Cytogenetics and Taxonomy of the Genus Globba L. (Zingiberaceae) in Malaya

IV Distribution in Relation to Polyploidy

by

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Abstract

Of the twelve species, five subspecies and eight varieties of Globba in Malaya, some are exclusively allotetraploid (2n = 32, AABB), some exclusively hexaploid (2n = 48, AAABBB), one decaploid (2n = 80) and some with both allotetraploid as well as hexaploid chromosome races. Globba species with only 2n = 32 occur in lowland forests and at moderate elevations, while those with only 2n = 48 generally in montane forests. Both are of rather restricted and localised distribution when compared to taxa with 2n = 32, 48. In the latter, the hexaploid infraspecific taxa are usually but not strictly montane in distribution. Where both the tetraploid and hexaploid taxa are montane in distribution, the hexaploids are of greater abundance. The reverse is true where tetraploid taxa occur in lowland forests and hexaploid in montane regions. Globba species in Malaya thrive in moist, partially shaded niches. An exception is G. marantina L. which colonises open habitats and has a wide distribution from India and Philippines to the Solomon Islands.

The genus Globba L. (Zingiberaceae) is confined in distribution to the eastern Himalayas and southern China southwards to Malaysia and the Solomon Islands (Holttum 1950, Pendleton 1949). Of the 128 species recorded (in Index Kewensis, compiled up to 1966), twelve species, five subspecies and eight varieties occur in Malaya. These include eight new taxa which are described in Lim (1972 a). Of these Malayan taxa, three species, two subspecies and five varieties are exclusively allotetraploid (2n = 32, AABB), three species and a subspecies exclusively hexaploid (2n = 48, AAABB), one species decaploid (2n = 80) and three species and a subspecies with both allotetraploid as well as hexaploid chromosomes races. (see Table 1; Lim 1972 b). This paper presents the results of distributional studies of these Malayan taxa with special reference to their chromosome numbers.

Materials and Method

Sources of information for distribution mapping were the 363 herbarium specimens on loan from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, and personal field collection data. Cases in which identification was doubtful and handwritten data dubious were rejected.

In the mapping of each taxon, a distinction was made between herbarium and field collections. Herbarium collections are represented by solid circles, semi-circles and squares and field collections by outlined symbols. A single dot represents one to three collections from the same station, an enlarged symbol four or more. A large number of collections need not necessarily

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represent increased density of occurrence of the taxon, as it might well represent over-collection. Absence of dots might merely mean under-collecting. With the available information, the maps (figs. 1, 2 and 3) represent what is known of *Globba* distribution in Malaya to date.

No attempt was made to distinguish between the polyploids in the herbarium specimens. Taxa with 2n=48 were distinguished from those with 2n=32 in the mapping of field collections.

Root tips as well as pollen mother cells were investigated for chromosome counts. Details are as described in Lim 1972 b.

Information on the sources and chromosome numbers of fresh specimens are in Table 2 on p. 124 Herbarium specimens of these are deposited in the Herbarium, Botany Division, School of Biological Science, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Table 1. Intraspecific polyploidy in the Malayan species of Globba.

Species with single level of ploidy	Species with 2n = 32, 48	
(a) Species with 2n = 32 1 G. fragilis Lim 2 G. albiflora Ridl. G. albiflora var. aurea Holtt. 3 G leucantha var. peninsularis Holtt. 4 G. unifolia Ridl.	2n = 32 1 G. pendula Roxb. G. pendula var. elegans (Ridl.) Holtt. G. pendula spp. montana (Ridl.) Lim.	2n = 48 G. pendula Roxb.
b) Species with 2n = 48 1 G. curtisii Holtt. 2 G. holttumii Lim G. holttumii ssp.	2 G. patens Miq. G. patens var. costulata Lim	G. patens Miq.
aurea Lim c) Species with $2n = 80$ 1 G. marantina L.	3 G. cernua Bak. G. cernua ssp. crocea Lim G. cernua ssp. porphyria Lim	G. cernua Bak. G. cernua ssp. crocea Lim
d) Species with unknown chromosome number 1 G. fasciata Ridl.	4 — G. variabilis ssp. pusilla Lim	G. variabilis Ridl.

Distribution

The distribution of *Globba* species with two anther appendages is recorded in figure 1 while that of *Globba* species with four anther appendages is recorded in figures 2 and 3.

