

A new species of *Zingiber* (Zingiberaceae) east of Wallace's Line

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ABSTRACT. *Zingiber* Mill. is distributed from India to the Pacific but only a few species are known from east of Wallace's Line, whereas the area to the west is rich in species. A recent collection from limestone at Bantimurung, South Sulawesi, Indonesia represents a new eastern species, *Zingiber ultralimitale* Ardiyani & A.D.Poulsen, which is described, illustrated, and barcoded using three of the four barcoding loci (*rbcL*, *trnH-psbA* and ITS). Placement of this species using morphological evidence is ambiguous but a combination of evidence from morphology, pollen anatomy and molecular analysis indicates that it belongs to *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*.

Keywords. Bantimurung, DNA barcode, Indonesia, limestone, Sulawesi, Wallacea

Introduction

Species of *Zingiber* Mill. occur from India in the west, through Malesia to the western Pacific, and those east of Wallace's Line are poorly known. There are about 180 species of *Zingiber* in the world (Zingiberaceae Resource Centre, 2017). Of the 45 species and six varieties of *Zingiber* occurring in Indonesia west of Wallace's Line (Ardiyani et al., unpublished), four cross Wallace's Line, all of them cultivated (*Z. officinale* Roscoe, *Z. montanum* (J.Koenig) A.Dietr., *Z. odoriferum* Blume, *Z. zerumbet* (L.) Sm.), indicating that their occurrence to the east may be anthropogenic.

Zingiber is currently classified into four sections based on the habit of the inflorescence (Baker, 1894; Schumann, 1904; see Table 1). Most *Zingiber* species occurring in Malesia belong to *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*.

Theilade et al. (1993) studied the pollen morphology of a range of species and found that it was not congruent with the division of the genus into sections. Their study showed that in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber* and *Zingiber* sect. *Dymczewiczia* (Horan.) Benth. & Hook. the pollen grains are spherical with cerebroid sculpturing, whereas in *Zingiber* sect. *Cryptanthium* Horan. they are ellipsoid with spiro-striate sculpturing. For this reason, Theilade et al. suggested that *Zingiber* sect. *Dymczewiczia* should be included in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*.

The molecular study of Theerakulpisut et al. (2012) supports the classification of *Zingiber* into four sections although *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber* and *Zingiber* sect. *Dymczewiczia* are only weakly supported. This weak support does not, therefore, necessarily refute Theilade's conclusion that *Zingiber* sect. *Dymczewiczia* should be included in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*. These two sections are more closely related to each other than to *Zingiber* sect. *Cryptanthium* and *Zingiber* sect. *Pleuranthesis* Benth. & Hook. (Theerakulpisut et al., 2012).

Plants of an unidentified *Zingiber* were collected from limestone at Bantimurung, South Sulawesi in 2009. When they were first encountered, several individuals could be seen from the road but they were not easy to reach. At first the sterile plants were thought to be a species of *Globba* L. different from the only other species known to occur east of Wallace's Line, *G. marantina* L. As this would be a biogeographically exciting discovery, we decided to try to collect sterile plants for cultivation. Despite some difficulty because the roots were deeply anchored in cracks in the limestone, we managed to collect 10 plantlets that were exported to Java, half of which were deposited in Bogor Botanic Gardens and the other half in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (accession numbers 20092015–20092019). Some of the plants flowered in Edinburgh, enabling us to conclude that it is an undescribed species which we here name *Zingiber ultralimitale*, and to make a full description including floral details and pollen morphology. In addition to describing this species formally, we investigate the sectional placement of this geographically unusual find using palynological data and molecular systematic analyses.

Table 1. Sections of *Zingiber* with their characteristics and geographical distribution (Baker 1894; Schumann 1904; Theerakulpisut et al. 2012).

