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Tales of the unexpected: angiocarpous representatives of the *Russulaceae* in tropical South East Asia

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Abstract

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Suggestions

Six new sequestrate *Lactarius* species are described from tropical forests in South East Asia. Extensive macro- and microscopical descriptions and illustrations of the main anatomical features are provided. Similarities with other sequestrate Russulales and their phylogenetic relationships are discussed. The placement of the species within *Lactarius* and its subgenera is confirmed by a molecular phylogeny based on ITS, LSU and *rpb2* markers. A species key of the new taxa, including five other known angiocarpous species from South East Asia reported to exude milk, is given. The diversity of angiocarpous fungi in tropical areas is considered underestimated and driving evolutionary forces towards gasteromycetization are probably more diverse than generally assumed. The discovery of a large diversity of angiocarpous milkcaps on a rather local tropical scale was unexpected, and especially the fact that in Sri Lanka more angiocarpous than agaricoid *Lactarius* species are known now.

Keywords: ARCANGELIELLA; GASTEROID FUNGI; HYPOGEOUS FUNGI; LACTARIUS; MARTELLIA; MORPHOLOGY; PHYLOGENY; ZELLEROMYCES

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