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Homalomeneae (Araceae) of Borneo XXVIII – *Homalomena bengohensis* [Chamaecladon Clade] a new species endemic to the Bengoh Range, Sarawak

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Abstract. A new species of *Homalomena* Chamaecladon Clade is described from the Bengoh Range, Kuching Division, Sarawak, and compared with the two most similar described species from Kuching: *H. paucinervia* from the Matang Massif, and *H. santubongensis* from Gunung Santubong. The three species are illustrated from living plants and differentiated in an identification key.

Keywords: Araceae, Borneo, Chamaecladon clade, *Homalomena*, Kuching Division, Malaysia, Palaeogene sandstones.

INTRODUCTION

Homalomena Chamaecladon Clade (*sensu* Wong et al. 2013) with major centres of species diversity in Peninsular Malaysia and especially Sumatera is relatively poorly represented on Borneo. The first species described for NW Borneo was *Homalomena paucinervia* Ridl. (Ridley 1905). Since then, species names for the clade on Borneo have been comprehensively misapplied and only recently has the taxonomy begun to be addressed (Boyce et al. 2010; Wong & Boyce 2020, 2021; Wong et al. 2020). Problems stem partly from the species tending to be outwardly rather similar in appearance, especially as preserved specimens, and partly from most of the key diagnostic data present in the usually tiny blooms being lost in herbarium specimens. A further factor is that wild plants are most often encountered sterile or with the blooms post-anthesis, by which time the staminate florets and the staminodes associated with the pistillate florets, the most useful diagnostic portions of the spadix, have rotted. Consequently, the only practicable means to study these plants is by a combination of fieldwork and maintaining living plants.