

A REVISION OF GENUS *VATICA* L.  
(DIPTEROCARPACEAE) IN BORNEO II:  
*VATICA ABANG-ZOHARII*, A NEW SPECIES  
FROM SARAWAK

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**Abstract:** A new species *Vatica abang-zoharii* Meekiong, Latiff & Yahud is described and illustrated. This new species is quite similar to *V. elliptica* but can be readily distinguished by its bark greyish brown, small lenticels scattered along the stem, low buttress and shorter petioles that turned black when dry. *V. abang-zoharii* displays unequal fruit calyx (three long and two short) thus belongs to sect. *Sunaptea*. With the discovery of this new species, the number of species of *Vatica* in Sarawak has now increased to 34.

**Key words:** *Vatica*, *V. abang-zoharii*, Dipterocarps, Sarawak

## INTRODUCTION

The Dipterocarpaceae is a medium-sized family that is distributed world-wide from Asia to Africa and South America with ca. 680 species in 18 genera. Taxonomically, the family has been divided into three subfamilies, namely Dipterocarpoideae, Monotoideae and Pakaraimoideae (Ashton, 1982; Londono et al., 1995; Cao et al., 2006). Dipterocarpoideae is mainly centred in Asia while the latter two subfamilies occur in Africa and South America, respectively. The Dipterocarpoideae is the biggest subfamily with ca. 470 species in 13 genera, namely *Anisoptera*, *Cotylelobium*, *Dipterocarpus*, *Dryobalanops*, *Dryobalanoides*, *Hopea*, *Neobalanocarpus*, *Parashorea*, *Shorea*, *Upuna*, *Vateria*, *Vateriopsis* and *Vatica*.

Studies on the dipterocarps in Malaysia are far from sufficient when compared with other countries such as Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand. In Peninsular Malaysia studies by Ridley (1922), Appanah and Turnbull (1998), Symington (2004), Chua et al. (2010), El-Taguri and Latiff (2010, 2012), however have provided valuable information on the taxonomy and morphology of the genus. In Sabah and Sarawak, the studies were mostly conducted by Ashton from 1962–2004 and by Meekiong et al. (2014) and Meekiong (2015) which mainly focused on the taxonomic and ecological aspects. Although many species have been described from the two Malaysian states in Borneo, still, new taxa can be discovered. For example, *V. adenanii* was recently described by Meekiong et al. (2014) and *V. latiffii* by Meekiong (2015), both from Sarawak.