

New plant records for the granitic Seychelles islands.

Justin Gerlach
PO Box 207, Victoria, Mahé, SEYCHELLES
[jstgerlach@aol.com]

The flora of the Seychelles islands has been thoroughly researched and few additions have been made to the species lists since the most recent revision (Fridemann 1994). Despite this surveys of islands in 2002 located two previously unrecorded angiosperm species, specimens of both species are in the collection of the Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles

Zanichelliaceae

Zanichellia palustris L.

A clump of horned pondweed, an introduced water weed, was found in a stream running past the Chateau St. Cloud, into the Mare Soupape on La Digue. *Zanichellia* contains two species, both cosmopolitan invaders of fresh-water systems. To date several Zanichelliaceae species have been recorded in Seychelles, but all as marine 'sea-grass' species.

Moraceae

Ficus densifolia Miq.

A single tree of this species was found on Souris island, off the east coast of Mahé by the author and Dr. M. van der Merwe. The tree is highly distinctive with large, pubescent leaves and bright orange fruit. The species has been described as a Mascarene island endemic and its status in the Seychelles flora is uncertain. The Souris island tree is known to have been planted on 12th February 1937 by A. Deltel and J. McQueen. The planted sapling came from a tree at Bel Age on Mahé, the parent tree is not longer alive and its origins are unknown; it may have been an indigenous tree or an ornamental introduction from the Mauritius or Reunion. *F. densifolia* has been recorded from Seychelles but without any precise data (Berg 1986) but this record was implied to be erroneous by Friedmann (1994).

References

- Berg, H. 1986 *Adansonia* 1; 18
Friedmann, F. 1994 *Flore des Seychelles: Dicotyledones*. ORSTOM, Paris