Three new species of *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae: Phyllantheae) for the Northern Territory, one new species for Western Australia, and notes on other *Phyllanthus* species occurring in these regions

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Abstract

Hunter, J.T. and Bruhl, J.J. Three new species of *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae: Phyllantheae) for the Northern Territory, one new species for Western Australia, and notes on other *Phyllanthus* species occurring in these regions. Nuytsia 11(2): 147-163 (1997). *Phyllanthus cauticola*, *P. prominulatus* and *P. sulcatus* from the Northern Territory, and *P. baeckeoides* from Western Australia are described. Notes are presented on the nomenclatural problems of previously named taxa from these regions. A key to the species of *Phyllanthus* L. from the Northern Territory and Western Australia is presented.

Introduction

The taxonomy of *Phyllanthus* L. species (Euphorbiaceae: Phyllantheae) has presented a problem within Australia due to the lack of a continent-wide treatment since Bentham (1873). In our revision of the Phyllantheae for the "Flora of Australia", new taxa have been delimited and nomenclatural issues have been highlighted (e.g. Hunter & Bruhl 1996, 1997). This paper presents full descriptions of new *Phyllanthus* species we recognize for the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Other papers dealing with new taxa and issues in other states will be presented in other Australian taxonomic journals.

Detailed coverage of affinities, phylogeny and unusual morphological features are beyond the scope of this paper and we refrain from *ad hoc* discussions of such matters. They will be dealt with after further investigations, in subsequent papers.

Methods

Sampling and Organization of Data. Significant proportions of the *Phyllanthus* specimens held by the herbaria AD, BRI, CANB, DNA, HO, MEL, NSW, PERTH and QRS, and historically important *Phyllanthus* specimens from A and GH were provisionally sorted into taxa. Close inspection of these taxa and subsequent re-sorting of specimens formed the basis for our decisions on the status of these taxa. Ten representative specimens (where available) of these taxa were chosen for detailed analysis of quantitative micromorphological characters. Macromorphological characters (qualitative and

quantitative, e.g. leaf length) were scored in all available material. Selection of the ten specimens for study was based on specimen quality in terms of the amount and number of developmental stages displayed.

A DELTA (Dallwitz 1980; Dallwitz *et al.* 1993) list of 395 characters and their states has been created by the authors for the Phyllantheae (Bruhl & Hunter unpublished). This was used to score attributes measured in selected specimens, together with those measured in all available material.

Fresh material was used where possible, but in most instances floral measurements were based on re-hydrated material. Mature leaves only were used for scoring leaf characters.

Terminology. For purposes of consistency across the members of the Phyllantheae, the perianth segments of *Phyllanthus* are referred to as sepals. Further developmental investigations need to be carried out to confirm this interpretation (Webster pers. comm.).

Terminology for seed surface characters follows that of Stearn (1992). A bordered hilum is indicated by a discoloured and often raised region surrounding the hilum. This character is most obvious in *Phyllanthus fuernrohrii* F. Muell. (see Hunter & Bruhl 1996: Figure 1A, C).

There are sometimes differences between the leaves of branches, referred to as 'branch leaves', and those on ultimate branchlets referred to as 'branchlet leaves'. Phyllanthoid branching is indicated by a reduction of the leaf that subtends a branch/branchlet to a scale-like structure, as illustrated by Webster (1970). Branch leaves exhibiting intermediate reduction in size, but still clearly laminate, are referred to as 'reduced'. Care should be taken where leaves may have fallen, to check for a leaf scar which will always be present. The term 'prominulous' is as given by Stearn (1992).

Citation. Type specimens of all relevant taxa have been seen by one or both of the authors, unless stated otherwise. Photographs of type specimens examined at BM and K are held at NE, together with photographs taken of type specimens on loan to NE.

A list of all specimens studied will be deposited at NE. An INTKEY dataset for interactive identification will be made available on completion of our study of the Australian Phyllantheae.

Taxonomy

1. Phyllanthus aridus Benth, Fl. Austral. 6: 110 (1873). *Type*: Northern Australia, Barren Shores of Brunswick Bay and Port Warrender, Vansittart Bay, N.W. Coast, A. Cunningham (holo: K).

Phyllanthus polycladus W. Fitzg. nom. illeg. non P. polycladus Urb., Symb. Antill. 1: 333 (1898) - P. hesperonotos Govaerts & Radel.-Sm., Kew Bull. 51: 177 (1995). Type: Edkins Range, Western Australia, August 1905, W. V. Fitzgerald 1437 (holo: NSW).

Phyllanthus sp. C, Wheeler et al., Flora of the Kimberley Region 624 (1992).

Distribution. Phyllanthus aridus occurs chiefly in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, but is also known from sporadic localities south of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Notes. The name Phyllanthus aridus seems to have been little used within Australia, especially in recent decades. More commonly the name Phyllanthus polycladus W. Fitzg. (see Wheeler et al. 1992) has been applied to specimens referable to P. aridus. Phyllanthus aridus has priority over P. polycladus. In any case, the latter is a secondary homonym of P. polycladus Urban, a North American species with no close affinity to P. aridus.

The recent publication of *Phyllanthus hesperonotos* Govaerts & Radel.-Sm. overlooked the priority of the name *Phyllanthus aridus*. Govaerts & Radeliffe-Smith (1995: 177) state that "the species is found in the south of Western Australia", yet we have seen no specimens of *P. aridus* from southern Western Australia.

Phyllanthus aridus is a variable species that is in need of further close study, and may prove to contain more than one entity. One variant is distinguished by its linear leaves and very long pedicels (see *Dunlop* 8223 DNA, *Aplin* 5013 DNA), whereas most populations of this species possess elliptic leaves and shorter pedicels.

2. Phyllanthus baeckeoides J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl, sp. nov.

A *Phyllanthus calycino* habitu dioeis, stipulis rubris ovatis, pedicellis brevioribus, fructibus et seminibus parvioribus, differt.

Typus: Merolia Station, Western Australia, 25 August 1989, A. L. Payne 2492 (holo: PERTH 01165577) [male].