Section	Geography	Inflorescence	Pollen morphology
<i>Zingiber</i>	India, China, Indo-China, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Cultivated	Borne on radical, erect peduncle or borne apically on a leafy stem	Spherical with cerebroid exine sculpturing
<i>Cryptanthium</i>	India, Thailand, China, Indo-China	Borne on a radical, procumbent peduncle	Ellipsoidal with spiro-striate sculpturing
<i>Dymczewiczia</i>	India, China, Indo-China, Thailand, Java, Papua New Guinea	Borne apically on a leafy stem	Spherical with cerebroid exine sculpturing
<i>Pleuranthesis</i>	China (Yunnan), Vietnam	Arising from the side of the leafy stem	Spherical with cerebroid exine sculpturing

Material and methods

Detailed studies of the morphology were made using living collections grown in the greenhouse of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Measurements were made using a ruler and a calibrated eye piece under a dissecting microscope.

For the DNA barcoding, three barcoding regions were successfully sequenced, namely *rbcL*, *trnH-psbA* and the nuclear Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS). The fourth barcoding region, *matK* could not be sequenced. Extraction, amplification and sequencing followed Kress et al. (2002) and Kress & Erickson (2007). The material sequenced was from *Poulsen et al. 2767*. GenBank accession numbers for the three barcoding regions are summarised in Table 2. A phylogenetic analysis based on ITS sequences was performed using additional sequences from NCBI GenBank after BLAST was done. GenBank has very few records of *rbcL* and *trnH-psbA* so it was not possible to run an analysis using these regions to address the affiliation of *Zingiber ultralimitale*. *Kaempferia parviflora* Wall. ex Baker and *K. elegans* (Wall.) Baker were chosen as the outgroup following Theerakulpisut et al. (2012) (Table 3). Sequence alignment and Maximum Likelihood analysis were conducted using MEGA version 6 (Tamura et al., 2013).

Table 2. Voucher information and Genbank accession numbers.

Species	Gene region	Genbank accession number	Material (Herbarium location)
<i>Zingiber ultralimitale</i>	<i>rbcL</i>	KU891637	<i>Poulsen et al. 2767</i>
	<i>trnH-psbA</i>	KU891638	(BO, E)
	ITS	KU891639	

For the palynological study, material was collected from a living plant growing at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (acc. no 20092015 A) and fixed in FAA for at least 24 hours. Mature but unopened flowers were selected. For SEM, anthers were dissected from the flowers, put into tiny chambers and dehydrated for 45 minutes in 50%, 70%, 95%, and 100% ethanol, ten minutes in acetone (two changes of five minutes each). Critical point drying was carried out in an Emitech K850 dryer and samples were sputter-coated with platinum and examined using a Zeiss Supra 55VP SEM.

Results and discussion

Most of the *Zingiber* species of western Malesia have tightly imbricate bracts, long or very short peduncles, and lateral staminodes joined to the labellum, although *Zingiber*

Table 3. Species of *Zingiber* and outgroups obtained from NCBI GenBank.

