

**Aeschynanthus flavidus (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Sarawak.**

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**KEYWORDS:**

**Aeschynanthus, Borneo, Malaysia**

*Sciaphyllum amoenum* Bremek. in Rec. Trav. Bot. Néerl. 37: 298 (1940).  
Type: Java, Buitenzorg (=Bogor), *Bakhuizen van den Brink jr.* 1402 (U).  
*Streblacanthus amoenus* (Bremek.) T.F. Daniel in Novon 6: 147 (1996).

An error in the earlier paper by Burt & Woods needs correction. The date of *Eranthemum velutinum* Boerl., a plant from New Guinea botanically quite distinct from *E. velutinum* Bull., was given as 1891. This was copied, from Guillaumin's note establishing *Pseuderanthemum velutinum*, because the Edinburgh set of Boerlage's work lacks vol. 2 part 2; 1891 is the date for part 1; part 2 did not appear until 1899. The result of this error was that Boerlage's name appeared to antedate *Pseuderanthemum velutinum* Lindau (1895), whereas it was merely the transfer of Lindau's species to *Eranthemum*, since Boerlage did not accept the genus *Pseuderanthemum*. *P. velutinum* Lindau remains the correct name for the plant from New Guinea.

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*Aeschynanthus flavidus* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Sarawak

*Aeschynanthus flavidus* Mendum & P. Woods, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

Ab aliis speciebus *Aeschynanthi* combinatione florum flavidorum et calycis tubulosi, et praesentia cellularum bulluliformium ad bases amborum pilorum seminis distinguitur. Affinis ut videtur *A. gibbsiae* S. Moore, qui ab *A. flavido* calyce viridi, 2–5cm longo, ac intus et extus piloso (haud intus glabro), corolla rubraque (nec flava) recedit. *A. chrysanthus* P. Woods, species Sumatrana et sola aliarum generis flores magnos flavidos habens, ab *A. flavido* calyce ad medium tubuloso lobis acutis (non obtusis) et cellulis bulluliformibus ad basem pili unius (hilaris) seminis tantum praesentibus (haud ad bases amborum pilorum) differt.

Type: Specimen cult. RBGE, accession no. 19781740, originating from Sarawak, 4th Division, Gunong Mulu National Park, Hidden Valley [Ulu Sungei Jerneh], altitude c.500m. *G.C.G. Argent* s.n. (holo. E).

Sub-shrubby epiphyte. *Stems* decumbent or hanging, sparsely branching, light green and sparsely glandular pubescent when young, brown and becoming glabrous when older, internodes to 9.5 × 0.3cm. *Leaves* opposite, leathery, bright green above and paler sometimes purple-flushed below, when young sparsely glandular hairy on both surfaces and on petioles, becoming glabrous with age; blade 4.5–8.8 × 2–4cm, narrowly to broadly elliptic, margins entire, apex acute to shortly acuminate, tip blunt, base rounded to cuneate, midvein impressed above, prominent below, other veins obscure; petiole 5–10mm. *Inflorescences* usually 2-flowered, axillary near tips of

