



Notes on *Aeschynanthus* (*Gesneriaceae*) of Sumatra, Indonesia

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Key words

Aeschynanthus
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Abstract An inventory of *Gesneriaceae* in Sumatra based on herbarium specimens and field trips resulted in 17 genera. The genus *Cyrtandra* was the most diverse genus, followed by *Aeschynanthus*. Here we enumerate the species of *Aeschynanthus* in Sumatra. Distribution and altitudinal notes on 17 species of *Aeschynanthus* were made and the late Mary Mendum of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh added four more species. The only endemic species of *Aeschynanthus* in Sumatra is *A. chrysanthus*; two other species, *A. albidus* and *A. wallichii*, are widely distributed in Sumatra and the rest of Malesia.

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INTRODUCTION

The first work on the flora of Sumatra began with a publication by Jack in 1820. This was followed by works from various authors in scattered publications. Miquel in 1856 and 1861 described six species of *Aeschynanthus*, followed by Hallier (1896) who made a list of the *Aeschynanthus* collections in the Herbarium Bogoriense (BO) and noted five species. Merrill (1934), in his enumeration of the plants collected in Sumatra by W.N. and C.M. Bangham, mentioned six species of *Aeschynanthus* under the older genus name *Trichosporum* (see below).

The inventory of the *Gesneriaceae* in Sumatra resulted in a list of 17 genera (Tjitrosoedirdjo et al. 2003, 2004). The genus *Cyrtandra* was the most diverse with 61 species, followed by *Aeschynanthus*.

Aeschynanthus belongs to tribe *Trichosporeae*. The tribe was first established by Nees (1825) within the family *Cyrtandraceae*. Nees united the genera *Trichosporum* D. Don, published in 1822, and *Aeschynanthus* Jack published a year later (Jack 1823). Both names were in use till 1934, when the name *Aeschynanthus* was conserved against *Trichosporum*. However, the tribal name *Trichosporeae* Nees still stands (Burt & Woods 1975).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Herbarium specimens of *Aeschynanthus* from Sumatra in the Herbarium Bogoriense (BO), Andalas University Herbarium (ANDA) and BIOTROP Herbarium (BIOT) were selected and studied. The data were supplemented by additional field collections carried out by the authors in various regions of Sumatra: Tapanuli, Sumatera Utara; Mount Kerinci, Jambi; Mount Singgalang, Sumatera Barat and Bukit Biowa Piluwan, Tes, Bengkulu.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seventeen species of *Aeschynanthus* were recorded for Sumatra (Table 1). The late Mary Mendum added four more spe-

cies namely *A. brevicalyx* Miq., *A. caudatus* C.B. Clarke, *A. flippancei* Ridl. and *A. marginatus* Ridl. We were unable to study the specimens of these four species and we had no access to the collecting data, therefore, they are lacking in Table 1.

The plants were found at elevations of 100–2500 m, primarily at the higher altitudes. Sumatera Barat had the highest number of species (15), Sumatera Utara had 8, Aceh 6 and Jambi 6. The other provinces have only five or fewer species. The lowest number was found in Riau province where only two species were found.

There is one endemic species in Sumatra, namely *A. chrysanthus*. *Aeschynanthus volubilis* (Fig. 1) was originally also regarded as endemic but appears to be present in Java too. Two species of *Aeschynanthus*, *A. albidus* and *A. wallichii*, are widely distributed in Sumatra and the rest of Malesia. Most of the collections are old, having been made during the colonial era, except for the collections from Sumatera Barat, which were recently collected by the newly established Andalas University Herbarium (ANDA) during an intensive botanical exploration of Sumatera Barat. This might explain why most species were collected in the latter province.

