

A New Species of *Schismatoglottis* (Araceae) from Sabah, Malaysia

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Abstract

Schismatoglottis tahubangensis A. Hay & Herscovitch is described, illustrated and inserted into the latest key to Bornean *Schismatoglottis* species.

Schismatoglottis tahubangensis A. Hay & Herscovitch, *sp. nov.*

A *Schismatoglottis platystigma* M. Hotta spadice tenuiore, staminodiis inter pistilla, connectivo longiore differt. - **Typus:** Malaysia, Sabah, just outside Kinabalu Park, 100 m to Tahubang River along route to Marai-Parai, 11,000 m alt. [sic], 12 Sep 1993, J. Nais, Dolois, Harry & Masius SP 05312 (KEP, holo).

Terrestrial herb c. 30 cm high. *Stem* creeping or decumbent, rooting between the nodes, c. 1 cm diam., with internodes c. 5 mm long. *Leaves* 6 together; petiole 10–17 cm, sheathing in the lower 1–2 cm, wings of sheath extending into a papery narrowly triangular ligule to 2.5 cm; blade 11–15 cm long, 3.5–5 cm wide, narrowly obovate, somewhat asymmetric, base truncate to acute, somewhat asymmetric, inserted into adaxial face of petiole, apex acute; midrib pronounced and minutely puberulent abaxially, with c. 10 primary lateral veins on each side diverging at c. 45°, interprimary veins somewhat conspicuous abaxially, obscure adaxially, fine. *Inflorescence* solitary, subtended by an inconspicuous papery cataphyll c. 6 mm long; peduncle 3 cm long. *Spathe* pinkish, 7 cm long, slender, weakly constricted; lower spathe 1.5 cm long, 3mm diam. *Spadix* very slender, cylindric for most of its length, 5.3 cm long, 1.5 mm diam.; female zone 1.2 cm long, (not clear whether adnate to spathe at base); pistils closely packed, subglobose, 0.3 mm diameter; stigma discoid, almost as wide as the ovary; interpistillar staminodes conspicuous, round and flat-topped or concave, drying pale yellow, of the same height and diameter as pistils; sterile interstice c. 2 mm long comprised proximally of 2 irregular whorls of looser packed, 0.5 mm diam., flat-topped staminodes, differentiated from interpistillar staminodes by larger size, slightly convex top, and dark yellow colour on drying, and distally of 2–3 irregular whorls of sterile

stamens drying dark brown; male zone 1.2 cm long; stamens subsessile, more or less oblong ovate from above, more or less irregularly paired and oriented along long axis of spadix, c. 0.8 mm wide; thecae round, opening by a single apical pore; connective robust, columnar, flat-topped and somewhat impressed, slightly exceeding the thecae in height and about 1.5 times their diameter, rounded triangular from above with ends indented above thecae; appendix 2.8 cm long, tapering to a fine naked tip, composed of flat-topped, more or less rounded or irregularly polygonal staminodes c. 0.3 mm diam. similar to those of sterile interstice. *Fruit* unknown.

Distribution: Malesia – Borneo, Sabah, Kinabalu (known only from the type).

Habitat: On a steep slope in unspecified vegetation type at c. 1,100 m alt. [Note that the label on the type records the altitude as 11,000 m, which is, of course, impossible].

Notes: This species somewhat resembles *Schismatoglottis platystigma* (Brunei) in having discoid stigmas and relatively small thecae on the edge of a broad connective. However, it is readily distinguished from that species by the presence of interpistillar staminodes, the subsessile stamens with a much higher connective and the more slender spadix.

Schismatoglottis tahubangensis may be inserted into the key to Bornean *Schismatoglottis* provided by Hay & Yuzammi (2000) as follows:

- 17a. Inflorescence solitary or two together; anthers with broadly dilated connective 18
- 17b. Inflorescences c. 4–6 together; anthers dumb-bell-shaped, with the connective not dilated 19
- 18a. Interpistillar staminodes absent; appendix 1–2 cm long, blunt-tipped; Temburong, Brunei **S. platystigma**
- 18b. Interpistillar staminodes numerous; appendix c. 3 cm long, tapering to a fine point; Kinabalu, Sabah..... **S. tahubangensis**

19 etc = 18 etc in Hay & Yuzammi (2000).

