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Studies of the Homalomeneae (Araceae) of Peninsular Malaysia VIII: *Homalomena joanneae* [Chamaecladon Clade], a new locally endemic limestone-obligated species

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Abstract. *Homalomena joanneae* is described and illustrated as a new species of the Chamaecladon Clade restricted to the industrially threatened limestone of Gunung Kanthan, Kuala Kangsar, Perak, and compared with its probable nearest congener, *H. hendersonii* from Kelantan.

Keywords: *Homalomena* Chamaecladon Clade, taxonomy, Perak, Gunung Kanthan, Silurian-Devonian limestone.

INTRODUCTION

Homalomena remains the least well studied large genus of Asian Araceae, and of which the species of the Chamaecladon clade (*sensu* Wong et al. 2013) are perhaps the least well understood. This is partly because species of the Chamaecladon clade tend to be outwardly rather similar in appearance, especially as preserved specimens, and partly because along with producing some of the smallest blooms in the family, much of the key diagnostic data present in the usually tiny spadix is lost in herbarium specimens; thus, historical Types are for the most part uninformative.

The earliest accounts of *Homalomena* for Peninsular Malaysia are those of Hooker (1893), and Ridley (1907, 1925). These are now taxonomically unreliable as well as decidedly incomplete. Furtado (1939) attempted to untangle the taxonomy of *Homalomena* in the Indo-Malaysian region but, as has been noted in previous papers (e.g., Ng et al., 2011), succeeded only in further confusing an already difficult situation, especially so for the Chamaecladon clade. Following Furtado, no critical work was attempted until the early 2000s when a series of papers began to lay a tentative ground-