

PETER C. BOYCE^{1*} & WONG SIN YENG²

Studies on *Homalomeneae* (*Araceae*) of Sumatera IV: Three new ornamental *Homalomena* (*Chamaecladon* clade) species

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Abstract: Three new species of *Homalomena* (*Chamaecladon* clade) are described and illustrated from Sumatera (Sumatra), Indonesia: *H. hasei* P. C. Boyce & S. Y. Wong, *H. mobula* P. C. Boyce & S. Y. Wong and *H. plicata* P. C. Boyce & S. Y. Wong.

Key words: *Araceae*, aroids, *Homalomena*, *Chamaecladon* clade, *Homalomena hasei*, *Homalomena mobula*, *Homalomena plicata*, new species, Indonesia, Sumatera, Sumatra, granite, limestone

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Introduction

The *Homalomena Chamaecladon* clade (Wong & al. 2013) comprises primarily small-growing tufted or creeping plants with a diminutive unstricted spathe, pistillate flowers with a staminode only half as tall as the associated pistil, and staminate flowers composed of two (rarely three) stamens in which the anther connective is not expanded into an overarching cap. *Chamaecladon* species are primarily lithophytic, occasionally rheophytic, or, if terrestrial, then commonly occurring on forested steep soil banks where, perhaps, the minute seeds can adhere and seedlings are less likely to be buried by leaf litter. One species, *Homalomena limnogenia* P. C. Boyce & S. Y. Wong, is a colonial helophyte (Boyce & Wong 2013). Where such data exist, species are known to be geologically obligated.

Taxonomic understanding of *Chamaecladon* species is hampered by the poor state of preservation of almost all of the historical types, exacerbated by often miniscule

ephemeral (and therefore cryptic) floral parts, coupled with decidedly incomplete understanding of vegetative variation. With the notable exception of Alderwerelt van Rosenburgh (1922), who published 14 new *Chamaecladon* species accompanied by precise descriptions with useful diagnostic illustrations, mainly prepared from living plants in Buitenzorg (now Bogor) Botanic Gardens, historical published accounts are comprehensively inadequate, not least Furtado's partial "revision" (1939). Against such formidable circumstances, it might appear imprudent to propose and publish further new species were it not for the fact that there exist highly distinctive taxa clearly unmatched with any of the pre-existing published names. In recent years a start has been made to formally publish such evident novelties (Bararuddin & Boyce 2005, 2010; Bogner 2007; Boyce & Wong 2013; Boyce & al. 2010; Kartini & al. 2015; Kurniawan & al. 2011a, b; Wong & Boyce 2011, 2012). We here continue this process with the formal description of three remarkable newly recognized species from Sumatera.

1 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Department Biologie I, Systematische Botanik und Mykologie, Menzinger Straße 67, 80638 München, Germany; *e-mail: boyce@biologie.uni-muenchen.de (author for correspondence).

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