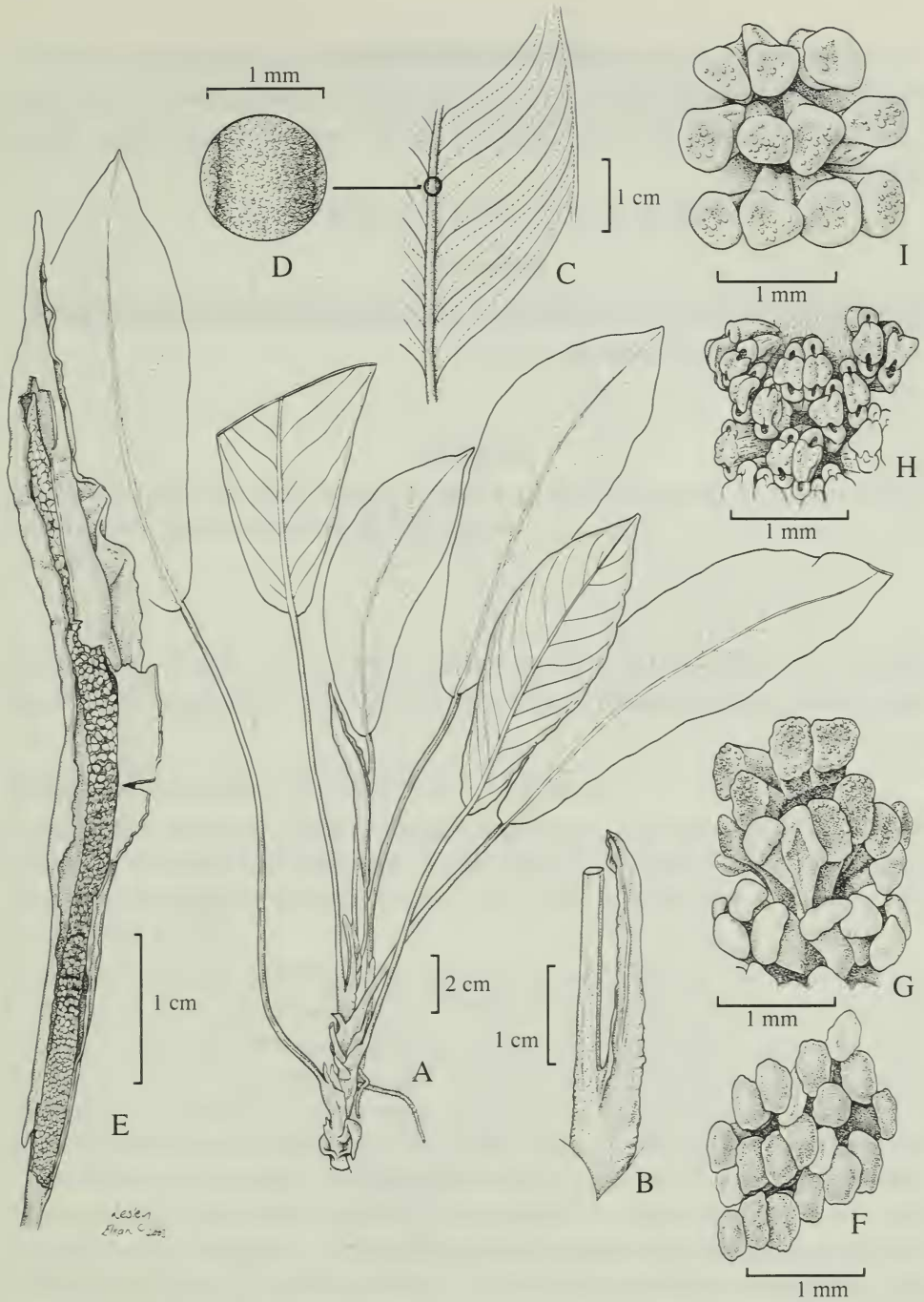


Figure 1. *Schismatoglottis tahubangensis* Herscovitch & A. Hay

A. habit; B. ligule at base of petiole; C. detail of leaf venation; D. midrib detail; E. inflorescence with part of spathe removed; F. pistils with interstitial staminodes; G. sterile interstice with staminodes and sterile stamens; H. stamens; I. staminodes of appendix. J. Nais, Dolois, Harry & Masius SP 05312.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Hay, A. & Yuzammi. 2000. Schismatoglottideae (Araceae) in Malesia I – *Schismatoglottis. Telopea*. **9**: 1–177.