

Taxonomy, Phylogenetic Analyses and Pollination Biology of Scaphochlamys (Zingiberaceae) of Borneo

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Doctor of Philosophy 2018

## UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK

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# Taxonomy, Phylogenetic Analyses and Pollination Biology of *Scaphochlamys* (Zingiberaceae) of Borneo

Ooi Im Hin

A thesis submitted

In fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Plant Biology)

Faculty of Resource Science and Technology UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK 2018

# DECLARATION

The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.

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# ABSTRACT

Scaphochlamys Baker is a genus of 44 species in the family Zingiberaceae distributed from Southern Thailand through Peninsular Malaysia until Sumatera and Borneo. Previous taxonomic and phylogenetic studies concentrated on the species from Peninsular Malaysia. The interactions between the diverse Zingiberaceae flowers and their pollinators are important. However, there was no documentation on the floral biology and pollination mechanism of Scaphochlamys. Therefore, in this study, an integrated approach (including taxonomy, phylogeny, floral and pollination biology incorporated with SEM and floral volatile organic compounds (VOCs) analyses) was employed to study the Bornean Scaphochlamys. As a result, 12 taxonomic novelties were described (Scaphochlamys durga I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys graveolens I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys hasta I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys lanjakensis I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys lucens I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys multifolia I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys nigra I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys penyamar I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys pseudoreticosa I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys scintillans I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys stenophylla I. H. Ooi & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., and Scaphochlamys uniflora I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov.). Several important morphologies were discussed. Six informal intrageneric taxonomic groups were proposed for Bornean Scaphochlamys species. A phylogeny of 26 Scaphochlamys species (36 accessions) with ITS and trnK-matK sequence data was generated. Most of the Scaphochlamys species on Borneo formed a clade together with *Myxochlamys* A. Takano & Nagam., except *S. limiana* and *S. polyphylla* were clustered among *Scaphochlamys* species from Peninsular Malaysia. A one-day diurnal flowering mechanism was observed for 19 species of *Scaphochlamys*. All investigated Bornean *Scaphochlamys* are entomophilous xenogamy. Two types of traplining bees (*Amegilla* bees and Halictid bees) were concluded as the pollinators for eight Bornean *Scaphochlamys* species. The pollen size of 21 investigated *Scaphochlamys* species is within the range of 72.53 – 96.52 µm long  $\times$  52.39 – 78.41 µm wide, spheroidal to elliptical, and more or less psilate. Three hundred and twenty one floral VOCs (mainly terpenes, terpenoids, aromatic compounds and fatty acid derivatives) were found in 17 species of *Scaphochlamys* with the discovery of novel species, together with the phylogenetic relationship resolved, and interactions between plant-pollinator.

**Keywords:** Borneo, floral biology, morphology, phylogenetics, pollinator, *Scaphochlamys* (Zingiberaceae), taxonomy.

# Taksonomi, Analisis Filogenetik dan Biologi Pendebungaan Scaphochlamys (Zingiberaceae) di Borneo

# ABSTRAK

Scaphochlamys Baker ialah salah satu genus dalam famili Zingiberaceae yang mengandungi 44 spesies tertabur dari Selatan Thailand ke Semenanjung Malaysia sehingga Sumatera dan Borneo. Kebanyakan penyelidikan taksonomi dan filogenetik sebelum ini hanya tertumpu kepada spesies-spesies di Semenanjung Malaysia. Interaksi antara pelbagai bunga Zingiberaceae dan agen pendebungaan adalah penting. Akan tetapi, masih belum ada laporan tentang biologi bunga dan pendebungaan untuk Scaphochalmys. Oleh yang demikian, untuk kajian ini, satu pendekatan secara integrasi (termasuk taksonomi, filogeni, biologi bunga dan pendebungaan, bersama-sama dengan SEM dan analisis sebatian organik meruap (VOCs) bunga) telah digunakan untuk mengkaji Scaphochlamys di Borneo. Sebagai keputusannya, 12 spesies baharu telah dilaporkan (Scaphochlamys durga I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys graveolens I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys hasta I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys lanjakensis I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys lucens I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys multifolia I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys nigra I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys penyamar I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys pseudoreticosa I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys scintillans I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., Scaphochlamys stenophylla I. H. Ooi & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov., dan Scaphochlamys uniflora I. H. Ooi, K. Meekiong & S. Y. Wong, sp. nov.). Ciri-ciri

