

# More than a root: the systematics and evolution of gingers

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*Hornstedtia scottiana*

Wild gingers are common in the forest understorey in all tropical regions. In addition, many species are useful as food, medicine or have a potential as ornamentals. At the same time, very little attention has been made to sort out their taxonomy and clarify their distribution. Gingers in the Indo-Pacific Region are very rich in species and a preliminary dated phylogeny indicates that the family spread from west to east across Wallace's Line with subsequent radiation.