

A New Species of *Lasianthus* (Rubiaceae) from Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

A new species of *Lasianthus* Jack (Rubiaceae) from Peninsular Malaysia, named as *Lasianthus malaiense* H. Zhu, is described.

Introduction

Species of the genus *Lasianthus* Jack from Peninsular Malaysia were studied by Wight (1846), Hooker *f.* (1880), King & Gamble (1904), Ridley (1923) and more recently by Wong (1989). However, there are still some specimens undetermined and even taxa unrecognized owing to the difficult taxonomy of the genus. Specimens of the genus from Peninsular Malaysia in SING and KEP were fully checked by the author as part of a revision of the genus for Flora Malesiana. An undescribed species from Peninsular Malaysia was recognized as a new species and is described below.

Lasianthus malaiense H. Zhu, *sp. nov.*

Lasianthus 'sp. 6' Wong, Tree Fl. Mal. Pen. **4** (1989) 372 (in clavi).

A *Lasianthus robinsonii* Ridl. petiolis 5 mm longis, foliis subtus dense brunneo-villosis, nervulis parallelis; pedunculis robustis 2–3 cm longis; lobis calycis 5, lanceolatis, 2.5 mm longis differt. Proxima *L. pendulo* Ridl. sed petiolis conspicuis, 5 mm longis, foliis ovato-oblongis apice acutis basi rotundatis, nervis supra planis, nervulis parallelis; bracteis 2, 7–8 mm longis; lobis calycis lanceolatis 2.5 mm longis, corollis brunneo-villosis differt. TYPUS: Peninsular Malaysia — PAHANG, Cameron Highlands, alt. 5000 ft, 27 Nov 1925, *Henderson 18008* (holotype, SING)

Shrub c. 2 m tall with densely spreading brown-villose hairs on the branches and branchlets, stipules, petioles, on the underside of midrib and veins, inflorescence, bracts, calyx, corolla and drupe. Branches and branchlets

robust. *Stipules* triangular, c. 3 mm long. *Petiole* c. 5 mm long, *lamina* subcoriaceous, glabrous above, ovate-oblong to elliptic, 6–15 cm long, 2.5–5.5 cm broad, base rounded or obtuse, margin reflexed, apex acute to cuspidate; midrib, secondary and tertiary veins plane above and conspicuously prominent beneath; secondary veins 7–10 pairs; tertiary veins parallel. *Cymes* peduncled; peduncles robust 2–3 cm long, *bracts* 2, linear, 7–8 mm long; bracteoles inconspicuous. *Flowers* subsessile; calyx 3–4 mm long with 5 lanceolate lobes, lobes c. 2.5 mm long; corolla brown-villose. *Drupe*s subglobose, c. 5 mm diam., crowned by persistent calyx lobes; pyrenes 5.

Distribution: Endemic to Peninsular Malaysia (Pahang and Terengganu).

Habitat: Montane forests between 1150 and 1600 m altitude.

Notes: Prior to the account by Wong (1989), specimens of *Lasianthus malaiense* had been identified as *L. robinsonii* Ridl.. However, *L. malaiense* differs from *L. robinsonii*, which has oblong leaves with the shorter petioles, less dense pubescence on the under surface of the midrib, secondary and tertiary veins, subreticulate tertiary veins; slender and longer peduncles; four linear calyx lobes, 6 mm long and drupes with four pyrenes; and from *L. pendulus* Ridl., which has ovate-lanceolate leaves with the shorter petioles (to 2 mm long), the lamina apex is acuminate to caudate, the base slightly cordate; the veins are conspicuously depressed above; the tertiary veins are reticulate; the bracts numerous, linear, to 1.2 cm long; the calyx lobes are linear and c. 6 mm long.

There is some confusion in the determinative labels on sheets in SING and KEP. Specimens *Henderson 18008* (SING) and *Chew 764* (SING) are determined as *Lasianthus* 'sp. 7' by Wong (but cited as 'sp. 6' in Wong's key, 1989). The specimen *Jaamat 27273* has a label determined as *Lasianthus* 'sp. 7' in SING but as *Lasianthus* 'sp. 6' in KEP. Using Wong's key, specimens of *L. malaiense* key out as his 'sp. 6'.

Specimens examined: Peninsular Malaysia – PAHANG: Cameron Highlands M.R. *Henderson 18008* (SING), W.L. *Chew 764* (SING), K.M. *Wong FRI 35229* (SING), *Henderson s.n.* (SING); Ulu Telom, *Jaamat 27273* (KEP, SING); Gunong Tahan, H.N. *Ridley 16069* (SING); TRENGGANU: Gunung Padang *L.Moysey et Kiah SFN 33940* (SING).

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