

THE SPECIAL PLANTS FOR MANY LIVING CREATURES ON EARTH

In the tropical countries like PNG there are special group of plants on which large number of animals, insects and even human beings also depends on for their survival

- MORACEAE is the plant family on which many living thing on Earth depend in many ways of their life.
- Inside this family Moraceae there are 48 genera and 1200 species in the World and 15 genera with 165 species in PNG.
- In PNG the genus Ficus is the most common; fig trees grow in all types of forests in PNG.
- There are animals like birds, bats, flying foxes, cuscus and bandicoots and other large ground animals feeding figs
- There are more the 500 different species of insects feeding on the foliage, stems, figs and branches.
- There are also special fig wasps pollinating figs

- *Ficus bernaysii*
- It is a shrub 2- 3 m high.
- Most of the time it grows along the rivers and creeks in the primary and the secondary forests



Taenaris gorgo male
Nymphalidae
Sucking sugar in ficus
Figs from KWMA
Baitabag