Globba species with only 2n = 32 or 2n = 48 show a rather restricted distribution compared to those with 2n = 32, 48.

G. fragilis Lim (2n = 32) appears to be confined to Pulau Langkawi, Kedah (see fig. 3), G. albiflora Ridl. to Penang, G. albiflora var. aurea Holtt. to Gua Lambok and Sungei Betis in Kelantan, and G. unifolia Ridl. with its subspecific taxon to Trengganu and Kelantan. G. unifolia also occurs in Thailand. Trengganu might be its southern limit of distribution. G. fasciata Ridl. of unknown chromosome number, also has a very restricted distribution (see fig. 1).

G. curtisii Holtt. (2n = 48) has so far been found only in a restricted part of the Main Range, between Bukit Kutu, the Gap and Fraser's Hill (see fig. 3). Further investigation might show that its distribution extends to other parts of the Main Range, G. holttumii Lim grows in large clumps in restricted localities in the Gombak Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.2500'), Genting Simpah, Selangor (2700'), Genting Highlands, Selangor (c.4000') and Fraser's Hill, Pahang (c.4000'). Both G. curtisii and G. holttumii are markedly montane in their distribution. G. holttumii ssp. aurea Lim, however, was collected from lowland Dryobalanops Forest, Lenggor Forest Reserve, Johore (c.300').

Four of the twelve species of Globba in Malaya show 2n = 32 and 48 and these are relatively widespread in distribution.

G. pendula Roxb., "the commonest Globba in Malaya, occurring in all parts of the country." (Holttum, 1950) was collected from all along the west coast of Malaya from Pulau Langkawi in the North to Singapore in the South (see fig. 1). Distribution seems densest in Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Malacca. On the eastern side of the Main Range, collections are from the interior of Pahang and from Kelantan. None of the 118 herbarium collections came from Trengganu and coastal Pahang. One single collection came from Pulau Tioman, off the Pahang coast. The species has a predominantly lowland distribution. Field specimens with 2n = 48 are from Fraser's Hill, Pahang (c.4000'). Chromosome races of 2n = 32 occur alongside those with 2n = 48 by the waterfall, near the old dairy farm on Fraser's Hill. Field collections of specimens solely with 2n = 32 were made along the west coast from the foot of Gunong Jerai, Kedah to around Kuala Lumpur. The chromosome race with 2n = 48 appears to be confined to montane areas. Where G. pendula Roxb. occurs, plants are found in abundance. This is also true of the subspecific taxa: G. pendula var. elegans (Ridl.) Holtt. in the Fraser's Hill region of Pahang and G. pendula ssp. montana (Ridl.) Lim in Penang. Outside Malaya, the species extends to India, Sumatra, and the Banka Islands.

Common on the west coast from Penang to Malacca, in both lowland and montane forest is G. patens Miq. (2n = 32, 48) a species hitherto misidentified as G. aurantiaca Miq. see Lim (1972 a). Chromosome races with 2n = 32 seem confined to lowland forest up to c.2000′, while those with 2n = 48 are from Fraser's Hill, Pahang (c.4000′), Bujang Melaka, Perak (c.2200′), Genting Highlands, Pahang (c.4000′) and Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.200–800′). Excepting the last, G. patens with 2n = 48 appears mainly montane in distribution. Single herbarium collections have been made from Johore and Kelantan. A field collection of a narrow-leaved and nearly glabrous form was made from Lenggor Forest Reserve, Johore (c.200′). This appears similar to the form collected from Ulu Kahang (Holttum, S.F.N., 10927), and has 2n = 32.

At Fraser's Hill, Pahang (c.4000'), Cameron Highlands, Pahang (c.4750'), and Sungei Lallang Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.250'), *G. patens* var. *costulata* Lim was found. It resembles the specimens from Bukit Kutu in Selangor by Ridley (mentioned in Holttum, 1950, p.37). This variety (2n = 32) apparently occurs in both lowland and montane forests.

