

## Studies on Homalomeneae (Araceae) of Borneo VIII: Delimitation of additional informal suprageneric taxa for Sundaic *Homalomena*

NG KIAW KIAW<sup>1</sup>, SOFIMAN OTHMAN<sup>1</sup>, PETER C. BOYCE<sup>1</sup>, WONG SIN YENG<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pusat Pengajian Sains Kajihayat [School of Biological Sciences]  
Universiti Sains Malaysia - 11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup> Department of Plant Science & Environmental Ecology, Faculty of Resource Science & Technology  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak - 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia

Accepted 21 February 2011

*Studi sulle Homalomeneae (Araceae) del Borneo VIII: delimitazione e ulteriori taxa informali per il genere Homalomena del Borneo* — Viene proposto un complesso di taxa costituito da un supergruppo con otto specie informali per il genere *Homalomena* (Araceae: Homalomeneae) per l'area del Borneo. Le caratteristiche differenziali sono enumerate, illustrate, e supportate da chiavi analitiche relative ai gruppi suggeriti.

**Key words:** *Araceae*, *Homalomena*, informal taxa, Sunda, Borneo.

Earlier papers of this series (Boyce & Wong, 2008; Boyce & Wong 2009; Boyce, Wong & Fasihuddin, 2010) highlighted *Homalomena* Schott to be by far the largest, taxonomically most complex and least well understood aroid genus in tropical Asia. Recent estimates for the size of the genus have ranged from ca 150 species (Hay, 1999) to ca 300 species (Tung, Wong & Boyce, 2010), however continuing fieldwork in Borneo, a recently initiated field programme in Peninsular Malaysia (Baharuddin & Boyce, 2010a,b), and examination of the exceptionally rich herbarium collections of Herbarium Bogoriense (BO) and Leiden (L) force us now to estimate that *Homalomena* comprises somewhat in excess of 500 species, making it the third-largest genus of the family after *Anthurium* Schott and *Philodendron* Schott. Furthermore the majority of *Homalomena* species have yet to be formally described.

A genus of such magnitude lacking a comprehensive recent taxonomic account is extremely unwieldy, the more so given the considerable percentage of taxonomic novelties. To provide more manageable taxonomic units from which to tackle the fine taxonomy, Boyce & Wong

(2008) circumscribed three somewhat coarsely-delimited informal Supergroups (Homalomena, Chamaecladon, and Cyrtocladon). Subsequently, it has become apparent that a cluster of species centred on *H. punctulata* Engl. are not comfortably accommodated by any of these Supergroups. To rectify this we are here adding a fourth informal Supergroup: Geniculata, corresponding very approximately to Hotta's Section *Geniculatae* (see Hotta, 1967). Boyce & Wong (2008) subsumed *Geniculatae* in to the Cyrtocladon Supergroup, but it is now apparent that this was too hasty. The four Supergroups are defined morphologically as per the following key.

### Notes on morphologies

Posterior lobe definition follows Mayo, Bogner & Boyce (1997, p. 8, Fig. 6) while the leaf blade shapes are based upon the largest leaf on a flowering plant.

The lower spathe – upper spathe length comparisons are taken from inflorescences at anthesis.