

## 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, 3 mm 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; inter pistillar 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 inter pistillar 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).

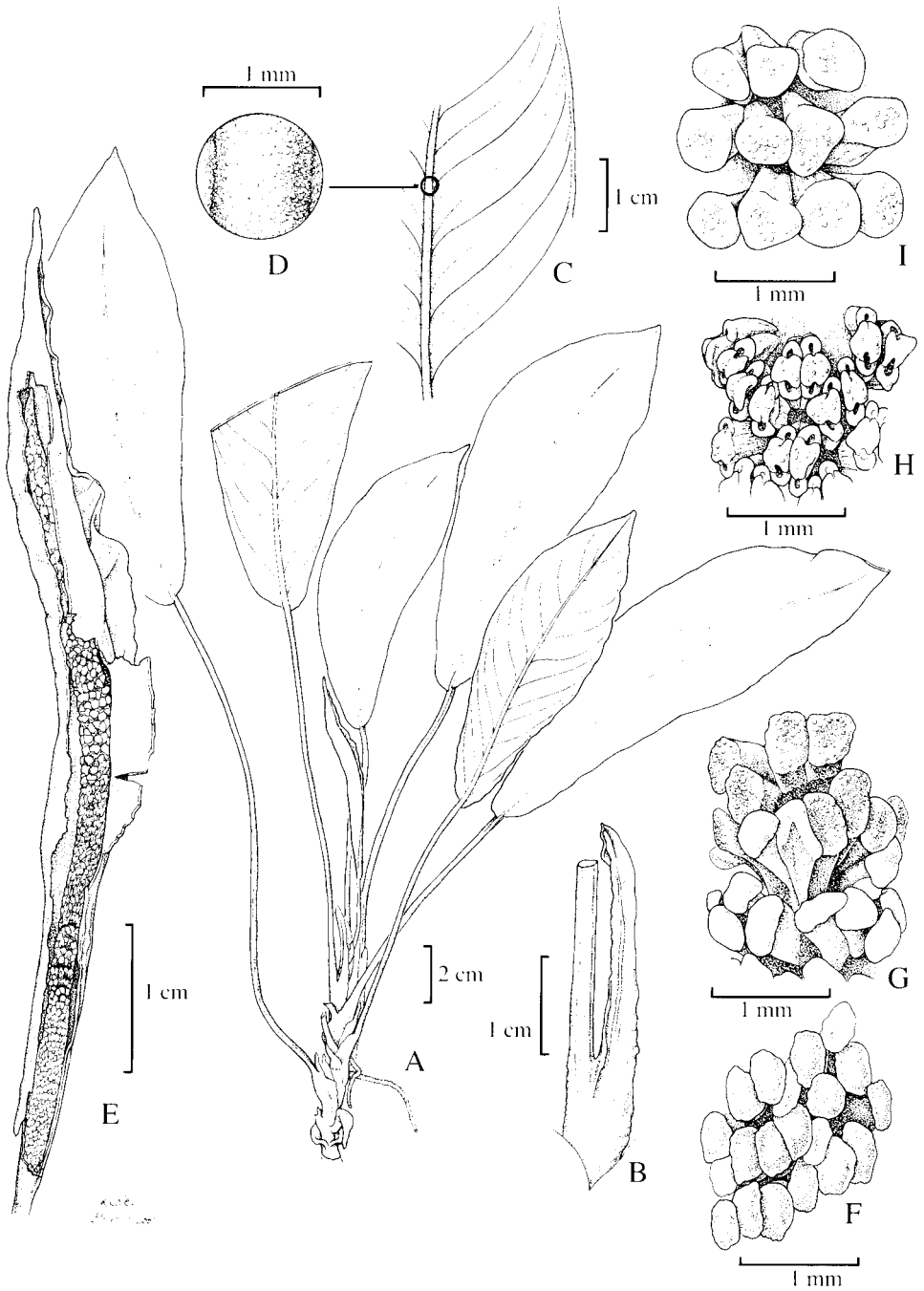
*Habitat:* On a steep slope in unspecified vegetation type at c. 1,100 m alt. [Note that the label on the type records the altitude as 11,000 m, which is, of course, impossible].

*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 inter pistillar 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.