Dioecious shrubs, 0.5-1.5 m tall. Branchlets persistent, rounded, 2.5-7 cm long, 0.4-0.7 mm wide, glabrous. Stipules persistent, free, 0.7-2.1 mm long, red, ovate, chartaceous, entire or sometimes lacerate, glabrous; base truncate to cordate; apex acute to acuminate. Branch leaves normal. Branchlet leaves alternate, distichous, jointed, symmetrical, concave, held close to the stem. Petiole 0.4-0.8 mm long, 0.2-0.4 mm wide, glabrous. Lamina 2.5-14.3 mm long, 0.8-2.4 mm wide, elliptic, light-green to mid-green, obscurely veined, glabrous; base symmetrical, rounded to obtuse; apex recurved, ecaudate, rounded to retuse, mucronate; margins revolute. Bracts and bracteoles deciduous. Inflorescences indeterminate, axillary, sessile. Male flowers solitary; pedicels 0.8-3.5 mm long, glabrous; sepals 6, free, ascending to divergent, 2-3.9 mm long, 1.3-2.7 mm wide, white to yellow, elliptic to circular, emarginate, retuse, rounded to obtuse, glabrous; disk comprising discrete lobes, 2-3.1 mm wide, lobes lenticular; stamens 3, 1-whorled, erect; filaments completely connate, erect, terete, 1.2-2.6 mm long; anthers extrorse, erect to ascending, oblong, 0.9-1.4 mm long; locules parallel. Female flowers solitary; pedicels at anthesis and in fruit 2.2-2.8 mm long, 0.3-0.5 mm wide, glabrous; sepals free, 6, 1.5-3 mm long, 1.2-2.1 mm wide, elliptic, circular to ovate ascending to divergent, green to yellow, with a distinct white margin, retuse to obtuse, glabrous; disk crenate, 1.5-2.1 mm wide; styles 3, free although connate at the base, erect to ascending, red, 0.7-1.1 mm long, 0.2-0.3 mm wide, narrow-terete, glabrous; ovary 0.5-1.2 mm long, 0.9-1.9 mm wide, transversely ellipsoid, apically depressed, smooth, glabrous. Fruit a capsule, septicidal, transversely ellipsoid, apically depressed, 2.4-2.9 mm long, 3.7-4 mm wide, yellow-brown or green, cartilaginous, smooth, glabrous, grooved septicidally; column persistent, 'lanceolate' to obtrullate, 1.4-1.8 mm long. Seeds yellow to yellow-brown, prismatic, laterally compressed, 1.8-1.9 mm long, 1.3-1.5 mm wide, smooth; hilum slightly depressed, circular to ovate, cavity more or less basal. (Figure 1A-C)

Specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA [precise localities withheld]: Mt Clifford, Severne 360269 (PERTH); White Cliffs Station, 24 July 1988, S. Petty 2083 & 2084 (PERTH); Laverton, Sep. 1990, Barret s.n. (PERTH).

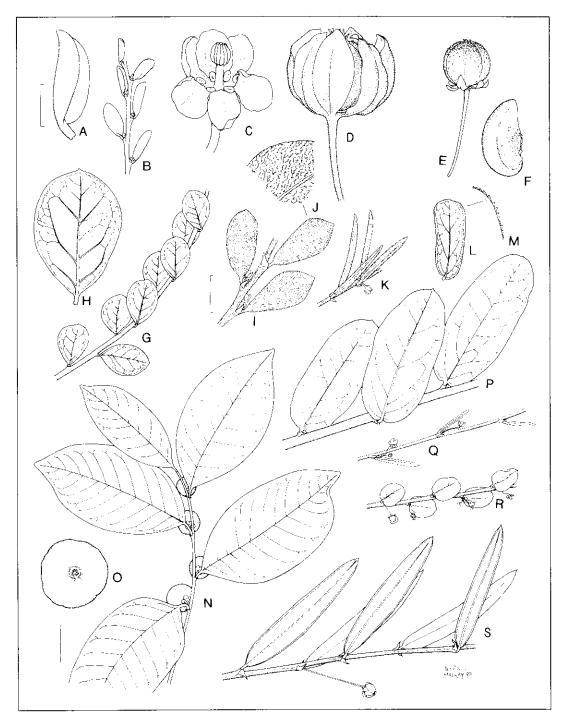


Figure 1. A-C Phyllanthus baeckeoides A - leaf. B - branchlet, C - male flower; D P. carpentariae D - fruit enclosed by sepals; E-F P. exilis E - fruit, F - seed; G-H P. prominulatus G - branchlet, H - leaf; I-K P. scaber I - branchlet, J - leaf detail, K - branchlet; L-M P. sulcatus L - leaf. M - leaf detail; N-O P. reticulatus N - branchlet, O - fruit; P-S P. virgatus - branchlets. Scale bars: A, C, D, E, H, J, M = 2 mm; B, G, I, K, L, P, Q, R, S = 5 mm; F = 1 mm; N = 1 cm; O = 4 mm. Drawn from S. Petty 2083 (PERTH) (A,B,C); V.J. Neldner 2755 (BRI) (D); G.L. Wightman 2573 & M. Clark (DNA) (E,F); M.O. Parker 739 (DNA) (G,H,); G.L. Webster 18628 (NSW) (IJ); M.E. Phillips 1418 (CBG) (K); C.R. Dunlop 6107 & J. Taylor (DNA) (L.M,); K.F. Kenneally 10468 (PERTH) (N,O); C.R. Dunlop 8673 & N.G. White (DNA) (P); J.R. Clarkson 4816 (BRI) (Q); T.A. Halliday 450 (BRI) (R); I.D. Cowie 1453 & C.R. Dunlop (DNA) (S). Drawn by D. Mackay.

Distribution. Only known from localities near Laverton.

Habitat. Known from granite outcrops, and red-lateritic and sandy-clay soils.

Flowering and fruiting period. July to September.

Conservation status. CALM Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora: Priority Onc. A ROTAP code (Briggs & Leigh 1988) of 2E-W is suggested. This species is known only from a few close localities and a handful of specimens, none within a reserve.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the superficial resemblance of the plants in flower to Baeckea L., a genus in the Myrtaceae.

