



# Checklist of aroids (Alismatales, Araceae) from Sabah (Malaysian Borneo)

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## Abstract

One hundred and fourteen species belonging to 29 genera of Araceae are recorded from Sabah: *Aglaonema* Schott, *Alocasia* (Schott) G.Don, *Amorphophallus* Blume ex Decne., *Amydrium* Schott, *Anadendrum* Schott, *Arisaema* Mart., *Bucephalandra* Schott, *Colobogynium* Schott, *Colocasia* Schott, *Cryptocoryne* Fisch. ex Wydler, *Cyrtosperma* Griff., *Epipremnum* Schott, *Gamogyne* N.E.Br., *Homalomena* Schott, *Lasia* Lour., *Lemna* L., *Nabalu* S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, *Ooia* S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, *Phymatarum* M.Hotta, *Pistia* L., *Pothos* L., *Rhaphidophora* Hassk., *Pursegloveia* S.Y.Wong, S.L.Low & P.C.Boyce, *Rhynchophyle* Engl., *Schismatoglottis* Zoll. & Moritzzi, *Scindapsus* Schott, *Spirodela* Schleid., *Tawaia* S.Y.Wong, S.L.Low & P.C.Boyce, *Typhonium* Schott, and *Wolffia* Horkel ex Schleid. Two genera, *Cryptocoryne* and *Phymatarum*, are newly recorded from Sabah. One species, *Pothos leptostachyus* Schott, is newly recorded from Sabah. One genus, *Tawaia*, and 50 species are endemic to Sabah. Taxonomic notes, an identification key to genera, and comments on habitat and ecology of the species are presented.

## Keywords

Biodiversity, endemic species, Malesia, taxonomy

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## Introduction

Scientific study of the flora of Sabah began with the earliest ascents of Mount Kinabalu by foreigners, beginning with Hugh Low in 1851 (Low 1852), the expedition of Low and Spenser St. John in 1858 (St John 1862, 1863), and the commercial collecting trips by Frederick Burbidge in 1877 and 1878 when Burbidge was joined by Peter Veitch for the first and for the second by a Mr Smith seconded to him by Andrew Boosie, the general manager of the Labuan coal mines (Burbidge 1880; Moulton

1915). The botanical discoveries of these early explorations, mainly *Rhododendron* L. and *Nepenthes* L., were written up by Joseph Hooker (1852, 1860). However, curiously except for Burbidge, none these ascents produced any aroid discoveries despite the abundance of family on the lower altitudes of the mountain range. Indeed, only three aroids, *Gamogyne burbidgei* N.E.Br., *Piptospatha insignis* N.E.Br., and what Burbidge assumed to be a second *Piptospatha* N.E.Br., are enumerated, with