Overlapping in distribution with G. patens Miq. is G. cernua Bak, which also consists of chromosomal races with 2n = 32 and 2n = 48. Globba cernua Bak., however, is confined to montane forests between 2000' and 5000', within the region between Temangor, Perak and Gunong Angsi, Negri Sembilan. South

of this, one single collection was made from Singapore. Both chromosomal races occur in abundance in Fraser's Hill, Pahang and Maxwell's Hill, Perak. More common are plants with 2n=48 than those with 2n=32. On Maxwell's Hill, the two chromosomal races occur together in mixed stands. In Cameron Highlands, only plants with 2n=48 have so far been found. At Reid's Third Quartz Ridge, 12th mi, Gombak Road, Selangor all plants collected had 2n=32 chromosomes. Fruiting specimens in the herbarium collections from Larut Hills and Maxwell's Hill in Perak, and Gunong Angsi in Negri Sembilan suggest that plants with 2n=32 are also present.

Two new subspecific taxa, G. cernua ssp. crocea Lim (2n = 32, 48) and G. cernua ssp. porphyria Lim (2n = 32), were collected from Jenka Forest Reserve, Pahang (lowland Dipterocarp forest, c.200') and Bujang Melaka, Perak (c.1370') respectively. The two chromosomal races of G. cernua ssp. crocea were found side by side in Jenka Forest Reserve. Abundant occurrence along the jungle path from Kuala Tahan to Kuala Trengganu in the National Park in Pahang is reported by G. Smith in 1968 (personal communication).

G. variabilis Ridl. (2n = 48), shows a rather widespread distribution from Gunong Korbu (Perak) on the western side of the Main Range and Kuala Klah (Kelantan) on the eastern side of the Main Range to Singapore (see fig. 3). It occurs mainly in lowland forest but also in montane areas. All living specimens collected from four main localities: Fraser's Hill, Pahang (c.4000'), Ulu Gombak Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.2500'), Sungei Lallang Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.250') and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Singapore (c.500') had somatic chromosome numbers of 48.

The relatively high occurrence of fruiting materials in 9.8 per cent of the 121 herbarium sheets in the Singapore Botanic Garden collection seems to suggest the possibility of the existence of a chromosome race with 2n = 32. The possibility of these having 2n = 48, however, could not be completely ruled out.

A new subspecies, G. variabilis ssp. pusilla Lim (2n = 32) was collected from Gunong Panti (1500'), Sungei Kayu and Sungei Sedili in Johore. So far, the distribution appears limited to the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.

An apparent exception to the general finding (that species with 2n = 32show a rather restricted distribution compared to those with 2n = 32 and 48) is G. leucantha Miq. Brief cytological investigations of G. leucantha var. peninsularis Holtt, from two localities in southern Johore disclosed somatic numbers of 32. Globba leucantha shows a widespread but discontinuous distribution in the north and extreme south of Malaya (see fig. 1). The relative paucity of both herbarium and field collections may be related to the seasonal dormancy of the species. Globba leucantha var. peninsularis occurs in southern Johore and Singapore, reportedly "common in forest" (Holttum 1950). A few collections were from southern Trengganu, northern Pahang and Perak and two field collections were from Gunong Panti, Johore and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Singapore. G. leucantha var. bicolor Holtt. appears to be confined to the eastern part of the Main Range, in northern Pahang, southern Kelantan and Trengganu. G. leucantha var. violacea (Ridl.) Holtt. has been collected from Perak; and G. leucantha var. flavidula (Ridl.) Holtt. from Gunong Panti, Johore (100'). Although a direct cytological investigation of G. leucantha var. bicolor and var. violacea has not been conducted, the rather high incidence of fruiting materials in the two varieties seems to suggest that they have somatic numbers of 32.

