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Rivina humilis L. (Phytolaccaceae), a Newly Naturalized Plant in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT: A newly naturalized plant, *Rivina humilis* L., was found recently in the central part of Taiwan. This plant represents a new record of this genus and species for Taiwan. This Neotropical plant, native to the southern USA, Mexico, the Caribbean islands, and Central and South America, is described and illustrated in this report.

KEY WORDS: Phytolaccaceae, *Rivina humilis* L., naturalized plant, taxonomy, Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION

Rivina L. is monotypic genus and native to Ariz., Ark., Fla., La., N. Mex., Okla., Tex.; Mexico, West Indies, Central America and South America. Now it wildly spread in China (Tang et al., 1996), Pacific Islands and Africa (Polhill, 1971). Non species of *Rivina* is previously recorded in the second edition of Flora of Taiwan (Huang and Huang, 1996; Huang, 2003).

Nevertheless, in early time *Rivina humilis* L. was introduced to Taiwan for cultivated as a greenhouse plant or as a garden ornamental. With its colorful berries, it is more attractive in fruit than in flower. In our recent investigation of central Taiwan, this Neotropical species, *R. humilis* L., was discovered the wild population and is the newly naturalized genus to Taiwan.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Rivina humilis L., Sp. Pl. 1: 121. 1753

珊瑚珠 Figs. 1-3

Plants erect, straggling, 0.4-1 m, glabrous or densely pubescent. Leaves alternate, petiole 1-11 cm long; blade lanceolate, elliptic, or oblong to deltate or ovate, 15 × 9 cm, base cuneate or rounded to truncate or cordate, apex acuminate or acute to obtuse or emarginate. Racemes 4-15 cm; peduncle 1-5 cm; pedicel 2-8 mm. Flowers: sepals white, elliptic or oblong to oblanceolate or obovate, 1.5-3.5 mm; petal abscent; stamens 4; style often curved. Berries 2.5-5 mm diam. Seeds lenticular, 2-3 mm, enclosed in thin, densely pubescent membranes. Chromosome number 2*n* = 108 (Tang et al., 1996). Fl. and fr. nearly throughout the year.

Specimens examined: Taiwan. Miaoli County, Miaoli City, elev. ca. 100 m, on the roadside. 19 May. 2008, *Tseng 4227*. (TCF); Taichung City, South District, elev. ca. 70 m, on the roadside. 18 May 2008, *Tseng 4225*. (TCF); Nantou County, Mingchien Township, elev. ca. 230 m, on the roadside. 24 Oct. 2003, *Tseng 3452* (TCF).

Distribution: *Rivina humilis* L. is native to Ariz., Ark., Fla., La., N. Mex., Okla., Tex. of USA, Mexico, West Indies, Central America and South America. It was found in the central part of Taiwan near the urban areas. It occurs in open area below the elevateion of 230 m. (Chen, 2006).

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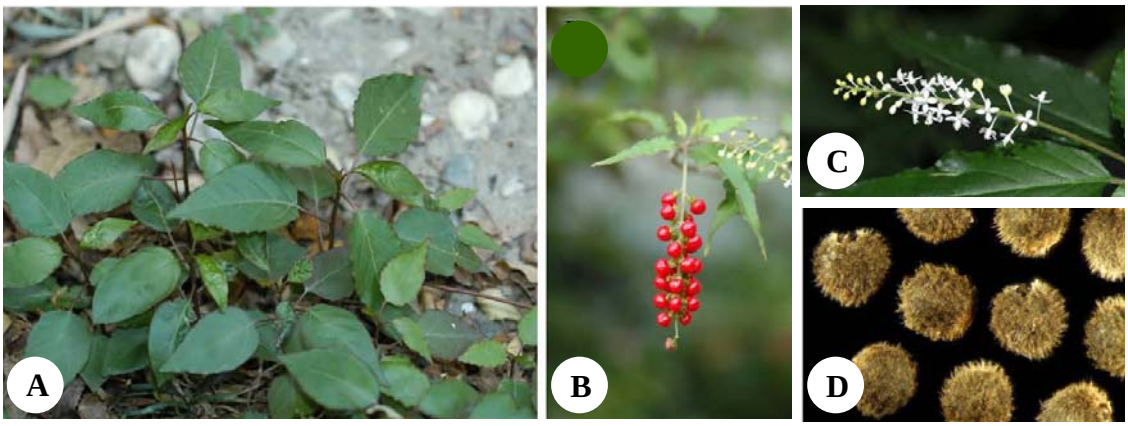


Fig. 1. *Rivina humilis* L. (Phytolaccaceae). A: Habitat. B: Fruits. C: Flowers. D: Seeds.

