



STREPTOCARPUS: An Introduction

Streptocarpus is a Old World genus native to SE Asia, Africa and the island of Madagascar. The genus contains two divisions or sub-genera: streptocarpus and streptocarpella. The sub-genus Streptocarpus is comprised of plants with diverse growth habits ranging from straplike leaves, growing in an irregular rosette (plurifoliate) or as a single leaf (unifoliate). The sub-genus Streptocarpella includes plant material which is caulescent, i.e., growing upright and stemmed.

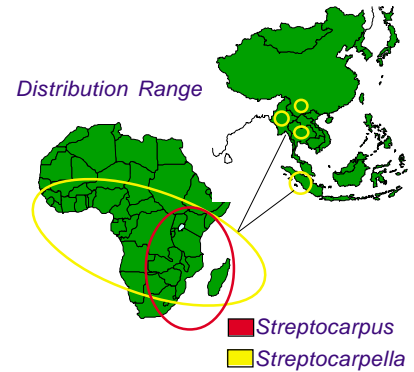


S. 'Hanna Ellis'

CLASSIFICATION



Family: GESNERIACEAE
 Subfamily: CYRTANDROIDEAE
 Tribe: DIDYMOCARPEAE
 Genus: STREPTOCARPUS
 Sub-genera: Streptocarpus and Streptocarpella
 No. of Species: 132+
 Type Species: Streptocarpus rexii. First discovered and described in 1828 by Lindley.



Distribution Range:

The sub-genus Streptocarpus ranges north to south from southern Ethiopia to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa and west to east from Madagascar to Angola. Sub-genus Streptocarpella has a much wider distribution ranging west to east from Sierra Leone to Madagascar with a small number of species endemic (naturally occurring) to SE Asia (Burma, Thailand, SW China & Sumatra each have a single species).

Name Derivation:

Greek (*strepto* = twisted; *carpus* = fruit)

Root Structure:

Fibrous

Growth Habit:

Fountain, either plurifoliate or unifoliate (Streptocarpus)
Helix, caulescent (Streptocarpella)

Chromosome Count:

32 - Streptocarpus 30 - Streptocarpella



S. glandulosissimus

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Temperature:

Cool growing - 60 to 75 degrees F; 15 to 22 degrees C.

Watering:

Bottom, top or wick watering.

Light:

Low to medium light.

Humidity:

40 to 60 percent.

Fertilizer:

Continuously with a non-urea based formulation, e.g., Dyna Gro 7-9-5.

Soil:

Neutral, heading upward to slightly alkaline; pH=7; Basic Potting Mixture is appropriate with the addition of small amounts of dolomite lime or crushed eggshells.

Propagation:

Asexually using leaf segments & crowns or sexually (seed) through self or cross pollination. Hybrid plant material will only reproduce true using asexual propagation methods and techniques.



S. 'Lavender Rosette'



S. stomandrus