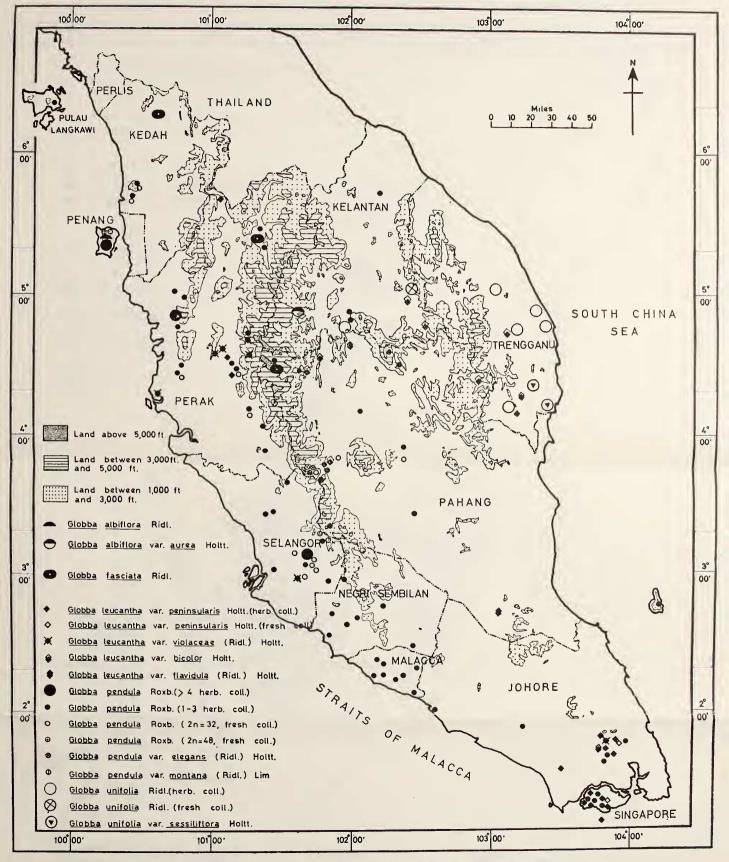


Fig. 1 Distribution map of Globba species with two anther appendages in Malaya.

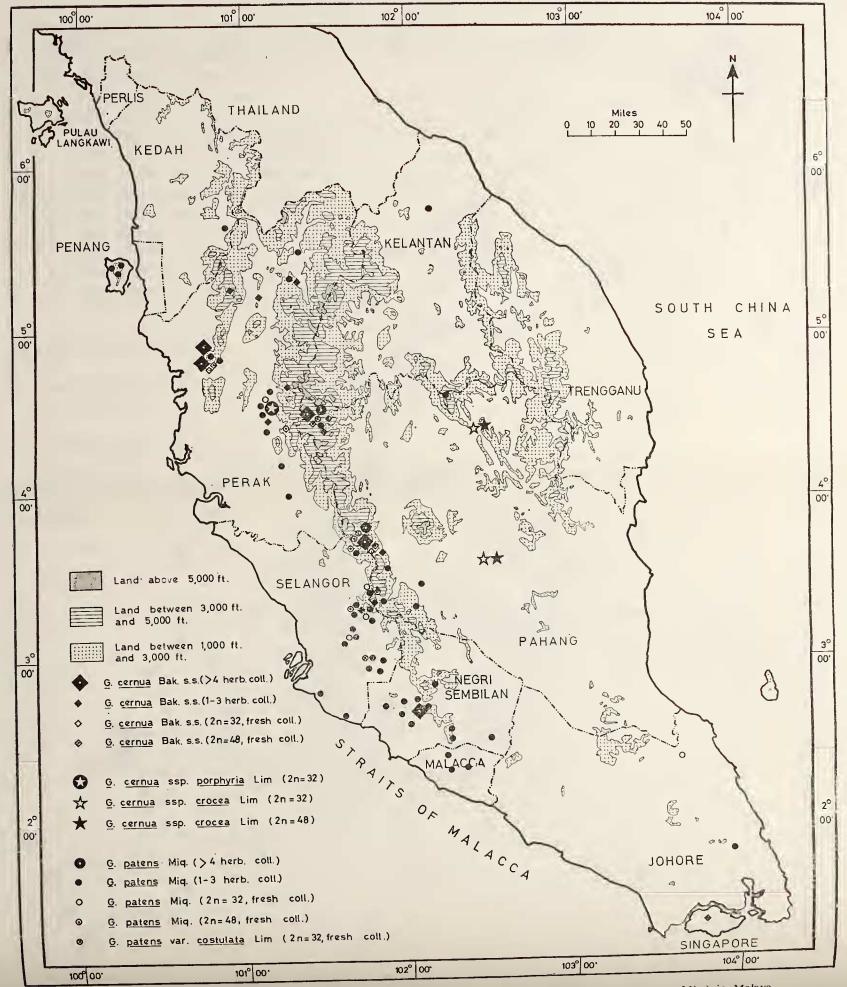


Fig. 2 Distribution map of Globba species with four anther appendages (G. cernua Bak. and G. patens Miq.) in Malaya.

