsche. G-N from the type of *F. tenuicaulis* Mitten).

F. merrillana Steph., Sp. Hepat. 4: 613 (1911), syn. fide Kamimura (1961). Type: Philippines, Luzon, without collector (holotype, G!).

F. rubrimacula Goebel, Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenz. 39: 51 (1928), syn. fide Kamimura (1961). Type: Indonesia, Sumatra, Fort de Kock, 1925, *Goebel s.n.*

Plants slender, medium size, to 4-5 cm long and 150 μm wide including leaves, deeply reddish brown. Irregularly pinnate. Branches frequent, *Frullania* type, 2-4 mm long; widely spreading, usually to 2 mm long, branches remote. **Stems** to 100-120 μm wide in cross section. **Leaf-lobes** distant, widely ovate, concave, 900-975 x 1100-1125 μm , margin entire, apex acute or rounded, dorsal base slightly auriculate and ventral base truncate. Insertion slightly curved. **Leaf-lobe cells:** apical cells 15-18 x 10-12 μm , median cells 20-25 x 12-15 μm and basal cells 35-60 x 30-50 μm , cell wall rather thick, sinuous, trigones conspicuous, intermediate thickenings present, walls of basal cells more sinuous than the others cells; basal ocelli well developed. **Leaf-lobules** saccate or sometimes explanate, when saccate cylindrical to clavate-cylindrical, 220-250 x 80-110 μm , distant to the stem. **Stylus** short, filiform, three or four cells long, with terminal slime papilla and laminal portion rounded at base to 18 cells. **Underleaves** long distant, subcuadrangle to rectangular, concave, margins entire, bifid to 1/3 to 1/4 of length, wider than the stem, 500-750 x 250-550 μm , sinus wide, lobes triangular with acute apex, base truncate, insertion line long and straight. **Branch appendages:** first branch underleaves (BUL1) ventral segment laminar, rectangular, bifid to 1/3 of length. First branch leaf-lobes transformed into two saccate lobules. **Plants dioicous.** **Androecia** on short lateral branches, capitate to apiculate, two pair of bracts. **Gynoecia** on

lateral branches, spicate, 1000 x 250 μm , three or four pair of bracts. **Perianth** not seen.

Distribution – Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Thailand (Sornsamran & Thaithong, 1995), Myanmar, Sri Lanka (Onraedt, 1981).

Comments: Hattori (1975) suggested that *Frullania vaginata* and *F. vethii* may be considered as locally differentiated sibling taxa at a subspecific level. However, my examination of the type specimens indicates that *F. vethii* is morphologically identical to *F. trichodes* and should be treated as a synonym of the latter species. *Frullania trichodes* belongs in subg. *Thyopsiella* and is close to *F. vaginata*. The latter species can be distinguished by the dentate leaf margin (mostly on dorsal side), while in *F. trichodes* the margins of the leaves are entire. *Frullania trichodes* is very variable in several characters, which is reflected in the high number of synonyms; although its identity is not completely resolved yet, I treat it here as a distinct species.

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