morfologi yang penting juga dibincangkan. Enam kumpulan taksonomi tidak formal dalam genus dicadangkan untuk spesies-spesies Scaphochlamys di Borneo. Satu filogeni dengan data rangkaian ITS dan trnK-matK yang meliputi 26 spesies Scaphochlamys (36 siri rujukan) telah dijanakan. Kebanyakan spesies-spesies Scaphochlamys di Borneo tergolong dalam satu kumpulan dengan Myxochlamys A. Takano & Nagam., kecuali S. limiana dan S. polyphylla tergolong dengan spesies-spesies Scaphochlamys dari Semenanjung Malaysia. Perkembangan bunga dalam sehari pada siang hari telah diteliti untuk 19 spesies Scaphochlamys. Semua Scaphochlamys di Borneo yang diteliti merupakan xenogami entomofili. Dua jenis lebah 'traplining' (lebah Amegilla dan lebah Halictid) telah dikenalpasti sebagai agen pendebungaan untuk lapan spesies Scaphochlamys. Saiz debunga untuk 21 spesies yang dikaji adalah dalam rangkuman 72.53 – 96.52  $\mu$ m  $\times$ selebar 52.39 – 78.41 µm, bulat atau bujur, dan lebih kurang licin. Tiga ratus dan dua puluh satu VOCs bunga (kumpulan terpene, terpenoid, sebatian aromatik dan terbitan asid lemak) telah ditemui di dalam 17 spesies Scaphochlamys. Kajian ini menghasilkan pengetahuan secara keseluruhan tentang Scaphochlamys di Borneo dengan penemuan spesies-spesies baru, bersama-sama dengan hubungan filogenetik secara resolusi, dan interaksi antara tumbuhan-agen pendebungaan.

*Kata kunci:* Borneo, biologi bunga, morfologi, filogenitik, agen pendebungaan, Scaphochlamys (Zingiberaceae), taksonomi.

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# **CHAPTER 1**

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **1.1 Background**

Zingiberaceae Martinov is well-known as the ginger family with many important culinary, medicinal and ornamental species. It is the largest family in order Zingiberales which consists of 56 genera with between 1,075-1,370 species (Stevens, 2001). Zingiberaceae is distributed throughout all the tropical regions globally but it is most diverse in South East Asia (Kress et al., 2002; Larsen, 2005) and contains four subfamilies (Siphonochiloideae W. J. Kress, Tamijioideae W. J. Kress, Alpinioideae Link and Zingiberoideae Hasskarl) with six tribes (Zingibereae, Globbeae, Alpinieae, Riedelieae, Tamijieae and Siphonochideae; *sensu* Kress et al., 2002).

*Scaphochlamys* Baker is a genus of 44 described species in the Kaempferia Clade within tribe Zingibereae (Kress et al., 2002; Leong-Škorničková et al., 2011) and closely related to *Distichochlamys* M. F. Newman and *Myxochlamys* A. Takano & Nagam. (Takano & Nagamasu, 2007). Searle (2010) summarized a combination of morphological characters: leaf-sheath base pulvinate (Borneo only); bract arrangement spiral; flowering mode from base to apex; first bracteole keeled, arising opposite to bract; bracteole split to base; thecae with free basal spurs, to distinguish *Scaphochlamys* from other closely related genera. *Scaphochlamys* is distributed from Southern Thailand, through Peninsular Malaysia, to Northern Borneo and Sumatera but each single species is usually narrowly distributed with a high degree of endemism (Searle, 2010). In Borneo, there are 14

described species with five recently described novelties (Mas Izzaty et al., 2013; Ooi & Wong, 2014; Meekiong et al., 2015), of which all species are endemic.

Searle and Hedderson (2000) included five species (*S. biloba* (Ridl.) Holttum, *S. concinna* (Baker) Holttum, *S. kunstleri* (Baker) Holttum var. *rubra* Ridl., *S. obcordata* P. Sirirugsa & K. Larsen and *S. reticosa* (Ridl.) R.M. Sm., one Bornean species) in their phylogenetic investigation on tribe Hedychieae (*sensu* Burtt & Smith, 1972c) but only ITS region was employed. Two Peninsular Malaysia species, *S. kunstleri* and *S. lanceolata* (Ridl.) Holttum, were included in the phylogeny of tribe Zingibereae with ITS and *trnL*-*trn*F regions (Ngamriabsakul et al., 2004). For phylogenetic studies with ITS and *mat*K regions, previously, only two *Scaphochlamys* species from Peninsular Malaysia, *S. biloba* and *S. kunstleri*, were included (Kress et al., 2002; Takano & Nagamasu, 2007; Leong-Škorničková et al., 2011). Within Bornean *Scaphochlamys*, until very recently, only seven species were included in the phylogenetic analyses with both ITS and *mat*K regions (Sam et al., 2016).