3. Phyllanthus cauticola J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl, *sp. nov.*

P. exili affini sed habitu pendenti, ramulis rotundatis, laminis latioribus et sepalis masculinis majoribus differt.

Typus: Kakadu National Park [precise locality withheld], Northern Territory, April 1993, *J.T. Hunter* 1589, *J.J. Bruhl & J.L. Egan* (holo: DNA; iso: BRI, DAV, NE, PERTH).

Monoecious shrubs. Branches rounded, 8-9.5 cm long; 0.2-0.3 mm wide, the upper parts of the branchlets are often red, papillose. Stipules persistent, free, 0.4-0.9 mm long, red, narrowly triangular, chartaceous, entire, glabrous to papillose; base rounded to obtuse; apex acute. Branch leaves normal. Branchlet leaves alternate, distichous, jointed, symmetrical, plane. Petiole 0.6-1.5 mm long, 0.1-0.4 mm wide, glabrous to papillate. Lamina 9.3-13.2 mm long, 3.7-4.1 mm wide, obovate, light-green to mid-green, paler below, pinnately veined, obscurely veined, glabrous to sparsely papillate; base symmetrical, obtuse to attenuate; apex erect, ecaudate, rounded to emarginate and sometimes cuspidate, mucronate; margins plane. Bracts and bracteoles deciduous, glabrous. Inflorescences unisexual or occasionally bisexual with the sexes mixed, indeterminate, axillary, sessile. Male flowers solitary; pedicels 0.4-0.6 mm long, glabrous; sepals 6, free, ascending, 1.8-2 mm long, 0.9-1.1 mm wide, white to yellow, elliptic to ovate, obtuse to acute, glabrous; disk comprising discrete lobes, about 1 mm wide, lobes lenticular; stamens 3, 1-whorled, erect; filaments completely connate, erect, terete, 0.7 mm long; anthers extrorse, erect to ascending, oblong to elliptic, 0.6-0.7 mm long; locules parallel. Female flowers solitary; pedicels at anthesis 2-2.3 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, in fruit 2.7-3.3 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, glabrous or sometimes papillate; sepals free, 6, 1.6-2.3 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide, elliptic, at anthesis ascending and incurved, in fruit ascending, white, green to yellow, with a distinct white margin, obtuse to acute, glabrous; disk crenate, 0.6-0.8 mm wide; styles 3, free, divided for about half their length, erect to recurved, red, 0.3-0.4 mm long, about 0.1 mm wide, narrow-terete, glabrous, branches entire, linear; ovary 0.7-0.9 mm long, 0.7-0.8 mm wide, globose to ellipsoid, smooth, glabrous. Fruit a capsule, septicidal, globose to ellipsoid, 2-2.2 mm long, 0.9-2 mm wide, yellow-brown to green, cartilaginous, smooth, glabrous, grooved septicidally; column persistent, narrow oblong to 'lanceolate', 1.3-1.5 mm long. Seeds bi-coloured with the upper half red and the lower half yellow, prismatic to crescentiform, laterally compressed, 1.7-1.8 mm long, 0.5-0.8 mm wide, smooth; hilum markedly depressed, bordered, circular, cavity more or less basal.

Distribution. Known only from a small population at the type locality within Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.

Habitat. Grows horizontally then pendulously from the sides of sandstone cliffs.

Flowering and fruiting period. April.

Conservation status. A ROTAP code (Briggs & Leigh 1988) of 2EC-Y is suggested. The species is at present only known from the type locality.

Etymology. In reference to the habit of the whole plant as it projects horizontally from sandstone outcrops.

Notes. Phyllanthus cauticola is unusual in having elongated fruits and seeds, characters of Phyllanthus in Australia that are otherwise only known from P. exilis. These attributes are similar to those seen in Sauropus, however, a floral disk confirms the inclusion of P. cauticola in Phyllanthus. The seed of P. cauticola is unusual in being bi-colourous, a state not seen in other members of the genus.

4. *Phyllanthus debilis Klein ex Willd., Sp. Pl. 4: 582 (1805). *Type*: Ph. Niruri proxim Fankerb, 9 Jan[uary] 1799 (*holo*: BM).

Phyllanthus leai S. Moore, J. Linn. Soc. (Bot.) 45: 217 (1920). Type: North Australia, June-July 1886, T.S. Lea (holo: BM).

Distribution. This tropical weed has a sporadic and disjunct distribution within Australia. It is known from Darwin, and Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory and from the Torres Strait Islands, Townsville and Mackay in Queensland.

Notes. Phyllanthus debilis is probably native to tropical Asia (Airy Shaw 1980). Until now P. debilis has not been recognized as occurring in Australia. Most collections of this species have been misidentified as P. amarus Schum. Phyllanthus debilis can be readily distinguished from P. amarus by the possession of six sepals rather than five.

Based on herbarium collections, *P. debilis* appears to have been introduced into Australia twice. The earliest known collection from Australia is the type specimen of *P. leai*, 1886 from Darwin. No more specimens of *P. debilis* appear to have been made until 1980, when it was again collected in Darwin.

5. Phyllanthus eutaxioides S. Moore, J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 45:216 (1920). *Type*: East Coast [sic], R. Brown 3617 (holo: BM).

Phyllanthus sp. Golden Sands, Dunlop et al., Flora of the Darwin Region 2: 233 (1995).

Distribution. Phyllanthus eutaxioides is restricted to the Darwin Region and the Gove Peninsula of the Northern Territory.

Notes. Although the name *P. eutaxioides* is valid, it seems not to have been used within Australia other than in Moore's original designation. Dunlop *et. al.* (1995) have referred to this species as *P.* 'Golden Sands' in the "Flora of the Darwin Region". *Phyllanthus eutaxioides* is variable and appears to have three variants: one (e.g. DNA 24813; DNA 24814) has larger stipules and leaves than the type variant, and a disc that is more inflated; another (e.g. DNA 5731; DNA 9440; MEL 226369) differs from the type variant in being papillose to scabrous on the stems and leaves. In both these variants the anther filaments are not fully fused, while they are in the type variant. For illustrations of *P. eutaxioides* see Dunlop *et. al.* (1995) [as *P.* 'Golden Sands']. Further studies of this complex are warranted.