No	Species	Distribution/Section	GenBank Acc. No. (ITS)
	<i>Zingiber</i> (ingroup)		
1	<i>Z. barbatum</i> Wall.	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064578
2	<i>Z. bradleyanum</i> Craib	Thailand/Cryptanthium	DQ064579
3	<i>Z. capitatum</i> Roxb.	India, Himalaya/Zingiber	KM983532
4	<i>Z. capitatum</i>	India, Himalaya/Zingiber	KM983536
5	<i>Z. citriodorum</i> Theilade & Mood	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064591
6	<i>Z. coloratum</i> N.E.Br.	Borneo/Zingiber	AF414498
7	<i>Z. corallinum</i> Hance	Thailand, China/Zingiber	AF254460
8	<i>Z. corallinum</i>	Thailand, China/Zingiber	DQ064587
9	<i>Z. ellipticum</i> (S.Q.Tong & Y.M.Xia) Q.G.Wu & T.L.Wu	Yunnan-China/Pleuranthesis	AF478799
10	<i>Z. fragile</i> S.Q.Tong	Thailand/Cryptanthium	DQ064581
11	<i>Z. gramineum</i> Noronha ex Blume	Indochina, Java, Sumatra/Zingiber	DQ064577
12	<i>Z. gramineum</i>	Indochina, Java, Sumatra/Zingiber	AF478800
13	<i>Z. isanense</i> Triboun & K.Larsen	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064586
14	<i>Z. junceum</i> Gagnep.	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064588
15	<i>Z. junceum</i>	Thailand/Zingiber	AY424774
16	<i>Z. longipedunculatum</i> Ridl.	Borneo/Zingiber	AB097254
17	<i>Z. montanum</i> (J.Koenig) Link ex A.Dietr.	Cultivated/Zingiber	KJ872221
18	<i>Z. montanum</i>	Cultivated/Zingiber	DQ064585
19	<i>Z. neesanum</i> (J.Graham) Ramamoorthy	India, Indochina/Zingiber	KJ872228
20	<i>Z. neesanum</i>	India, Indochina/Zingiber	KJ872226
21	<i>Z. neotruncatum</i> T.L.Wu, K.Larsen & Turland	India, China/Zingiber	DQ064589
22	<i>Z. newmanii</i> Theilade & Mood	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064575
23	<i>Z. odoriferum</i> Blume	Cultivated/Zingiber	KF304561
24	<i>Z. odoriferum</i>	Cultivated/Zingiber	KF304562
25	<i>Z. officinale</i> Roscoe	Cultivated/Zingiber	DQ064590
26	<i>Z. orbiculatum</i> S.Q.Tong	Thailand/Cryptanthium	DQ064573
27	<i>Z. ottensii</i> Valetton	Cultivated/Zingiber	DQ064582
28	<i>Z. ottensii</i>	Cultivated/Zingiber	AJ388298
29	<i>Z. parishii</i> Hook.f.	Thailand/Zingiber	KF304567
30	<i>Z. parishii</i>	Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064576
31	<i>Z. pellitum</i> Gagnep.	Thailand/Dymczewiczia	DQ064574
32	<i>Z. purpureum</i> Roscoe (syn. of <i>Z.</i> <i>montanum</i>)	Cultivated/Zingiber	HM236153
33	<i>Z. rubens</i> Roxb.	Thailand/Cryptanthium	DQ064580
34	<i>Z. spectabile</i> Griff.	Sumatra, Malay Peninsula/Zingiber	AF414499
35	<i>Z. sulphureum</i> Burkill ex Theilade	Sumatra, Malay Peninsula/Zingiber	AF478801
36	<i>Z. wrayi</i> Prain ex Ridl.	Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Thailand/Zingiber	AF478802
37	<i>Z. wrayii</i>	Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Thailand/Zingiber	DQ064583

Table 3. Continued.

No	Species	Distribution/Section	GenBank Acc. No. (ITS)
38	<i>Z. zerumbet</i> (L.) Roscoe ex Sm.	Cultivated/Zingiber	KC582863
39	<i>Z. zerumbet</i>	Cultivated/Zingiber	DQ064584
40	<i>Z. ultralimitale</i> Ardiyani & A.D.Poulsen	Sulawesi/Zingiber	KU891639
41	<i>Z. ultralimitale</i> <i>Kaempferia</i> (outgroup)	Sulawesi/Zingiber	KU891639
42	<i>Kaempferia elegans</i> (Wall.) Baker	China, Indochina, Malesia	AY424764
43	<i>K. parviflora</i> Wall. ex Baker	India, Indochina	DQ064592