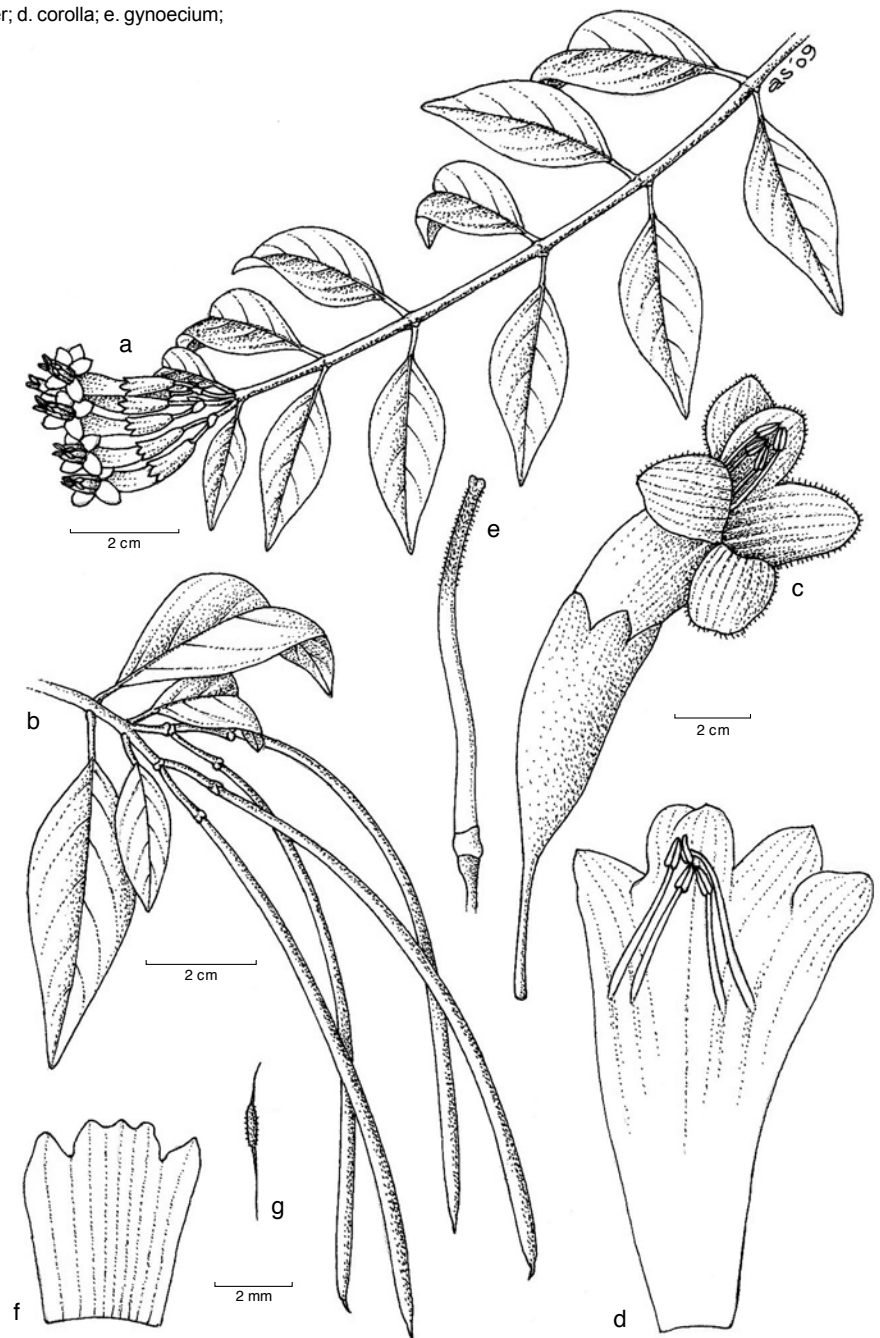
The current situation in Sumatra is a sad picture of natural forest under severe pressure due to a rapid increase in industrialisation. Many forests are deteriorating fast, mainly because of

Table 1 List of *Aeschynanthus* (*Gesneriaceae*) species of Sumatra.

No.	Species	Province ¹	Altitude (m)
1.	<i>A. albidus</i> (Blume) Steud.	A, B, SB, SS, SU	250–1500
2.	<i>A. angustifolius</i> (Blume) Steud.	A, SB, SS, SU	100–1300
3.	<i>A. beccarii</i> C.B. Clarke	SB	1250
4.	<i>A. chrysanthus</i> P. Woods	SB	980
5.	<i>A. elongatus</i> C.B. Clarke	SB, SU	1100–2000
6.	<i>A. fruticosus</i> Ridl.	SU	1350–1900
7.	<i>A. horsfieldii</i> R.Br.	SB	950–1000
8.	<i>A. longiflorus</i> (Blume) A. DC.	J	1350–1900
9.	<i>A. macrocalyx</i> C.B. Clarke	SB	–
10.	<i>A. magnificus</i> Stapf	SB	980–2000
11.	<i>A. obconicus</i> C.B. Clarke	SB	150–1000
12.	<i>A. pulcher</i> (Blume) G. Don	A, B, J, L, SB, SS, SU	100–2100
13.	<i>A. radicans</i> Jack	A, B, J, L, SB, SS, SU	100–2100
14.	<i>A. rhododendron</i> Ridl.	SB	200
15.	<i>A. speciosus</i> Hook.	A, J, R, SB	400–2000
16.	<i>A. volubilis</i> Jack	J, L, SB, SS, SU	800–2500
17.	<i>A. wallichii</i> R.Br.	A, B, J, R, SB, SU	250–2000

¹ A = Aceh; B = Bengkulu; J = Jambi; L = Lampung; R = Riau; SB = Sumatra Barat; SS = Sumatra Selatan; SU = Sumatra Utara.

Fig. 1 *Aeschynanthus volubilis*. a. Habit; b. fruit; c. flower; d. corolla; e. gynoecium; f. calyx; g. seed.



illegal logging that has become a common practice. *Aeschynanthus* mainly grows as an epiphyte or it is found in the peaty litter of the forest floor where it is hardly visible. The plants are probably vulnerable and presently we are very likely experiencing a loss of *Aeschynanthus* species due to this unfavourable change in the habitat.

CONCLUSIONS

There are 21 species of *Aeschynanthus* in Sumatra. One is endemic and two species are widely distributed in Sumatra and the rest of Malesia.

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