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Although *Phyllanthus eutaxioides* is restricted to the Darwin region and the Gove Peninsula within the Northern Territory, the type specimen locality is given as 'East Coast'. It appears that this was a mistaken locality, as Robert Brown, at the time of collecting this specimen, was in the Gulf of Carpentaria or part of Antrim's [Arnhem] Land (Dawson 1958).

6. Phyllanthus exilis S. Moore, J. Bot. 64: 97 (1926). *Type*: Groote Eylandt, February 1925, *S. Moore* 109 (holo: K).

Phyllanthus sp. aff. virgatus, Dunlop et al., Flora of the Darwin Region 2: 233 (1995).

[Phyllanthus trachygyne auct. non Benth., Wheeler et al., Flora of the Kimberley Region 622 (1992).]

Distribution. Phyllanthus exilis is a common species from the west coast of the Kimberley region of Western Australia to the Gulf country in Queensland.

Notes. Phyllanthus exilis, while a valid name, has not been used within Australia since its original publication. Most commonly specimens of *P. exilis* have been determined as *P. trachygyne* Benth. (Wheeler et al. 1992) which is a synonym of *P. virgatus* Forst. f.

Intriguingly both the name and description of *P. trachygyne* by Bentham (1873) indicate that its ovary is warted. However, the lectotype of *P. trachygyne* does not have a warted ovary and neither do any of the collections that otherwise conform to the type description. By contrast, specimens of the vegetatively similar *P. exilis* do have warted ovaries. Indeed, until we examined the ovary, fruits and seeds of type specimen of *P. exilis*, we were unable to determine to which species the type belonged. The fruit and seed are illustrated in Figure 1E,F. For further illustrations see Wheeler (1992) [as *P. trachygyne*] and Dunlop *et al.* (1995) [as *P. sp. aff. virgatus*].

7. Phyllanthus lacerosus Airy Shaw, Kew Bull. 35: 386 (1980). *Type*: black clay plain, Negri-Stirling area, 17°10' S 129°15' E, Northern Territory, 3 May 1974, *Dunlop* 3567 (holo: K).

Phyllanthus sp. A, Jacobs & Harden, Flora of New South Wales 1: 397 (1990)

Phyllanthus sp. A, Wheeler et al., Flora of the Kimberley Region 623 (1992).

Notes. Independently, James & Harden (1990) and Wheeler (1992), treated *P. lacerosus* under *Phyllanthus* sp. *A*. The distribution of *P. lacerosus* indicates that it is not naturalized (as suggested in Wheeler 1992), but native. Hunter & Bruhl (1997) present a full description along with notes on distribution and synonyms. For illustrations see Wheeler (1992) [as *P.* sp. A] and James & Harden (1990) [as *P.* sp. A].

8. Phyllanthus prominulatus J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl, *sp. nov.*

P. virgato affini a quo ramis angularibus as ellipsoideis, brevioribus, venis foliorum manifeste prominulis, sepalis femineis fructiferus brevioribus differt.

Typus: Kapalga [precise locality withheld], Northern Territory, G.M. Wightman 20 (holo: DNA).

Monoecious herb. Branchlets persistent, angular to ellipsoid, slightly winged, 0.6-1.7 cm long, 0.3-0.6 mm wide, glabrous. Stipules persistent, free, 0.5-0.7 mm long, red-brown, ovate to triangular, chartaceous, entire, glabrous; base cordate to amplexicaul; apex acute to acuminate. Branch leaves normal. Branchlet leaves alternate, distichous, jointed, brown when dry or remaining green, symmetrical, plane to concave. Petiole 0.3-0.8 mm long, 0.1-0.4 mm wide, glabrous. Lamina 5-8.8 mm long, 2.4-4.8 mm wide, elliptic, circular to obovate, light-green, paler below, pinnately veined, adaxially prominently veined, abaxially prominulous, glabrous; base symmetrical, rounded to obtuse; apex erect, ecaudate, obtuse to rounded, mucronate; margins plane, thickened; midrib abaxially raised with 4-8 raised parallel lateral veins per side, with marginal loops. Bracts and bracteoles deciduous, glabrous. Inflorescences at least sometimes bisexual with the sexes mixed, indeterminate, axillary, sessile. Male flowers solitary or sometimes clustered, 2-5 per cluster; pedicels 0.4-1.2 mm long, glabrous; sepals 6, free, ascending to divergent, 0.3-0.7 mm long, 0.2-0.5 mm wide, the margins are sometimes lobed once on each side (hastate), white to yellow, elliptic, circular, to ovate, obtuse and acute, glabrous; disk comprising discrete lobes, 0.2-0.4 mm wide, lobes lenticular; stamens 2-3, 1-whorled, erect; filaments free to connate for about half their length, erect, terete, 0.1-0.3 mm long; anthers extrorse, divaricate, elliptic to circular, 0.1-0.2 mm long. Female flowers solitary or sometimes clustered, 1-2 per cluster; pedicels jointed, at anthesis 0.3-1.1 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, in fruit 1-2.7 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, glabrous; sepals free, 6, 0.3-0.5 mm long, 0.2-0.3 mm wide, elliptic to ovate, at anthesis ascending to divergent, in fruit divergent to reflexed, white, green to yellow, with a distinct white margin, obtuse to acute, glabrous; disk crenate, 0.4-0.6 mm wide, glabrous; styles 3, free, divided for half or more of their length, divergent to recurved, vellow to green, 0.2-0.3 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, narrow-terete, glabrous, branches linear; ovary 0.2-0.5 mm long, 0.3-0.7 mm wide, transversely ellipsoid and apically depressed, smooth, glabrous. Fruit a capsule, septicidal, transversely ellipsoid and apically depressed, 0.8-0.9 mm long, 1.5-1.8 mm wide, yellow-brown, red-brown to green, cartilaginous, smooth, glabrous, grooved septicidally; column persistent, angular-ovoid to 'lanceolate', 0.3-0.5 mm long. Seeds pallid-brown to red-brown, prismatic, laterally compressed, 0.6-0.7 mm long, 0.5-0.7 mm wide, granulate; hilum slightly depressed, circular to ovate, cavity more or less basal. (Figure 1G,H)

Selected specimens examined. NORTHERN TERRITORY [precise localities withheld]: Munmalary Station, P.K. Latz 3890 (DNA); Kapalga, G.M. Wightman 20 (DNA); Berry Springs, M.O. Parker 739 (DNA); Hayward Creek, I.D. Cowie 1202 & G.J. Leach (DNA).

