

***Mapania meekiongii*, a new species of *Mapania* (Cyperaceae)  
from Sarawak, Malaysia**

M.I. MIRAADILA & Z. SHABDIN

Department of Plant Science and Environmental Ecology, Faculty of Resource Science & Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding authors email: *myranda6969@yahoo.com*; *zshabdin@frst.unimas.my*

**Abstract**

*Mapania meekiongii* Miraadila & Shabdin, a new species from Sarawak is described and illustrated. The appearance of *Mapania meekiongii* is reminiscent of both *M. cuspidata* and *M. sapuniana* but differs by some other morphological characters.

Keywords: Borneo, conservation, Cyperaceae, *Mapania meekiongii*, Sarawak

**Introduction**

The cosmopolitan sedge family Cyperaceae is the third largest monocotyledon family, after orchids and grasses, with 106 genera and ca. 5400 species (Gov-aerts *et al.*, 2007). They form a huge, morphologically diverse, geographically widespread and ecologically and economically important family (Naczi, 2005). Sedges occupy a wide range of habitats from swamps to sand-dunes and tropical forests to high arctic tundra (Smith *et al.*, 2009). Nevertheless, some species are very localised, specific to only certain habitats and of conservation concern (Naczi & Ford, 2008). Cyperaceae comprises two subfamilies, Mapanioideae and Cyperoideae (Muasya *et al.*, 2009, Simpson *et al.*, 2007). Two tribes are assigned under Mapanioideae, namely Hypolytreae and Chrysitricheae. *Mapania*, a genus in tribe Hypolytreae contains a group of mostly forest dwelling sedges which are widely distributed throughout tropics (Simpson, 1996). Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia are considered to be centres of diversity for *Mapania* with 25 and 16 species recorded, respectively (Simpson, 1992), and new species are continue being discovered [Shabdin *et al.*, 2013a; 2013b; (2015 *in press*)]. Half of the recorded species in Borneo are endemic.

The new species was collected from Kapit, about 20 years ago and kept in the herbarium as unidentified species. There was no known study conducted on this genus since the last enumeration by Simpson (1992). Shabdin *et al.* (2013a; 2013b) however, only discussed the two new species, *M. sapuniana*