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## Studies on *Monstereae* (*Araceae*) of Borneo II: Furtado's *Rhaphidophora kinabaluensis* elucidated and transferred to *Scindapsus*

### Abstract

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*Rhaphidophora kinabaluensis* Furtado (*Araceae: Monstereae*), described from Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, has been recollected and revealed to be a species of *Scindapsus* Schott belonging to a species complex surrounding *S. coriaceus* Engl. The taxonomic transfer is made – *S. kinabaluensis* (Furtado) Kartini & P. C. Boyce, comb. nov. – and a description, colour illustrations and list of specimens are provided. Defining characteristics and current taxonomy of the *Scindapsus* Coriaceus Complex are summarized.

Additional key words: aroids, *Scindapsus kinabaluensis*, *Scindapsus* Coriaceus Complex, Malaysian Borneo, Sabah

### Introduction

Furtado was a productive author of taxonomic and nomenclatural papers best remembered for his work on palms. Over a period of almost 35 years, however, Furtado also published on *Araceae*, most notably dealing with general taxonomy of Malesian *Araceae*, particularly for Sabah, resulting from fieldwork with the Clemens for 6 weeks in March and April 1932 (Furtado 1935), and a partial monograph of the genus *Homalomena* Schott (Furtado 1939). In the 1930s a very considerable percentage of the aroid flora of what is now Malaysia remained undescribed, and Furtado was the lone active researcher. Given these circumstances it is unfortunate that his aroid work is not of the first rank, notoriously plagued with unsound taxonomic decisions and frequent nomenclatural quirks, many still unresolved. Here we deal with one of these long-standing

issues: the correct identity of a characteristic and locally common low-climbing aroid occurring along open lower montane *kerangas* ridges and scrubby forest in the vicinity of Mount Kinabalu, and which Furtado described as a species of *Rhaphidophora* Hassk. – *R. kinabaluensis* Furtado (1935) – a name overlooked by Boyce (2001) when revising *Rhaphidophora* for Borneo.

Even perfunctory examination of the rather numerous type and paratype duplicates of Furtado's *Rhaphidophora kinabaluensis* is suggestive that the species is misplaced to genus, notably by the thick blade texture and obscure venation of the long-petioled leaves, which are quite unlike the states known in *Rhaphidophora*, but similar to those occurring in two informal species complexes of *Scindapsus* Schott: the scandent to low-climbing Coriaceus Complex, and the perching litter-trapping epiphytic/lithophytic Beccarii Complex.

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