

Studies on Schismatoglottideae (Araceae) of Borneo XVIII: Additional observations on *Schottariella mirifica*

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ABSTRACT

Schottariella mirifica, the sole species of a Bornean endemic genus, is known from four localities on the Kanowit and Ai river catchments of western Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo. Based on recent fieldwork we here present expanded ecological information, and new morphological data, including descriptions and illustrations of the previously unknown mature infructescence.

KEY WORDS

Araceae, *Schottariella mirifica*, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, Fruits.

INTRODUCTION

In publishing *Schottariella mirifica* P.C.Boyce & S.Y.Wong (Boyce & Wong, 2008, 2009) the description of fruiting material was based on an incompletely fertilized sub-mature infructescence, and a damaged persistent lower spathe from plants in cultivation. This resulted in incomplete information as to the posture of the peduncle/spathe at fruit maturity in nature. These morphologies are of considerable taxonomic significance in the Schismatoglottideae (see, e.g., Boyce & Wong,

2008; Bogner & Hay, 2000; Hay & Yuzammi, 2000; Wong & Boyce, 2010; Wong et al., 2009; Wong et al., 2011). Field trips sampling *Schottariella* has all hitherto been at times of high water (*landas* or wet season), and thus the extent of the known wild populations impossible to ascertain. However, a visit to the type locality of *S. mirifica* in August 2011 coincided with an extended period of dry weather such that river levels were very considerably lower than on previous visits. This enabled a much more extensive survey of the site than had been previously possible.

ECOLOGY

Schottariella mirifica is restricted to vertical clay-mud banks, several meters high, along forest streams draining into larger rivers (**Plate 1A**). Except at times of low water levels assessment of *Schottariella* populations is both difficult and somewhat dangerous; in Sarawak deep-water 'feeder' streams close to big rivers frequently harbor estuarine crocodiles.

To date *Schottariella mirifica* is known from four populations. Only at that the type locality (Sungai Matob) are populations extensive and the plants abundant. The