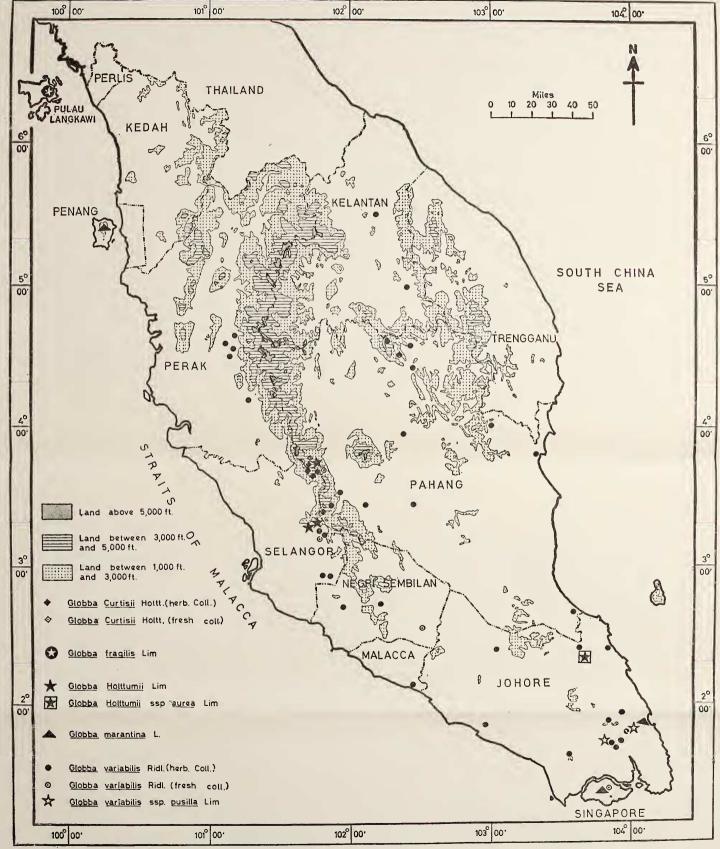
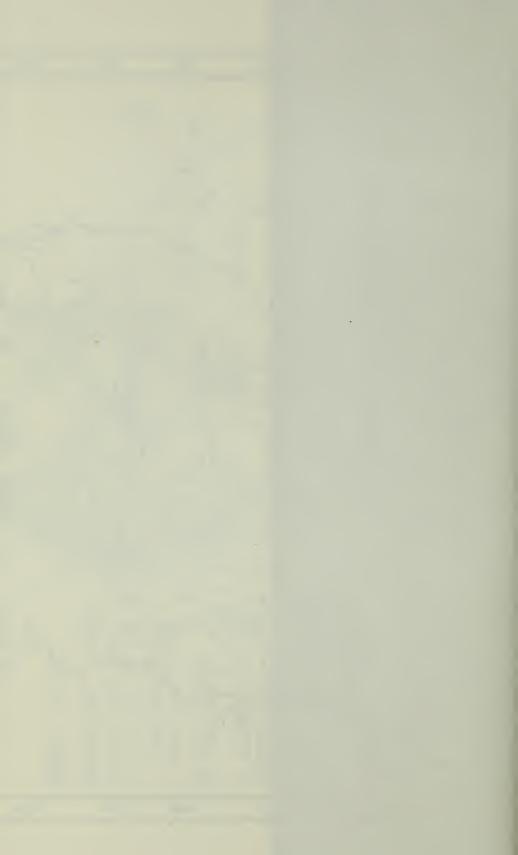


Fig. 3 Distribution map of Globba species with four anther appendages (G. curtisii, Holtt., G. fragilis Lim, G. holttumii Lim. G. marantina L. and G. variabilis Ridl.) in Malaya.



A comparison of the distribution of Globba species with only 2n = 32 and those with only 2n = 48 shows that, with the exception of G. leucantha, both are rather restricted and localised in occurrence. Species with 2n = 32 have been found on lowland forests and at moderate elevations, while species with 2n = 48 usually occur in montane forests. The exception was G. holttumii ssp. aurea (2n = 48) found so far in lowland Dryobalanops forests in northeastern Johore.

