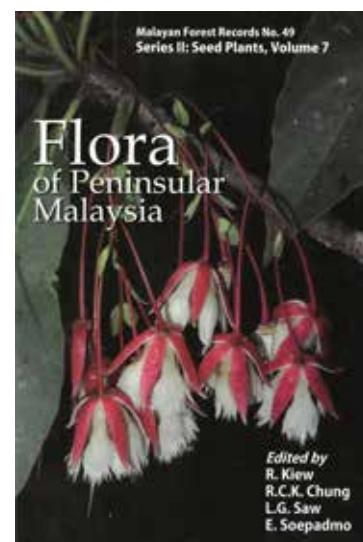
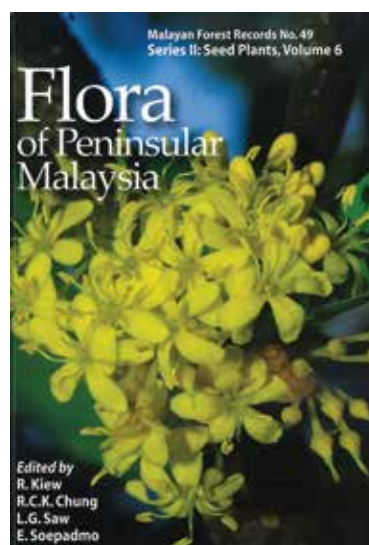


BOOK REVIEW: Flora of Peninsular Malaysia. Series II: Seed Plants, Volume 6 and Volume 7. (Malayan Forest Records No. 49). R. Kiew, R.C.K. Chung, L.G. Saw & E. Soepadmo (eds). 2017 and 2018.

Kepong, Kuala Lumpur: Forest Research Institute Malaysia. 25.7 cm × 18 cm, hard cover. 231 pp. (vol. 6) and 321 pp. (vol. 7). ISBN 978-967-0622-93-4 (vol. 6) and ISBN 978-967-2149-28-6 (vol. 7). Price per volume RM 100 / US\$ 60.

Since the first volume of the *Flora of Peninsular Malaysia* was released in 2010, the *Seed Plants* series is now in its seventh instalment, with a total of 65 plant family treatments completed between the seven volumes. This long-standing Flora series, led by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), to enumerate Peninsular Malaysia's botanical riches is progressing steadily with funding from the Government of Malaysia. This review covers Volume Six published in June 2017, as well as Volume Seven released in August 2018. As with all previous published volumes, these two well-conceived publications draw upon the expertise of a wide array of botanists, including a team of dedicated monographers from Kepong Herbarium (KEP), and also international specialists from the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (L), Netherlands and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K), UK.

Volume Six features six families of which five are small, namely Gelsemiaceae, Malpighiaceae, Monimiaceae, Nyctaginaceae and Onagraceae. The large centrepiece of this volume is the Sapindaceae, or popularly known in Southeast Asia as the *Rambutan* (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.) family, covering 46 species and 20 genera. The author is Peter C. van Welzen (L) who previously participated in the family treatments for *Flora Malesiana* (Adema et al., 1994), the *Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak* (Adema et al., 1996) and the *Flora of Thailand* (van Welzen, 1999). The Peninsular Malaysian species of the Sapindaceae were last revised for the *Tree Flora of Malaya* with 50 species in 18 genera recorded (Yap, 1989). The updated Peninsular Malaysian Sapindaceae treatment now includes a monotypic tree genus, *Sisyrolepis muricata* (Pierre) Leenh., that was previously overlooked. It is worth noting that *Sisyrolepis muricata* is a classic example of a Mainland Asian “element” which has its southernmost limit in the Malay Peninsula at the westernmost demarcation knot of the Malesian floristic region as recognised by van Steenis (1950).



Similarly, Volume Seven includes six small families, namely Aizoaceae, Anisophylleaceae, Elaeocarpaceae, Myristicaceae, Nyssaceae and Passifloraceae. The bulk of the volume is dedicated to Elaeocarpaceae, with 32 species and 2 genera, by Mark J.E. Coode (K), and both Myristicaceae, with 63 species and 5 genera, and Passifloraceae, with 8 species and 3 genera, by Willem J.J.O. de Wilde and Brigitta E.E. Duyfjes (L).

Overall, both volumes are very well produced, and richly illustrated with black-and-white line drawings, as well as colour photos. I wish to highlight here *Pteleocarpa lamponga* Bakh. ex K.Heyne, that is featured on the front cover of Volume Six. *Pteleocarpa lamponga* is a handsome tree with golden yellow flowers and peculiar winged fruits now widely cultivated as ornamental wayside trees in Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia. *Pteleocarpa* was formerly placed in Boraginaceae in the *Tree Flora of Malaya* (see Ng, 1989), but was later moved to Pteleocarpaceae. However, recent molecular analysis shows that *Pteleocarpa* is in fact closely related to Gelsemiaceae, and hence the family was expanded to include it. In the previous delimitation of Gelsemiaceae this family was not recorded for Peninsular Malaysia.

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