engganoense Ardiyani from Enggano Island, Sumatra (Ardiyani, 2015), has a long peduncle with tightly imbricate bracts and lateral staminodes free from the labellum. *Zingiber ultralimitale*, by contrast, has loosely imbricate bracts and relatively large yellow lateral staminodes which are free from the labellum. Loosely imbricate bracts are found in *Zingiber* sect. *Cryptanthium* west of Wallace's Line in Asia. Some species of *Zingiber* sect. *Cryptanthium* which resemble *Z. ultralimitale* are *Z. nanlingensis* Lin Chen et al. from China with the same arrangement of inflorescence and yellow flowers but staminodes not free from the labellum; *Zingiber liangshanense* Z.Y.Zhu, also from China, with free staminodes but a purple labellum; and *Z. chrysanthum* Roscoe from Nepal with bright red corolla lobes. *Zingiber ultralimitale* is morphologically distinct from the other species in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber* by having the bract arrangement of *Zingiber* sect. *Cryptanthium*.

A phylogenetic analysis of sequence data from the Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) results in an unresolved backbone in the phylogenetic tree of *Zingiber*. *Zingiber ultralimitale* is well supported as belonging to *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber* (Fig. 1).

The pollen grains of *Zingiber ultralimitale* are spherical with cerebriform sculpturing (Fig. 2) which, according to Theilade et al. (1993), is characteristic of *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*. Furthermore, the molecular results also place *Zingiber ultralimitale* in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber* (Fig. 1). Taking all the evidence together, therefore, we place the species in *Zingiber* sect. *Zingiber*.

Taxonomy

Zingiber ultralimitale Ardiyani & A.D.Poulsen, **sp. nov.**

This species is distinct from all others by the following combination of characters: narrow long loose green bracts, bright yellow flowers, and large free yellow lateral staminodes.—TYPE: Indonesia, originally collected from South Sulawesi Province, Bantimurung NP, along Jalan Poros Maros–Soppeng, and cultivated as RBGE 20091017*A, flowering material vouchered on 12 June 2013 as *Newman, M.F. 2552* (holotype BO; isotype E). (Fig. 2, 3)