Specht et al. (2012) stated that the ancestral pollination syndrome of Zingiberaceae is probably insect or bee pollination based on character mapping of developmental evolutionary floral and pollination biology datasets on Zingiberales phylogeny. In Borneo, Sakai et al. (1999; 2013) conducted a pollination study on the gingers (29 species in 11 genera) of Lambir Hills National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia and investigated the correlation of flower measurements and the pollinators. Three pollination guilds were reported, which are Halictid bee, *Amegilla* bee and Spiderhunter bird (Sakai et al., 1999; 2013). Aside from this, pollination by carpenter bee was reported for *Alpinia nieuwenhuizii* Val. in

Kinabatangan district, Sabah, Malaysia (Takano et al., 2005). More techniques were applied to inspect various aspects of Zingiberaceae species for better understanding about the plants and their ecological interactions, for examples, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) for pollen morphology (Theilade et al., 1993); pollen histology for investigating pollen nutrition and pollination systems correlation (Wang et al., 2004); and floral volatile organic compounds (VOCs) analysis for biochemical compounds in floral scent emission (B áez et al., 2011). So far, there is yet to be a single documentation on the pollination biology of *Scaphochlamys*.

# **1.2 Problem Statement**

Although Zingiberaceae is a commonly known plant family, except those common domestic species, most of the highly endemic species are still understudied with very limited information available. For *Scaphochlamys*, Searle (2010) stated that owing to several reasons such as historical collections did not preserve well, ephemeral flowers and weakly written descriptions, the taxonomic revision was difficult and more novelties were expected from Borneo and Sumatera. The generic boundary is defined by a set of morphological characters in combination rather than any single key character (Searle, 2010). Thus, dealing with the taxonomic problem is crucial to provide a solid foundation for further scientific investigation to progress.

In Malaysia, Sam (2014) stated the confusion in the generic delimitation and relationship of *Scaphochlamys* and other close genera, which *Myxochlamys* is embedded within *Scaphochlamys* in phylogeny. For examples, the distichous bract arrangement in *Distichochlamys*, the 2-keeled first bracteoles and the grooved inner corolla tube in

*Myxochlamys* are present in *Scaphochlamys* as well. As the previous studies were concentrating in Peninsular Malaysia, the interspecific relationship among the species from Borneo is poorly known. So far, only half of the species were included in previous studies. Despites the fact that the species belonging to the order Zingiberales have high floral variability and complex pollination system (Kress & Specht, 2005), the pollination biology of most of the taxa including those from *Scaphochlamys* is still unknown.

With the sampling activities in this study, it was hypothesized that more novel species might be found because there were no intensive collecting carried out in Borneo previously. For phylogenetics, the intergeneric relationship of *Scaphochlamys* and other genera might not differ much from previous studies but the interspecific relationship of the species from Borneo would be better known. Furthermore, it was speculated that this floral biology study would provide the information on the pollination system of *Scaphochlamys* and some insight for the generic delimitation.

## **1.3 Objectives**

This study aimed:-

- (1) to study the morphology and taxonomy of the *Scaphochlamys* species on Borneo;
- (2) to produce a phylogeny inferring the relationship of the Bornean *Scaphochlamys* species;
- (3) to document the pollination strategies of the investigated taxa;
- (4) to undertake floral scent analysis and link this into the pollination strategies of the investigated taxa.

# **CHAPTER 2**

# LITERATURE REVIEW

# 2.1 Zingiberaceae

Zingiberaceae comprises 56 genera with between 1,075-1,370 species which are divided into four subfamilies: Siphonochiloideae, Tamijioideae, Alpinioideae and Zingiberoideae (Stevens, 2001) with tribe Zingibereae, tribe Globbeae, and *Monolophus* (formerly *Caulokaempferia*; Mood et al., 2014) nested within Zingiberoideae, and tribe Alpinieae, tribe Riedelieae, and *Siliquamomum* nested within Alpinioideae. Tamijioideae are monospecific and Siphonochiloideae contain two genera (Kress et al., 2002). All subfamilies are well supported based on molecular and morphological data, but many speciose genera (e.g., *Alpinia* Roxb., *Amomum* Roxb., and *Curcuma* L.) have been shown to be paraphyletic and/or polyphyletic (*Amomum*: Harris et al., 2000; Xia et al., 2004; *Alpinia*: Rangsiruji et al., 2000; Zingibereae: Ngamriabsakul et al., 2004; *Etlingera* Giseke: Pedersen, 2004; *Globba* L.: Williams et al., 2004; Alpinioideae: Kress et al., 2005, 2007; *Curcuma*: Závesk áet al., 2012; Leong-Škorničková et al., 2015).

Zingiberaceae are an economically and ecologically important family of commelinid monocots with a centre of diversity in South-East Asia (Kress et al., 2002; Larsen, 2005). Zingiberaceae is easily separated from other Zingiberales families by possessing ligulate distichous leaves, flowers with a single dithecal stamen, and an often showy petaloid labellum formed from two or four staminodes (Simpson, 2010). The age of crown-group Zingiberaceae is more than 70 m.y. (Auvray et al. 2010).