Distribution. Known from a few isolated localities within Kakadu National Park and around Darwin, Northern Territory.

Habitat. Known from sedgeland and damp places within savanna woodland.

Flowering and fruiting period. April to May.

Conservation status. A ROTAP code (Briggs & Leigh 1988) of 2EC-N is suggested.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the obviously prominulate veins on the leaves.

Notes. The *Phyllanthus virgatus* complex is morphologically similar to *P. prominulatus*, from which it can readily be distinguished by its distinctive, delicate and prominulous leaves.

9. Phyllanthus scaber Klotzsch, Pl. Preiss 1:179 (1845). *Type*: In litore rupestri promontorii Cape Riche, 18 Nov[ember] 1840, *Preiss* 1200 (holo: K). (Figure 1I-K)

Phyllanthus scaber Klotzsch var. angustifolius Muell. Arg., Prodromus 15: 372 (1866). Type: In Nova-Hollandia austro occident, ad King George's Sound (Cuming qui misit anno 1860, in hb. DC.) (holo: G-DC).

Phyllanthus scaber Klotzsch var. *pallidiflorus* Muell. Arg., Prodromus 15: 372 (1866). *Type*: Ad King George's Sound Novae-Hollandiae (Cuming qui misit anno 1860, in hb. DC.) (*holo*: G-DC).

Phyllanthus maitlandianus Diels, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 35: 338 (1904). *Type*: Hab. In distr. Irwin pr. Chapman River ad latera vallis umbrosa in calcareis humosis flor. m. Sep. *Diels* 4131 (*holo: n.v.*, presumed destroyed at B).

Distribution. Phyllanthus scaber has a disjunct distribution predominantly along the western and southern coasts and islands of Western Australia.

Notes. This species shows much morphological variation. In general, though, the most common variation is in leaf size and shape. Some specimens have wide leaves and others have very narrow leaves. The latter have often been identified as *Phyllanthus maitlandianus*. The narrowness of the leaves is not a constant character, however, as there is much variation between specimens, and even within a single collection. We therefore treat *Phyllanthus maitlandianus* as a synonym of *P. scaber*.

10. Phyllanthus sulcatus J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl, sp. nov.

P. urinaria affinised caulibus ellipsoideis brevioribus, ramulis brevioribus, fructu minus verrucato, seminibus parvioribus, et depressione extra hilum adest differt.

Typus: 15 km S of Kakadu National Park Headquarters, Jabiru, Burdulba River area flats, Northern Territory, 13 May 1988, *A.A. Munir* 5614 (*holo*: AD; *iso*: DNA, NE).

[Phyllanthus urinaria auct. non L.: Wheeler et al., Flora of the Kimberley Region 622 (1992); Forster & Henderson, Queensland Vascular Plants: Names and Distributions 116 (1993).]

[Phyllanthus leai auct. non S. Moore: Dunlop et al., Flora of the Darwin Region 2: 231 (1995).]

Monoccious annual herb, to 0.3 m tall. Branchlets persistent, ellipsoid to flattened, ribbed, 1-4 cm long, 0.2-0.4 mm wide, glabrous to papillose in longitudinal rows. Stipules persistent, free, 0.4-1.7 mm long, cream to pink, lanceolate, ovate to triangular, membranous, with a distinct white margin, entire to lacerate, glabrous; base truncate, rounded, cordate to sagittate; apex acute. Branch leaves reduced leaf-like to scale-like with the branches bearing modified leaves that are broadly ovate in appearance but are not reduced in size, upper branches are subtended by scales, pallid-brown, glabrous. Branchlet leaves alternate, distichous, jointed, symmetrical, plane. Petiole 0.2-0.7 mm long, 0.1-0.4 mm wide, glabrous. Lamina 5.2-12 mm long, 1.7-6 mm wide, oblong to ovate, mid-green, paler below, pinnately veined, abaxially prominulous, glabrous to glabrescent with younger leaves sometimes scabrous along the major veins; base sometimes ± oblique, rounded to cuneate; apex erect, ecaudate, acute, obtuse or rounded, mucronate, with a small callous; margins serrate to serrulate, plane; midrib abaxially raised with 3-7 lateral veins with marginal loops. Bracts and bracteoles deciduous, glabrous. Inflorescences unisexual, branchlets with distal males, indeterminate, axillary. Peduncles only on female flowers, 0.2-0.9 mm long at anthesis, otherwise sessile. Male flowers at least sometimes clustered, 1-2 per cluster; pedicels 0.1-0.4 mm long, glabrous; sepals 6, free, ascending to divergent, 0.3-0.8 mm long, 0.2-0.5 mm wide, white