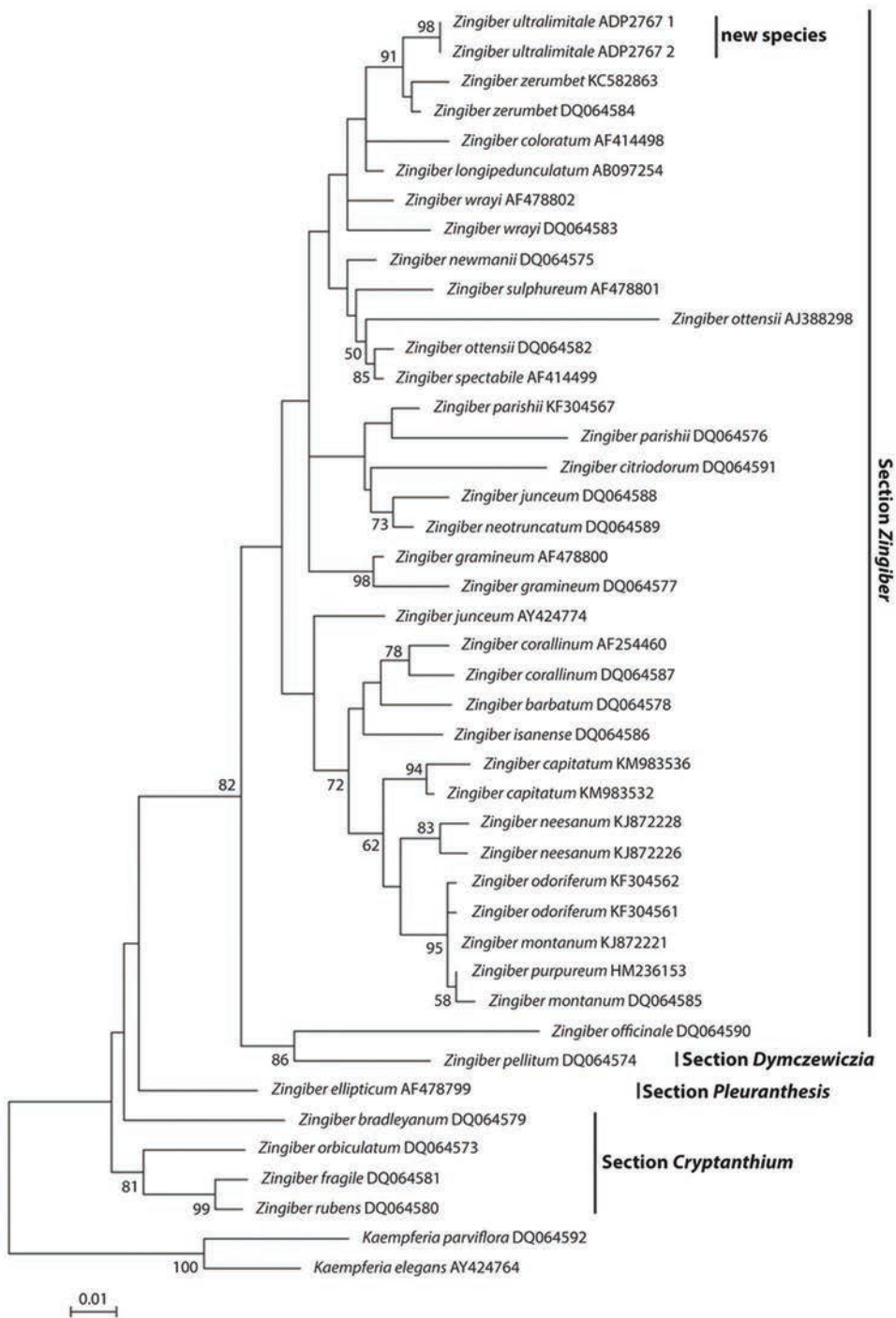


Fig. 1. Phylogenetic tree of *Zingiber* based on Maximum Likelihood analysis using the Internal Transcribed Spacers data (ITS). Bootstrap values (based on 1000 replicates) are presented above the branches. Only Bootstrap values higher than 50% are shown.

Lithophytic herb. *Rhizome* branching profusely, 5–8 mm across, brown externally, yellowish internally, tasting like *Zingiber officinale* but very bitter; roots with irregular ellipsoid tubers to 2.5×1.5 cm, white in cross-section, tasting like potato. *Leafy shoots* in a loose clump of up to five pseudostems, 2–4 cm apart, to 40–75 cm tall, with 9–12(–20) leaves. *Base of leafy shoot* to 9 mm diam., white to yellowish brown. *Sheaths* light green to mid-green, \pm finely hairy especially near margin and apex. *Ligule* to 8 mm long, membranous, emarginate at least for half its length, with scattered, appressed hairs, pale green. *Petiole* 2–9 mm long, channelled above, appressed villose abaxially, especially in lower half. *Lamina* ovate to narrowly ovate, $9\text{--}18 \times 3.5\text{--}5.5$ cm, slightly plicate, yellowish green and glabrous above, pale green and sparsely appressed villose beneath especially near midrib, base rounded when fresh, cuneate to truncate when dried, apex long acuminate. *Inflorescence* erect, to 16 cm long, arising close to the base of leafy shoot, with 9–12 flowers, one flower open at a time in late morning. *Peduncle* 3–6 cm long with 4 peduncular bracts, upper one to 4.5 cm long, being the longest, with scattered fine hairs. *Spike* to 10.5 cm long. *Bracts* laxly arranged at an angle to the rachis, c. 5 mm apart exposing the mid-green rachis, each subtending a single flower, lowermost bract c. 4.5×1.7 cm, translucent pale green, slightly darker towards apex, with visible cross-veins and hyaline margins, apex of lower bracts acuminate,