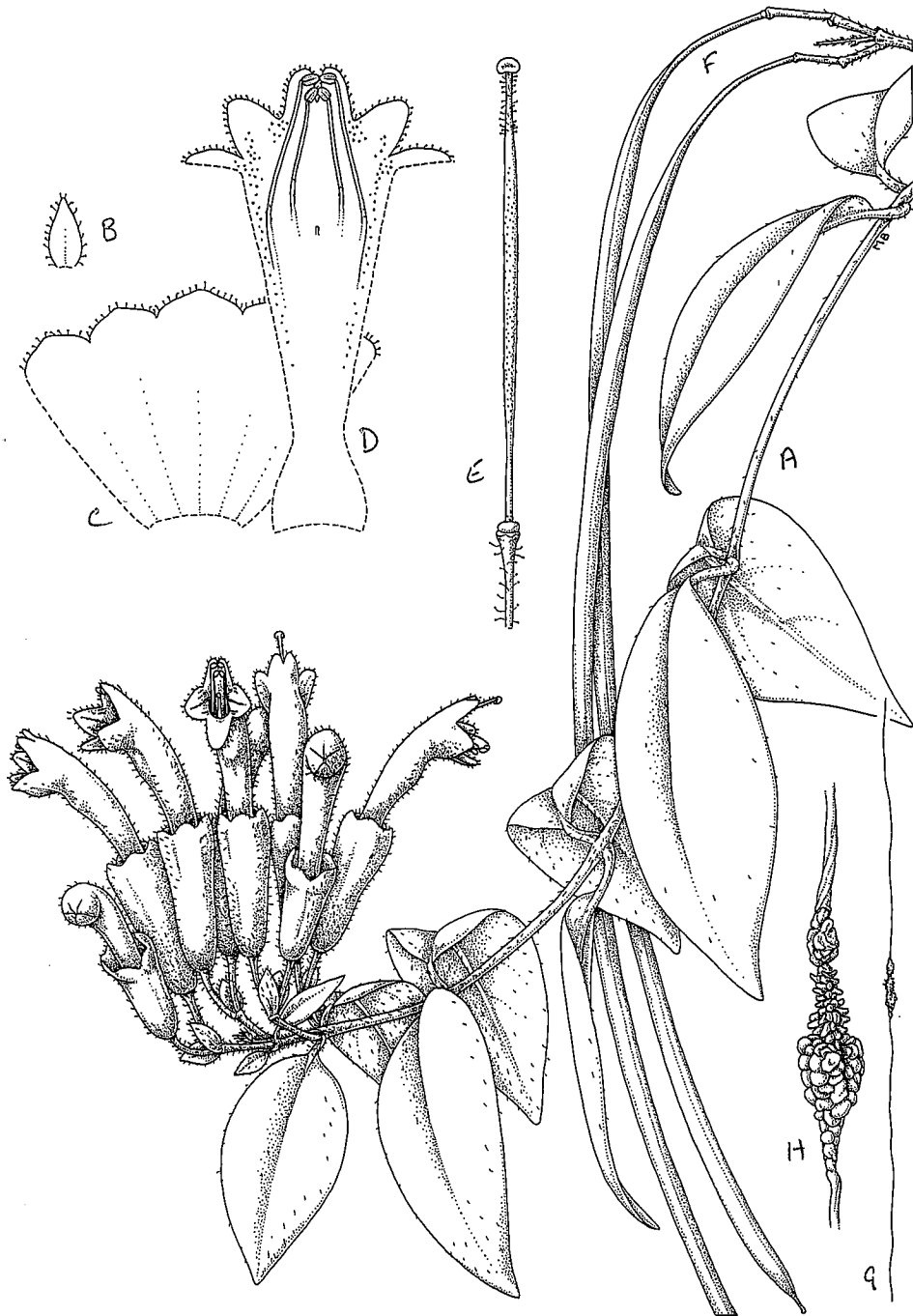


FIG. 1. *Aeschynanthus flavidus* Mendum & P. Woods. A, habit ( $\times \frac{2}{3}$ ); B, bracteole ( $\times 1$ ); C, calyx ( $\times 1$ ); D, corolla ( $\times 1$ ); E, gynoecium ( $\times 1$ ); F, fruits ( $\times \frac{2}{3}$ ); G, seed ( $\times 4$ ); H, seed ( $\times 16$ ). Drawn from RBGE 781740.

branches or pseudoterminal. *Peduncles* 2–8mm, sparsely glandular hairy. *Bracteoles* ovate, to 11mm, sparsely glandular hairy. *Pedicels* pale green, 8–12mm, sparsely glandular hairy. *Calyx* greenish yellow, tubular, slightly grooved, flaring gradually towards apex, (1.5–)2.7–3.4cm long, lobes 3mm, rounded, slightly incurved and sometimes rather irregular, externally with white 1–2mm glandular hairs and scattered minute sessile glands, internally glabrous. *Corolla* tubular, arcuate, bright yellow, upper lobes with a faint crimson line inside, lateral and lower lobes with a crimson central line and broken dots and dashes either side; 5.5–6.3cm long, gibbous at base then narrowing to 2mm before flaring gradually to 6mm at throat, lobes not widely spreading, upper lobes 7 × 4mm, rounded oblong, lateral lobes 8 × 6mm, bluntly triangular, lower lobe 8 × 5mm, rounded oblong, all fringed with glandular hairs; tube and lobes outside with white glandular hairs to 1mm and minute sessile glands, on inside with areas of papillae where lobes fuse and on floor of tube. *Stamens* 4, inserted about 4cm from base of corolla, not or hardly exerted; filaments pale yellow, sparsely papillose towards base, posticous pair c.1.5cm, anticous pair 2.0cm; anthers whitish, to 2 × 1mm; staminode minute. *Disc* 1mm, slightly lobed. *Ovary* and *stipe* pale yellowish green, stipe 12–14mm, with sparse sessile glands, ovary with many sessile glands. *Style* pale yellowish green, 7mm, with short glandular hairs. *Stigma* peltate, 3mm diam., with occasional minute glandular hairs. *Capsule* to 37 × 0.5cm. *Seeds* numerous, 0.5–0.7mm long, very papillose, with a single 1cm hair at each end, each hair with a cluster of bubble-like cells at the base.