to yellow, elliptic, ovate to obovate, rounded to acute, glabrous; disk comprising discrete lobes, 0.2-0.5 mm wide, lobes lenticular; stamens 3, 1-whorled, symmetrical, erect; filaments completely connate, erect, terete, c. 0.1 mm long; anthers extrorse, erect, connate, oblong to elliptic, 2-3 mm long; locules parallel. Female flowers solitary, sessile at anthesis; pedicels present only in fruit, jointed; sepals free, 6, 0.5-1 mm long, 0.2-0.4 mm wide, lanceolate to triangular, at anthesis ascending to divergent, in fruit divergent to reflexed, white, yellow-brown to green, with a distinct white margin, rounded to acute, glabrous; disk crenate, 0.4-0.6 mm wide; styles 3, free, divided for about half or less of their length, erect to ascending, white to yellow, 0.1-0.4 mm long, 0.1-0.2 mm wide, narrow-terete, glabrous, branches entire, linear; ovary 0.4-0.7 mm long, 0.6-1.4 mm wide, transversely ellipsoid, apically depressed, often red in colour, colliculate, glabrous. Fruit a capsule, septicidal, transversely ellipsoid, apically depressed, 1.1-1.4 mm long, 1.9-2.4 mm wide, red-brown to red, cartilaginous, verrucate towards the apex, glabrous, grooved septicidally; column persistent, angular-ovoid to broadly barrel shaped, 0.3-0.7 mm long. Seeds yellow to black, prismatic, laterally compressed, 0.7-1.2 mm long, 0.5-0.9 mm wide, prominently sulcate; hilum markedly depressed, centrally constricted, cavity more or less basal or sometimes slightly displaced towards the centre, extra-hilum lateral depression present. (Figure 1L,M)

Selected specimens examined. QUEENSLAND: 12.4 km N of Mareeba, along road to Mt Malloy, D. Halford Q335B (BRI); Norman River Crossing on Normanton-Croydon road, near Glenore homestead, 18 km out of Normanton, V.J. Neldner 2420 & T.D. Stanley (BRI).

NORTHERN TERRITORY: 15 km S of Kakadu National Park Headquarters, Jabiru, Burdulba River area, A.A. Munir 5614 (AD); Mary River, C.R. Dunlop 8381 & B.A. Wilson (DNA); 10 miles [16 km] W of Borroloola, N. Henry 61 (DNA); Alligator River, C.R. Dunlop 6107 & J. Taylor (DNA); 'Westmoreland', 30 km E of the Q/NT border, for NW Queensland, R. Pullen 9191 (MEL); 30 km N of Cape Crawford, J.T. Hunter 1539, J.J. Bruhl & J.L. Egan (NE).

Distribution. Known from Darwin in the Northern Territory, east across the Gulf country to Cooktown in Queensland.

Habitat. Occurs in periodically inundated areas such as the margins of swamps, lagoons, dams, stream and river flats.

Flowering and fruiting period. March to September.

Etymology. In reference to the distinctly furrowed seeds.

Notes. Phyllanthus urinaria, a pan-tropical species, is morphologically similar to *P. sulcatus*, and specimens of the latter have been misidentified as *P. urinaria* (Wheeler et al. 1992). Phyllanthus sulcatus can, however, be distinguished by branchlet, fruit and seed characters (Table 1). Dunlop et al. (1995) have presented a description referable to *P. sulcatus* as *P. leai*, which is a synonym of *P. debilis* (see discussion above). Phyllanthus sulcatus and *P. urinaria* are the only two Australian species of Phyllanthus that have pedunculate female flowers. For illustrations see Wheeler et al. (1992) [as *P. urinaria*] and Dunlop et al. (1995) [as *P. leai*].

	P. sulcatus	P. urinaria
Branchlets	Ellipsoid to flattened	Rounded to angular
Branchlet length	1-4 cm	6.5-16.5 cm
tipules	With a white margin	Without a white margin
ıflorescences	Always unisexual	Sometimes bisexual
emale flowers	Solitary	l or 2 per axil
emale sepal margin	With a white margin	Without a white margin
emale sepal shape	Lanceolate to triangular	Elliptic to ovate
uitsculpturing	Sparsely warted	Densely warted
ed length	0.7-1.2mm	1.4-1.9mm
eed width	0.5-0.9mm	1-1.5 mm
ilum	Markedly depressed	Slightly depressed
ilum constriction	Present	Absent
xtra-hilum depression	Present	Absent

11. Phyllanthus virgatus G. Forst., Fl. Ins. Austral. Prodr.: 65 (1786). *Type*: Tahiti, *Banks & Solander* (?lecto or holo: BM n.v.). (Figure 1P-S)

Phyllanthus simplex Retz., Obs. Bot. 5: 29 (1789). Type: none cited.

Phyllanthus minutiflorus Muell. Arg., Linnaea 34: 75 (1865) - Phyllanthus simplex Retz. var. minutiflorus (Muell. Arg.) Domin, Beit. Fl. Pflanz. Aust. 877 (1927). Type: Upper Victoria River, F. Mueller (?syn: K), Upper River Victoria, F. Mueller (?syn: K), Niver Victoria, near the Main Camp, May 1856, F. Mueller (?syn: K), Victoria River, Arnhem Land, 1863, F. Mueller (?syn: G-DC).

Phyllanthus beckleri Muell. Arg., Linnaea 34:74 (1865). *Type*: Clarence River, *Beckler* 668 (*n.v.*, location unknown).

Phyllanthus filicaulis Benth., Fl. Austral. 6: 111 (1873) - P. simplex Retz. var. filicaulis (Benth.) Domin, Beit. Fl. Pflanz. Aust. 876 (1927). Type: New England, C. Stuart (holo: K).

Phyllanthus trachygyne Benth., Fl. Austral. 6: 103 (1873). Type: Port Darwin, Shultz 668 (here designated lecto: K); Shultz 112 (syn: K, n.v.), 660 (syn: K), 788 (syn: K).

Phyllanthus simplex Retz. var. leiospermus Benth., Fl. Austral. 6: 111 (1873) - Phyllanthus simplex subvar. leiospermus (Benth.) Domin, Beit. Fl. Pflanz. Aust. 876 (1927) as biospermus. Type: Narran River, Mitchell (n.v., location unknown).

Phyllanthus minutiflorus Muell. Arg. var. *gracillimus* Benth., Fl. Austral. 6: 112 (1873). *Type*: Moreton Bay, July 55, *F. Mueller* (holo: K).

Phyllanthus eboracensis S. Moore, J. Linn. Soc. (Botany) 45: 216 (1920). Type: Cape York, Daemel (holo: K).

Phyllanthus simplex Retz. var. myrtifolius Domin, Beit. Fl. Pflanz. Aust. 876 (1927). Type: Nordost-Queensland: Mischwälder bei Cairnes, auf Sand, XII 1909, Domin (n.v., location unknown).