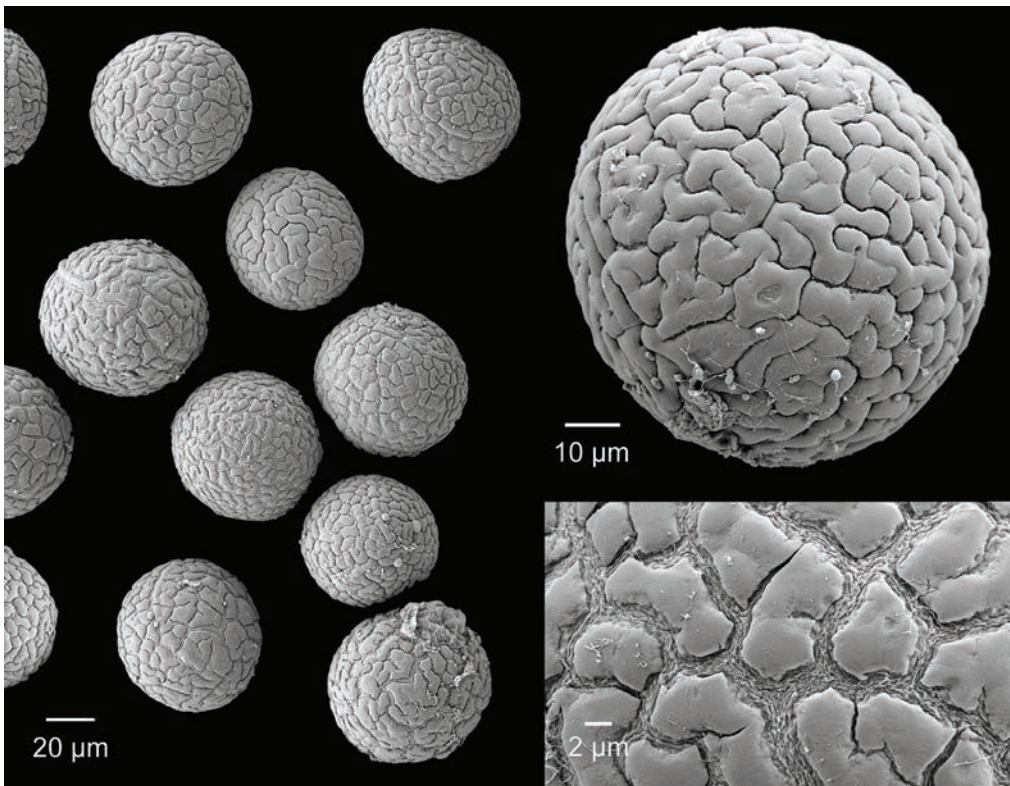


Fig. 2. Pollen of *Zingiber ultralimitale* (acc. no 20092015 A). SEM made by Zou Pu.