*Additional specimens examined.* Borneo, Sarawak, Fourth Division: Mt Murud upper Baram, 'Flower yellow', 30 xi 1914, *Moulton* 94 (PNH!); Ulu Melai, Nibong, Lobang, Tinjar, 'Shade epiphyte at 2 m. on tree in hill forest, 600 m. alt. Flower entirely pale chrome yellow, leaf fresh green', 2 iv 1965, *Ashton* S.22602 (BO, K, L!, SAR, SING).

*Distribution and ecology.* Known only from three localities in northern Sarawak, at altitudes of 500–600m, where it grows as a shade epiphyte. In the narrow, humid Hidden Valley the lowland rainforest is overshadowed by towering limestone cliffs.

Collected as a cutting by G. Argent in 1978, *A. flavidus* is easily recognized by the yellow flowers. Although greenish and yellow flowers do occur in the genus, they are exceptional. The only other known species with large yellow flowers, *A. chrysanthus* P. Woods, is Sumatran and has a calyx tubular to halfway with pointed lobes, and seeds with bubble-like cells at the base of one hair only. *A. flavidus* appears to be close to *A. gibbsiae* S. Moore but in the latter the green tubular calyx is 2.5cm long and hairy on both surfaces, and the corolla red; the seeds are not known. When *A. flavidus* first flowered in cultivation, the calyces produced were short (1.5–2cm); subsequent flowering produced longer calyces matching the Ashton specimen. Variation in the relative lengths of calyx and corolla are not unknown in *Aeschynanthus* (Burt & Woods, 1975: 474).

The shape of the calyx, the gibbous base of the corolla and the presence of bubble-like cells on one of the seed-hairs indicate that *A. flavidus* belongs to section *Aeschynanthus* (Burt & Woods, 1975: 475). However, in this species there are bubble

cells at the base of both seed-hairs, a condition so far not recorded elsewhere in the genus.

#### *Acknowledgements*

The authors thank Dr R.R. Mill for the Latin diagnosis, and Mr B.L. Burt for discussion and advice.

#### *Reference*

BURTT, B.L. & WOODS, P.J.B. (1975). Studies in the Gesneriaceae of the Old World XXXIX: Towards a revision of *Aeschynanthus*. *Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh* 33: 471-489.

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#### **A new species of *Trachycarpus* (Palmae) from W Bengal, India**

***Trachycarpus latisectus* Spanner, Noltie & Gibbons, sp. nov.**

*T. martiano* (Wall. ex Mart.) H. Wendl. forma fructus similis sed differt petiolo inermi, hastula late triangulari, minus quam 1cm longa, segmentis foliorum latoribus (usque 5cm latis), minus quam dimidio divisis, ad angulas diversiusculas dispositis ergo ambitus lateris foliorum convolutiusculus, floribus paribus vel catervulis 3-4-floribus aggregatis, eis femineis minoribus, masculorum petalis sepalis 3-plo longioribus, fructu majore, eophyllo glabro.

Solitary, unarmed, dioecious fan palm to c.12m; trunk slender, erect, bare, light grey, obscurely ringed, (10-)14-17cm diameter, clothed in persistent, fibrous leaf-sheaths for 0.6-2m below crown. *Leaves* (8-)15-25, forming an erect, open crown, some leaves reflexed, marcescent leaves numerous, forming a small skirt below the crown; leaf-sheath fibrous, 30cm long or more, coarse, abaxial surface covered in pale tomentum, broadly triangular towards apex, not breaking down into threads; petiole (50-)120-140cm, slender (c.2.5cm wide and 1.2cm high near middle), flat above, slightly keeled towards leaf-blade, broadly triangular to rounded beneath, margins smooth, sharp-edged, base very thick and robust, c.3.8cm wide, c.2cm high, covered in pale tomentum; hastula less than 1cm long, broadly triangular, slightly crested; leaf-blade palmate,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to completely orbicular, 65-85cm long from hastula, 110-135cm wide, leathery, dark green above, with thin whitish tomentum along folds, slightly glaucous beneath, with clearly visible cross veinlets, nearly regularly divided for less than half its length into 65-75 stiff, linear segments with two inconspicuous longitudinal folds either side of midrib, tapering to apex from broadest point, arranged at slightly differing angles, producing a slightly convoluted leaf profile;