Phyllanthus simplex Retz. var. pinifolius Domin, Beit. Fl. Pflanz. Aust.: 877(1927). Type: Qld: Sandsfeinhüyel der Dividing Range bei Pentland, II 1910, Domin (n.v., location unknown).

Phyllanthus sp. B, Wheeler et al., Flora of the Kimberley Region 624 (1992).

Distribution. The pan-tropical *Phyllanthus virgatus* is one of the most widespread and common Australian *Phyllanthus* species (Table 2), occurring from the Kimberleys in Western Australia, through northern and arid Australia, to as far south as Sydney in New South Wales.

Table 2. Distribution of Northern Territory and Western Australian species of *Phyllanthus* within Australia based on the regions adopted by Hnatiuk (1990)

Taxon	Distribution
*P. amarus K. Schum. & Thom	4,25,43,45,53,55,44,59,60
P. aridus Benth.	1,2,4,25,26
P. baeckeoides J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	10,15
P. calycinus Labill.	16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2223, 2436, 39, 40
P. carpentariae Mucll. Arg.	25, 26, 27, 43, 44, 46, 45, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 65
P. cauticola J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	25
*P. debilis Klein. ex Willd.	25,45,53,55
P. erwinii J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	4,29,30,47
P. eutaxioides S. Moore	25
P. exilis S. Moore	1,2,3,4,25,26,43
P. flagellaris Benth.	25
P. fuernrohrii F. Muell.	28,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,43,47,48,50,51,55,56,63,68,69
P. indigoferoides Benth.	1,25,45
P. lacerosus Airy Shaw	1,2,3,25,26,27,43,53,49
P. lacunellus Airy Shaw	29,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,47,70,71,72
P. maderaspatensis L.	1,2,3,4,7,12,14,18,25,26,27,31,34,43,44,45,46,47,49, 50,51,53,54,55,56,68
P. oblanceolatus J. T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	29,30,34,35,69,70
P. prominulatus J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	25

Table 2 continued

Taxon	Distribution
P. reticulatus Poiret	1,2,3,4,25,26,45
P. saxosus F. Muell.	21,33,34,35,36,37,38,40,41,42,74
P. scaber Klotzsch	14,16,21
P. sulcatus J.T. Hunter & J.J. Bruhl	25, 26, 43, 45
* P. tenellus Roxb.	3,45,53,54,57,52,59,60,62,63
P. urinaria L.	1,25
P. virgatus G. Forster	1,2,3,4,7,12,25,26,27,28,29,43,44,45,46,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,62,65,68,70

Notes. The type of *P. virgatus* cited here follows the treatment of Smith (1981), and as accepted by Webster (1986). *Phyllanthus virgatus* forms a heterogeneous, cosmopolitan species complex. Due to the extreme variability of this species, both within and between regions, and the lack of consistent characters, we have included the following taxa within the limits of *P. virgatus*: *P. filicaulis* Benth., *P. minutiflorus* Muell. Arg., *P. simplex* Retz., *P. beckleri* Muell. Arg., *P. eboracensis* S. Moore and *P. trachygyne* Benth. It is likely, however, that after in-depth research, some of these taxa may be reinstated and others recognized.

The specimen *Shultz* 668 (K) was chosen to lectotypify *P. trachygyne* as it was a diagnostic female specimen, richer in material than *Shultz* 660 (K), and we had access to fragments of the specimen.

Key to Phyllanthus species of the Northern Territory and Western Australia

Branch leaves scale-like (phyllanthoid branching)2
Branch leaves normal or sometimes reduced leaf-like
Leptocladus shrubs, 0.6-5 m tall; leaves 14.4-22 mm wide; secondary veins 8-15 per side; male pedicels 0.8-6.2 mm long; male sepals 0.8-2.2 mm wide; male disk lobes ellipsoid; female sepals 0.7-2.3 mm wide; stamens 5; ovary 0.6-1.5 mm long, 1-2.8 mm wide; fruit a berry, 2.5-7.6 mm long, 3.7-12.9 mm wide
Herbs to 0.8 m tall; leaves 1.7-9.8 mm wide; secondary veins 3-8 per side; male pedicels 0.1-1.6 mm long; male sepals 0.2-0.9 mm wide; male disk lobes lenticular; female sepals 0.2-1 mm wide; stamens 3; ovary 0.3-0.8 mm long, 0.3-1.4 mm wide; fruit a capsule, 1-2.3 mm long, 0.7-2.4 mm wide
Leaf base oblique, margins serrate, veins abaxially prominulous; female inflorescences pedunculate; ovary colliculate; fruit verrucate; native herbs
Leaf base not oblique, margins entire, veins not abaxially prominulous; female inflorescences not pedunculate; ovary smooth; fruit smooth; weedy herbs
Branchlets rounded to angular, 6.5-16.5 cm long; stipules without a white margin; inflorescences sometimes bisexual; female flowers 1 or 2 per axil; female sepals elliptic to ovate, without a white margin; fruit densely colliculose; seed 1.4-1.9 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide; hilum slightly depressed, not constricted, extra-hilum depression absent