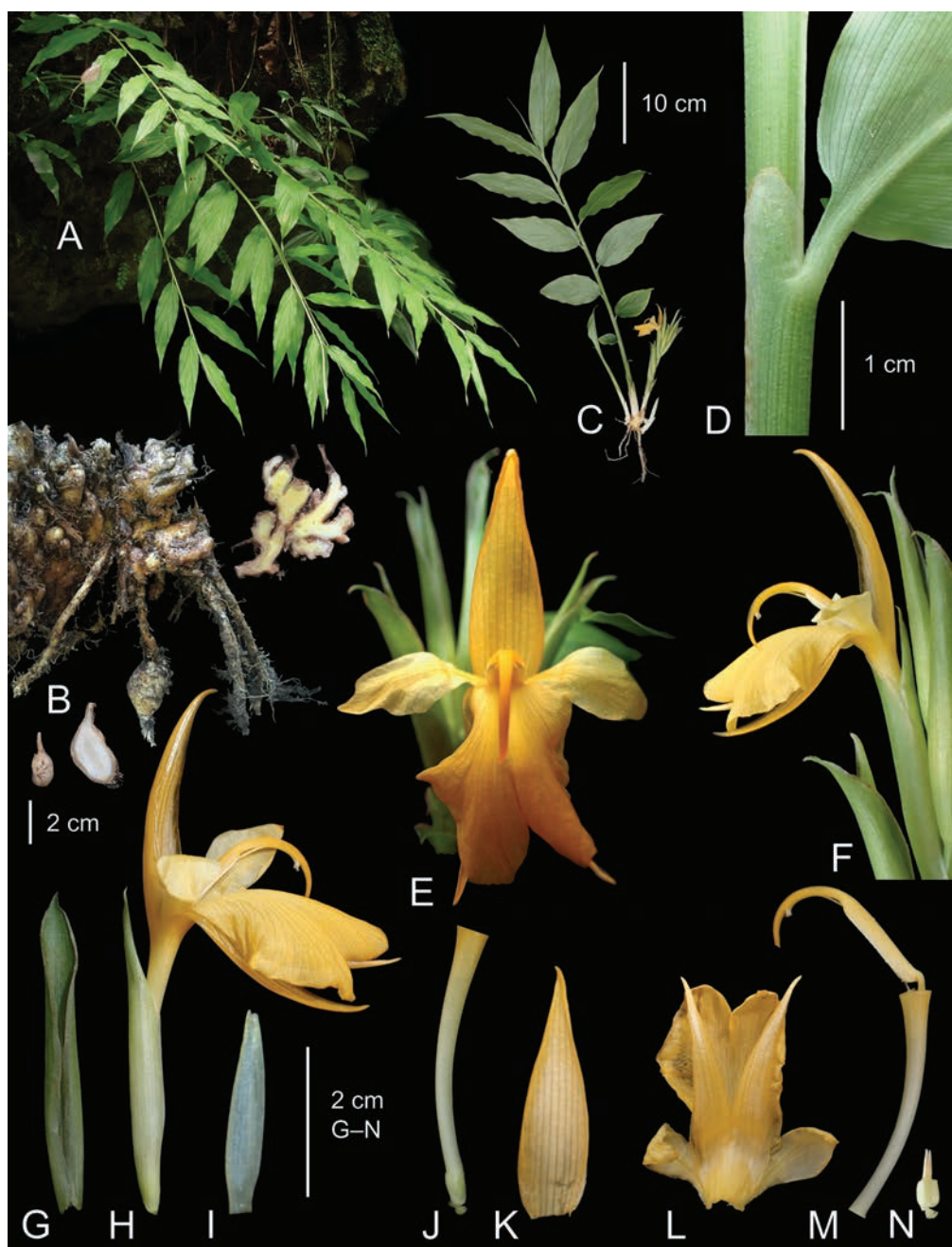


Fig. 3. *Zingiber ultralimitale* Ardiyani & A.D.Poulsen. **A.** Habit on limestone boulders at Bantimurung. **B.** Rhizome, including roots with tubers. **C.** Leafy shoot and inflorescence. **D.** Sheath, ligule, petiole and base of lamina. **E.** Spike with single flower, front view. **F.** Spike with single flower, lateral view. **G.** Bract. **H.** Bracteole and flower. **I.** Calyx. **J.** Ovary and corolla tube. **K.** Dorsal corolla lobe, ventral view. **L.** Labellum and lateral corolla lobes, ventral view. **M.** Corolla tube, stamen and stigma. **N.** Ovary and epigynous glands. A from Poulsen *et al.* 2767; B from Poulsen & Yeats 2989; C–N from Poulsen & Yeats 2984. (Photos: A.D. Poulsen)