G. marantina L. (2n = 80) was found in Ayer Itam, Penang and Jason Bay, Johore. Living materials for investigation were collected from the waterfall Botanic Garden, Penang. The paucity of collections may be attributable to its seasonal dormancy for about four months annually when it is nowhere to be seen. G. marantina is apparently localised in distribution in Malaya, but has a very widespread distribution in the Indo-Malaysian region — from India (G. strobilitera Zoll. & Mor. = G. marantina L., G. bulbifera Roxb. = G. marantina L., fide Index Kewensis, 1895, herbarium sheet examination of G. bulbifera Roxb. in comparison to living specimens of G. marantina L.) to Sumatra (G. bracteata Heyne = G. marantina L., fide Index Kewensis, 1895) to the Philippines, New Guinea, the Moluccas Islands and the Solomon Islands where G. marantina is the only species of the genus. Pendleton (1949) surmised that since the Pulau Islands, west of Solomons, were very similar to the Solomons, G. marantina might be there too. The ecological success of G. marantina may be attributed to its propagation by rhizome and bulbils, both being very resistant to adverse conditions, and its ability to colonise efficiently open habitats where competition for survival would be less keen. The other Malayan Globba species thrive well only in moist, partially shaded niches.

A study of intraspecific distribution in the four Globba species with 2n = 32, 48 shows that the subspecific taxa with 2n = 48 are generally but not strictly montane in distribution. Almost all the chromosomal races with 2n = 32 in G. pendula Roxb. s.s. are lowland in distribution, the one with 2n = 48 is solely montane. Those of G. patens Miq. s.s. show a similar distributional distinction, with the exception of the single collection of specimens with 2n = 48 from Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, Selangor (c.200–800'). Both the chromosomal races of G. cernua Bak. s.s. are restricted to the highlands; but those of G. cernua ssp. crocea are found in lowland forests. In contrast, G. variabilis Ridl. s.s. (2n = 48) occurs both in the lowlands as well as in montane area, though predominantly in the latter. The subspecies pusilla has been collected from localities of moderate elevation.

The ecological spread of chromosomal races with 2n = 32 of G. pendula Roxb. s.s. and G. patens Miq. s.s. was found to be more extensive than that of chromosomal races with 2n = 48. In G. cernua Bak. s.s., where the two chromosomal races occur together in montane areas, plants with 2n = 48 are more abundant than plants with 2n = 32.

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Table 2. Source and Chromosome Numbers of Living Specimens of Malayan Globba Species.

G. marantina L.:	PENANG, Waterfall Gardens, lowland, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4831, 2n = 80.	
G. cernua Bak.	PAHANG, Western Hill, Fraser's Hill, 4000', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4844, 2n = 32.	
	——, idem, KLU 4843, 2n = 48.	
	———, idem, KLU 4832, 2n = 48.	
	Bukit Peninjau, Fraser's Hill, 4000', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8205, 2n = 32.	
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	———, Parit Falls, Cameron Highlands, 4700', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8233, 2n = 48.	
	Robinson Falls, Cameron Highlands, 4400°, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8235, 2n = 48.	
	———, Gunong Jasar, Cameron Highlands, 4500', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8222, 2n = 48.	
	———, idem, *, 2n = 48.	
	PERAK, Maxwell's Hill, 3750', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4833, 2n =	
	———, idem, KLU 4834, 2n = 48.	
	SELANGOR, Reid's 3rd quartz ridge, Gombak, 12th mi., 1800', A. LETHBRIDGE, KLU 8228, 2n = 32.	
G. cernua ssp. crocea Lim	PAHANG, Jenka Forest Reserve, 200', M.E.D. POORE, KLU 4791, 2n = 32.	
	——, idem, I. CLEAR & C. C. HO, KLU 4817, 2n = 48.	
G. cernua ssp. prophyria Lim	PERAK, Bujang Melaka, 1370', K. JONG, KLU 8240, 2n = 32.	
G. unifolia var. sessiliflora Holtt.	KELANTAN, Sungei Lebir, 300', B. C. STONE, KLU 7367, 2n = 32.	
G. fragilis Lim	KEDAH, Pulau Langkawi, lowland, K. C. CHEANG, KLU 4847, $2n=32$.	
G. curtisii Holtt.	PAHANG, Waterfall by old dairy farm, Fraser's Hill, 4000', K. JONG, KI.U 4793, 2n = 48.	