	Branchlets ellipsoid to flattened, 1-4 cm long; stipules with a white margin; inflorescences always unisexual; female flowers solitary; female sepals lanceolate to triangular, with a white margin; fruit sparsely colliculose; seed 0.7-1.2 mm long, 0.5-0.9 mm wide; hilum markedly depressed, constricted, extra-hilum depression present	P. sulcatus
	Petiole 0.6-1.8 mm wide; sepals 5; female flowers solitary; style merely notched	P. amarus
	Petiole 0.1-0.3 mm wide; sepals 6 rarely 5; female flowers 1-5 per axil; style divided for half or more of its length	6
	Branchlets rounded, smooth; sepals 6 rarely 5; lamina margins undulate; stamens 4-6, free; seeds granulate to aculeate	*P. tenellus
6:	Branchlets flattened, ribbed; sepals always 6; lamina rounded, margins not undulate; stamens 3, connate; seeds striate	*P. debilis
7	Plants dioecious	
7:	Plants monoecious	
8	Lamina variously hairy, but not papillate	9
8:	Lamina glabrous, or sometimes papillate	10
9	Prostrate subshrub to 0.15 m tall; stipules lacerate to erose, 0.5-1.5 mm long; lamina 4.9-14.8 mm long, margins revolute; female perianth not growing in fruit leaving the fruit exposed; ovary and fruit glabrous	P. flagellaris
9:	Erect shrub or subshrub 0.2-1 m tall; stipules entire, 1.4-2.8 mm long; lamina 10-25.2 mm long, margins plane; female perianth growing and enclosing fruit; ovary pubescent and fruit pilose	riae (Figure 1D)
10	Branchlets ellipsoid to flattened; male sepals 0.5-0.9 mm long, red to red-brown; female pedicels 0.1-0.2 mm wide in fruit; female sepals 0.4-1.2 mm long; ovary and fruit warted with a rounded apex	P. exilis
10:	Branchlets rounded; male sepals 0.8-4 mm long, white, yellow or green; female pedicels 0.2-0.5 mm wide in fruit; female sepals 1.1-2.8 mm long; ovary and fruit smooth with a depressed apex.	
11	Branchlets 0.4-0.7 mm wide; male sepals 2-3.9 mm long, 1.3-2.7 mm wide; male disk 2-3.1 mm wide; female sepals 1.2-2.1 mm long, 1.4-2.1 mm wide; filaments connate completely, 1.2-2.6 mm long; anthers 0.9-1.4 mm long; style divided less than half way; seeds smooth	
	: Branchlets 0.6-1.2 mm wide; male sepals 0.8-2 mm long, 0.8-2 mm wide; male disk 0.6-1.3 mm wide; female sepals 0.4-1.6 mm long, 0.6-1.6 mm wide; filaments free or connate for only half way, 0.2-0.7 mm long; anthers 0.3-1 mm long; style undivided; seeds sculptured	12
	Female pedicels at anthesis 2-5 mm long; filaments free or connate for half their length; anthers 0.7-1 mm long; style 1.2-2.4 mm long; fruit 4.2-4.7 mm wide; column 1.2-2 mm long; seeds 2.1-2.3 mm long, striate	
	Female pedicels at anthesis 0.7-2 mm long; filaments always free; anthers 0.3-0.4 mm long; style 0.3-1.2 mm long; fruit 1.5-4.1 mm wide; column 0.6-1 mm long; seeds 1.3-1.9 mm long, colliculate	P. scabei
	Branchlets ribbed.	
13	Branchlets smooth.	15

14	Branchlets angular; stipules 1.7-5.2 mm long; lamina 19-30 mm long, prominulous; male pedicel 1.2-4.3 mm long; seeds smooth or finely striate	P. lacerosus
14:	: Branchlets rounded; stipules 0.6-1.4 mm long; lamina 5.5-18 mm long; male pedicel 0.3-1 mm long; seeds rugose to ribbed	
15	Female sepals enlarging and enclosing fruit	
	: Female sepals not enlarging in fruit, fruit exposed	
	Male pedicels 4.2-9.5 mm long; female pedicels 3.5-14.5 mm long at anthesis; fruit 3-5.2 mm long, 5-6.6 mm wide; seed 2.5-3.9 mm long, 1.8-2.5 mm long	
16:	: Male pedicels 0.4-1.7 mm long; female pedicels 1-4.8 mm long; fruit 2.2-4.3 mm long, 2.5-5.2 mm wide; seeds 1.7-2.2 mm long, 1.2-1.8 mm wide P	. carpentariae
17	Fruit ellipsoid, apex rounded not depressed; seeds elongated (distinctly longer than wide; falcoid) and bicolorous, yellow and red; filaments completely connate; plant growing pendulously from sandstone outcrops	P. cauticola
17:	Fruit transversely ellipsoid, apex depressed; seeds not elongated (only slightly longer than wide), only one colour; filaments free to connate; plant not growing pendulously from sandstone outcrops	18
18	Seeds rugose; hilum slightly depressed, not bordered; fruit smooth and glabrous; filaments free	
18:	Seeds granulate to tuberculate; hilum slightly depressed, not bordered; fruit smooth to verrucate, hairy or glabrous; filaments free or connate	
18:	Seeds smooth or rarely striate (<i>P. aridus</i>); hilum slightly or markedly depressed, bordered or not bordered; fruit smooth, hairy or glabrous; filaments free or connaton	
19	Leaf margins not thickened; female sepals 0.8-2 mm long, 0.6-2 mm wide; styles merely notched; stipule base rarely caudate	
19:	Leaf margins thickened; female sepals 0.3-1.2 mm long, 0.2-0.7 mm wide; styles divided for half or more of their length; stipules commonly and distinctly caudate	20
20	Branchlets angular to ellipsoid, \pm winged, 0.6-1.7 cm long; leaves prominently veined and prominulous; female sepals 0.3-0.5 mm long in fruit; rare species restricted to Darwin and Kakadu regions	prominulatus
20:	Branchlets rounded, never winged, 5.5-30 cm long; leaves obscurely veined; female sepals 0.9-1.2 mm long in fruit; widespread and common species	
21	Male pedicels <1 mm long	
	Male pedicels 1-6.8 mm long	
	Branchlets papillose; stipule glabrous to papillose; lamina glabrous to papillose, paler below; male pedicels glabrous; female flowers 1-2 per axil; hilum not bordered	
22:	Branchlets scabrous to puberulous; stipules scabrous; lamina puberulous, both sides of equal intensity; male pedicels hairy; female flowers only 1 per axil; hilum bordered	ndigoferoides
23	Hilum slightly depressed, not bordered; plants glabrous, rarely not; stipules cream; inflorescences unisexual; female flowers only 1 per axil; filaments connate	
23:	Hilum markedly depressed, bordered; plants glabrous or hairy; stipules yellow-brown, red-brown or rarely cream; inflorescences at least sometimes bisexual; female flowers 1-3 per axil; filaments free to connate	

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