upper bracts with apex recurved, subulate appendages 6–8 mm long (reminiscent of a reduced lamina), finely ciliate especially near margin and apex, glabrous inside. **Bracteoles** ± as long as bracts, longer than calyx, to 4.6 × 1.3 cm (when flattened), split to base, margins supervolute, translucent cream at base becoming green towards apex, with scattered hairs near margin and along veins, glabrous inside. **Calyx** c. 2.6 cm long, tubular with one incision in upper half, membranous, translucent cream, minutely three-toothed at the apex, pubescent at apex. **Corolla tube** c. 3.5 cm long, white at base, becoming pale yellow apically; dorsal corolla lobe narrowly ovate, slightly hollow, c. 3.4 × 1.2 cm, pale orange-yellow; lateral corolla lobes narrowly ovate, c. 2.5 × 0.7 cm, adnate c. 3 mm to base of labellum, pale orange-yellow. **Labellum** obovate, c. 3.5 × 3–3.5 cm, central lobe c. 3.5 × 2–2.5 cm, bifid, incision c. 8 mm, the two halves slightly divergent and recurved, glabrous throughout, pale orange-yellow. **Lateral staminodes** (side lobes) petaloid, c. 2 × 0.8 cm, paler than labellum, and free from it. **Stamen** c. 3 cm long, filament distinct, c. 0.3 cm long, pale orange-yellow, anther c. 1.5 cm, crest 1.3–1.6 cm long (when stretched), wrapped around style, incurved, pale orange. Anther thecae open along their entire length, ± white. **Style** pale yellow. **Stigma** tubular with a downwards-facing, ciliate ostiole which holds a droplet, held by anther crest; epigynous glands 2, subulate, 4 mm long, pale yellow. **Ovary** c. 4 × 3 mm, trilobular, sometimes incompletely so, with axile placentation, ovules c. 25–30, pale yellow-green. **Fruit** not seen.

Distribution. Only known from the type locality in South Sulawesi.

Etymology. The specific epithet *ultralimitale* means ‘on the other side of the border’, referring to the occurrence of this species east of Wallace’s Line.

Ecology and habitat. Limestone cliffs and boulders in forest, lowlands at c. 300 m. During the first year of cultivation in Edinburgh, it was discovered that the species has a dormancy period during which it survives entirely underground.

Phenology. Flowering in May–June in cultivation. Our field assistant, Firdaus, checked the populations at the type locality in June 2016 and found no leafy shoots. From this we infer that the onset of the dry season had already resulted in the plant becoming dormant.

Conservation status. Vulnerable VU B1ab(iii) (IUCN, 2001). Abundant at one locality along the road inside a national park but the extent of occurrence is estimated as <20,000 km². It is known from <10 locations and there is a decline in extent and quality of the limestone habitats in Sulawesi.

Additional specimens examined. INDONESIA: **South Sulawesi:** Bantimurung National Park, along Jalan Poros Maros–Soppeng, 5°2′32.4″S 119°44′9.4″E, 340 m, 23 January 2009, A.D. Poulsen *et al.* 2767 (BO, E); Bantimurung National Park, along Jalan Poros Maros–Soppeng, 5°2′32.4″S 119°44′9.4″E, 340 m, 23 January 2009, living collection of Poulsen, A.D., Marlina

Ardiyani & Firdaus 2767 cultivated as RBGE 20091015*A, vouchered 12 June 2013 as Newman, M.F. 2551, flowering (BO, E); ibidem, cultivated as 20091017*A, vouchered 28 May 2015 as Poulsen & Yeats 2984, flowering (E); ibidem, cultivated as 20091017*A, vouchered 5 Feb 2016 as Poulsen & Yeats 2989, dormant (E); ibidem, cultivated as 20091017*A, vouchered 9 June 2016 as Yeats 16, flowering (E, SING); ibidem, cultivated as 20091019*A, vouchered 21 June 2016 as Yeats 17, flowering (E, CEB).

Notes. The rhizome branches and forms large clumps in cultivation, which explains why it was almost impossible to remove it from the cracks in the limestone boulders of its natural habitat. The leafy shoots collected in the field were much longer than those of cultivated plants (75 vs. 40 cm) and had up to 20 leaves per shoot (vs. up to 12) which were narrower. In 2015, only one of the plants in the glasshouses produced an inflorescence, which contained a total of 12 flowers usually opening late morning. Only one flower opened per day but sometimes there would be a day without flowers in between.

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