

Description of *Ficus rubiginosa*

Dixon *et al.* (2001) describe *F. rubiginosa* as: "Tree, hemi-epiphyte or lithophyte up to 30 m. Twigs glabrous, or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, villous with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, or tomentose with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent. Leaves alternate, narrowly elliptic, elliptic, widely elliptic, oblong, ovate, widely ovate, obovate; apex acute, obtuse; base cuneate, obtuse, rounded, truncate, cordate. Lamina 40.0 – 193.0 mm long, 12.5 – 132.0 mm wide; adaxial and abaxial surfaces glabrous or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent or with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent. Lateral veins 16 – 62 pairs diverging 41.5 – 84.0 degrees from the midvein; basal veins distinct diverging 18.5 – 78.9 degrees from the midvein. Petiole 7.0 – 82.0 mm long, 0.75 – 4.0 mm wide, glabrous or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent or with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent. Stipules 23.0 – 130.0 mm long, caducous, glabrous, or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, villous with ascending hyaline hairs interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent, or tomentose with weak ferruginous hairs only, glabrescent. Syconia 7.4 – 17.3 mm long, 7.6 – 17.3 mm in diameter, glabrous, or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent, or tomentose with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent; transversely ellipsoid, obloid, spheroid, broadly ellipsoid; red, orange, yellow, orange-brown, red-brown, pink, purple; ostiole triradiate. Basal bracts 2, rarely 3, imbricate, caducous, glabrous, or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent, or with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent. Peduncle 1.2 – 19.0 mm long, glabrous, or minutely puberulous, puberulous, pilose, with ascending hyaline hairs which may or may not be interspersed with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent, or with weak ferruginous hairs, glabrescent. Female florets embedded in wall of receptacle, sessile, pedicellate, tepals 3-5, stigma simple; male florets pedicellate, tepals 3-5, anthers 1 with crescentic dehiscence, interspersed with the female and gall florets; gall florets sessile, pedicellate, tepals 3-5. Interfloral bracts present.

Gilman and Watson (1993) report that *F. rubiginosa* is a broad, spreading evergreen tree that can reach heights between 10.5 and 15 meters and spread out anywhere from 10.5 to 18 meters. The crown of this species is round and can be very dense. *F. rubiginosa* is densely covered with oval, blunt-tipped, 7.5 to 15 cm, medium green, smooth leaves. It is a simple leaf with pinnate venation and entire margins. The underside of the leaf is brown and hairy. *F. rubiginosa* flowers are inconspicuous and not showy, and form round, brown, fleshy fruits 1.2-2.5 cm in length (Gilman and Watson, 1993).

PIER (2005) describes *F. rubiginosa* in detail stating that, "*F. rubiginosa* bark is dark gray, fairly smooth, but somewhat roughened by narrow, broken rings of a lighter gray than the bark itself; also, by longitudinal creases. The young twigs are scurfy-pubescent, short-jointed, and often angular or somewhat flattened. The terminal dormant buds are 2.5 to 5 cm long, densely rusty-pubescent, colored reddish brown. The stipules are up to 12.6 cm long, one longer than the other, lanceolate, scarious on margins, glabrous within, but pubescent on the outer side. The alternate, equilateral leaves are 7.5 to 17.2 cm long and up to 6.2 cm broad, oval, with the apex bluntly obtuse and the base broad and rounded. Venation is indistinct in some leaves but fairly prominent in others, the veins below very slightly elevated or almost flush with the surface, with 1 or 2 basal pairs plus 8 to 12 laterals. The texture is coriaceous, the margins entire, the surface prominently rubiginous above and below when young, the upper surface becoming more or less smooth and glabrous with age. The petioles are up to 4.3 cm long, sparsely pubescent at first, rusty at maturity, slightly flattened above but hardly at all grooved. The trees commonly bear the axillary, geminate fruits profusely, those on different trees varying considerably in size, shape, and surface characters. The peduncles are 0.2 to 0.8 cm long, angular, thick, and clublike, enlarged or swollen toward the apex, and densely pubescent. Sizes vary from 1.1 to 1.5 cm in diameter, shapes from globular to oblate-

spherical or slightly oblong, and color from green or rusty to yellowish. The surface also varies, from rusty-pubescent or scurfy to almost smooth, with prominent, greenish or white flecks loosely scattered, these often somewhat raised or pebbly. The bracts are very early deciduous. The umbilicus is small, flush with the apex or very slightly protruding and nipple-like, with indistinct, reddish-brown scales. The interior is white" (Condit 1969, in PIER, 2005)."