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(Gesneriaceae) based on ITS sequence data**

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Preliminary Phylogenetic Analysis of *Cyrtandra* (Gesneriaceae)
Based on ITS Sequence Data

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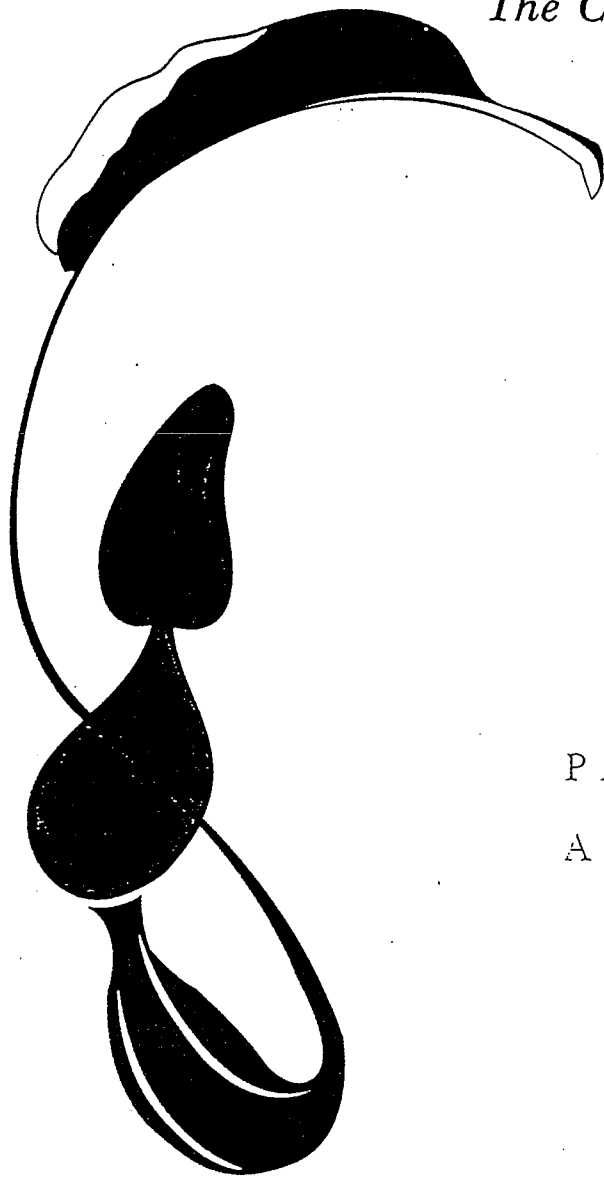
The only overall survey of *Cyrtandra* dates back to 1883. To obtain a better understanding of speciation and radiation patterns in that huge genus (comprising more than 600 species ranging from the Nicobar Islands in the west to Hawaii, the Marquesas, and the Society Islands in the east, and from the islands south of Japan southwest to Sumatra and Java, and southeast to Queensland), multidisciplinary studies in international collaboration were started. They are also aimed to reveal additional information for a new sectional classification of the genus. These studies include molecular biological investigations. Nuclear ribosomal RNA ITS regions have proven to provide data useful for phylogenetic analyses in angiosperms. In the course of the present studies sequences for 40 species of *Cyrtandra* could be analysed until now, using *Aeschynanthus pulcher* as an outgroup. Due to this limited number of investigated taxa the results are still preliminary. The Malesian taxa especially show considerable variation. However, the data clearly support a "Pacific clade" including taxa, e.g., from Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, and the Society Islands. This is in accordance with the results of cp-DNA data for the atpB-rbcL-intergenic spacer. Within the "Pacific clade" the Hawaii and Society island species both form single clades.

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ABSTRACTS



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