125 Cytogenetics and Taxonomy of the Genus Globba L. G. holttumii Lim ———, idem, KLU 4822, 2n = 48. SELANGOR, Gombak Forest Reserve, 2500', LIM Siew-Ngo, *. 2n = 48. —, Genting Simpah, 2700', K. JONG, *, 2n = 48. Genting Highlands, 4000', LIM Siew-Ngo, *, 2n = 48. G. holttumii ssp. JOHORE, Lenggor Forest Reserve, 300', P. C. LEE, KLU 8206, aurea Lim 2n = 48.PAHANG, Parit Falls, Cameron Highlands, 4700', LIM Siew-Ngo, G. × intermedia = G. patens × KLU 4840, 2n = 48.cernua Lim , Robinson Falls, Cameron Highlands, 4400', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4841, 2n = 48.-, Gunong Jasar, Cameron Highlands, 4800, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4842, 2n = 48. —, idem, KLU 4848, 2n = 48. SELANGOR, Gombak 22nd mi., 1500', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU G. patens Miq. 8211, 2n = 32. Genting Simpah, 1800', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8219, 2n = 32. —, Kanching Dryobalanops Forest Reserve, lowland, Honours students, KLU 4827, 2n = 32. Ulu Langat Forest Reserve, 700', T. WHITMORE, *, 2n = 32. Gombak Forest Reserve, (12th mi.), 1500', A. LETH-BRIDGE, KLU 4849, 2n = 32. JOHORE, Lenggor Forest Reserve, 200', P. C. Lee, *, 2n = 32. PAHANG, by Golf Course, Fraser's Hill, 4000', K. C. CHEANG, KLU 8232, 2n = 48. ---, Genting Highlands, 4000', B. C. STONE, KLU 6588, 2n = 48.PERAK, Bujang Melaka, 2200', K. JONG, *, 2n = 48. SELANGOR, Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, 200-800', M. E. D. POORE, *, 2n = 48. PAHANG, Waterfall by old dairy farm, Fraser's Hill, 4000', A. LETHBRIDGE, KLU 8209, 2n = 32. G. patents var. costulata Lim --, Cameron Highlands, 4750', W. L. CHEW, KLU 8231, 2n = 32.SELANGOR, Sungei Lallang Forest Reserve, Kajang, 250', J. DRANSFIELD, *, 2n = 32. SELANGOR, Gombak Forest Reserve (12th mi.), 1500', LIM Siew-G. variabilis Ridl. Ngo, KLU 8208, 2n = 48.

-, Sungei Lallang Forest Reserve, Kajang, 200', J. DRANS-FIELD, *, 2n = 48.

PAHANG, Fraser's Hill, 4000', LIM Siew-Ngo, *, 2n = 48.

SINGAPORE, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, 500', LIM Siew-Ngo, *, 2n = 48.

G. variabilis ssp. pusilla Lim

JOHORE, Gunong Panti, 1500', W. L. CHEW, KLU 8246, 2n = 32.

G. albiflora Ridl.

PENANG, Penang Hill, 1300', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8221, 2n = 32.

G. pendula Roxb.

SELANGOR, University Campus, Kuala Lumpur, lowland, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4799, 2n = 32.

—————, Kanching *Dryobalanops* Forest Reserve, lowland, Honours students, KLU 4813, 2n = 32.

------, Genting Simpah, 1800', K. Jong, KLU 8213, 2n = 32.

8201, 2n = 32. Reserve, 350', P. C. LEE, KLU

PERAK, Ulu Kinta, off Ipoh, lowland, P. C. LEE, *, 2n = 32.

PENANG, Waterfall Gardens, lowland, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8216, 2n = 32.

KEDAH, Foot of Gunong Jerai, lowland, LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8225, 2n = 32.

Ngo, KLU 8226, 2n = 32.

PAHANG, Waterfall by old dairy farm, Fraser's Hill, 4000', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8203, 2n = 48.

——, idem KLU 4836, 2n = 48.

G. pendula var. elegans (Ridl.) Holtt. PAHANG, idem, LIM Siew Ngo, KLU 4830, 2n = 32.

G. pendula ssp.
montana (Ridl.)
Lim

Ayer Itam Dam, 1090', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 8229, 2n = 32.

G. leucantha var. peninsularis Holtt.

JOHORE, Gunong Panti, 1500', J. SINCLAIR, KLU 8200, 2n = 32. SINGAPORE, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, 500', LIM Siew-Ngo, KLU 4839, 2n = 32.

Bukit = Hill

Gunong = Mountain

Sungei = River Pulau = Island

* = Sine specimen exsiccatum

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