

## A new sedge species *Mapania sekudaniana* (Cyperaceae) from Sarawak, Malaysia

MELANA, I.G.N., SHABDIN, Z.\*, AHMAD ZAHID, A.A.B.,  
MEEKIONG, K. and YEO, F.K.S.

**Abstract :** A new sedge species *Mapania sekudaniana* Melana, Shabdin & Meekiong sp. nov. is described and illustrated herein. This new species is closely similar to *Mapania longiflora* C.B. Clarke, but can be differentiated by its single spike and abruptly narrowed leaf apex.

**Keywords:** Cyperaceae, *Mapania*, Sarawak

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Mapania* contains 100 accepted species that are distributed throughout the tropics and can be differentiated from other genera within Cyperaceae by having four or six floral bracts in each spicoid inflorescence (Govaerts and Simpson 2007). It belongs to the tribe Hypolytreae, which includes six genera of predominantly forest-dwelling sedges: *Scirpodendron*, *Principina*, *Mapania*, *Paramapania*, *Hypolytrum*, and *Diplasia* (Simpson 1992). Based on their geographical distribution, the genus *Mapania* is separated into five sections: *Mapania*, *Thoracostachyum*, *Pandanophyllum*, *Pycnocephala*, and *Mapaniopsis*. Sarawak is home to only two sections, namely *Pandanophyllum* and *Thoracostachyum*.

Sarawak appears to be a region rich in *Mapania* and is also home to a variety of flora and animals, due to its favourable conditions for growth (Meekiong *et al.* 2011). Since Simpson's last enumeration in 1992, the study of the genus *Mapania* in Borneo, particularly Sarawak, has been neglected. The attempt to document the diversity of species in *Mapania* was continued by Shabdin (2012), Shabdin *et al.* (2013a, 2013b, 2016), followed by Miraadila *et al.* (2016, 2016a, 2016b). A thorough investigation of the genus boundaries in Sarawak was carried out to create a critical grasp of this important genus. Additionally, it might be challenging to identify a plant solely only on herbarium specimens as this can lead to certain character inconsistencies. Field research can increase our understanding of a species and provide us with a clear image of it. From the west to the east, field excursions have been made across Sarawak, and observations have demonstrated the occurrence of a wide variety of *Mapania* in the state.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

#### Species examination

The samples were collected from Lambir Hills National Park, Miri Division, Sarawak and examined in the Herbarium of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (HUMS) and the laboratory of the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, UNIMAS. The herbarium samples were prepared according to the standard herbarium protocol suggested by Bridson and Forman (1992). The sample identification and verification were carried out by analysing herbarium specimens and monographs deposited at the Herbarium, Forest Department of Sarawak (SAR). The observed specimens were photographed and recorded for future analysis. The specimens collected were compared to Simpson's (1992) description.

---

Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia.

\*Corresponding author: szinnirah@unimas.my