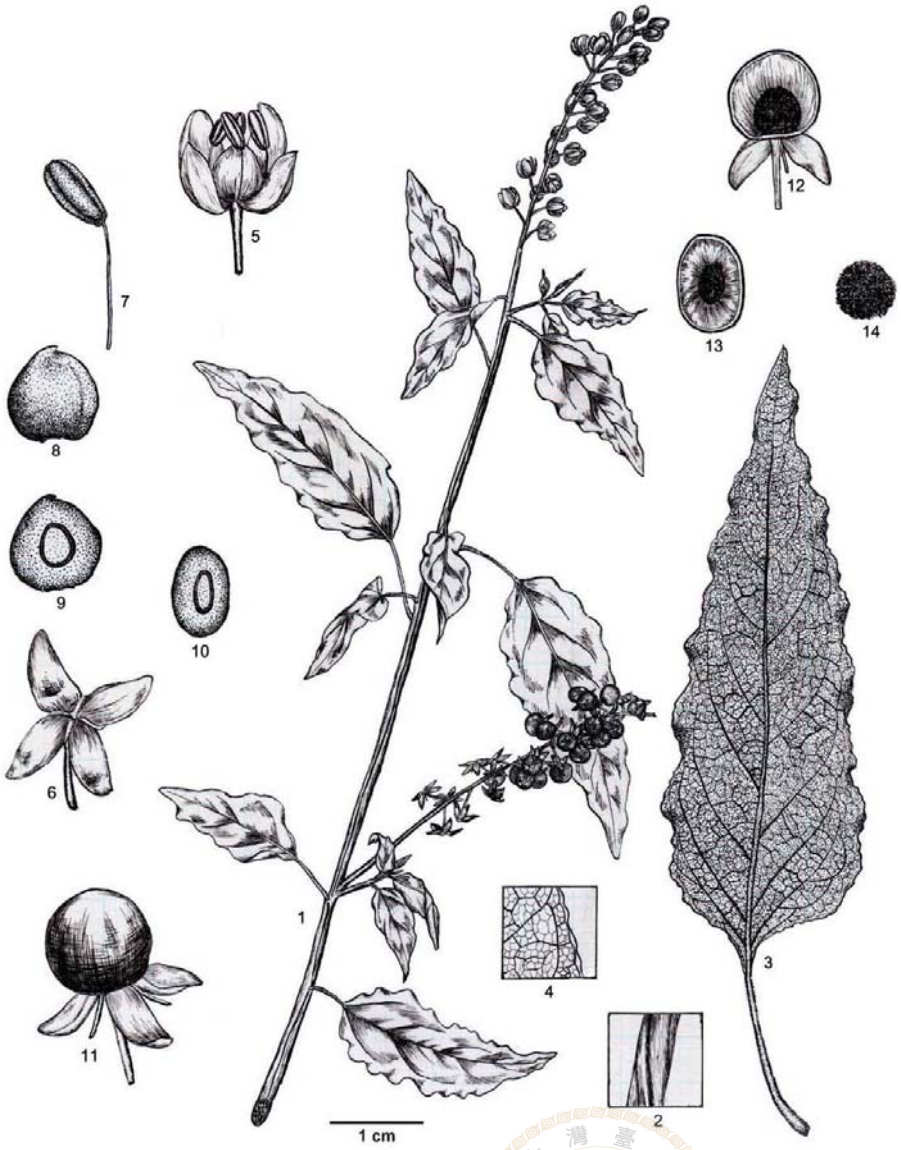


Fig. 2. *Rivina humilis* L. (Phytolaccaceae). 1: Habit. 2: Part of stem. 3: Leaf. 4: Portion of blade. 5: Flower. 6: Calyx. 7: Stamen. 8: Ovary. 9: Longitudinal section of ovary. 10: Cross section of ovary. 11: Fruit. 12: Longitudinal section of fruit. 13: Cross section of fruit. 14: Seed.

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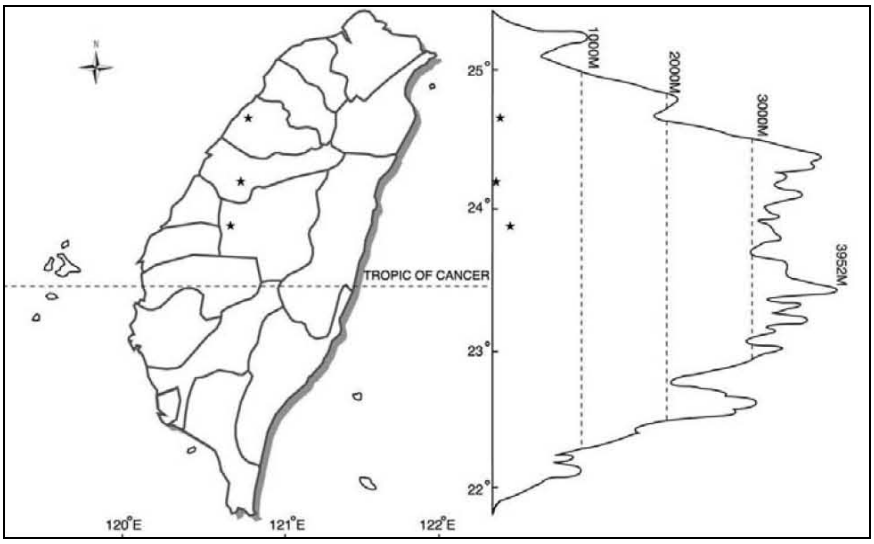


Fig. 3. The distribution map of *Rivina humilis* in Taiwan.

臺灣新歸化植物－珊瑚珠 (商陸科)

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摘　　要

珊瑚珠 (商陸科) 原產熱帶美洲，最近被發現馴化於本島中部都會區附近道路旁野地，為臺灣新歸化植物，本屬亦為臺灣新歸化屬。本報告描述其形態特徵、地理分布及生育地環境並提供彩色圖片與繪圖。

關鍵詞：商陸科、珊瑚珠、歸化植物、分類、臺灣。

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