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**Notes on Aeschynanthus (Gesneriaceae) from Seram.**

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**Aeschynanthus, Amboina, [Indonesia], New Guinea, Seram, Sulawesi**

## NOTES ON *AESCHYNANTHUS* (*GESNERIACEAE*) FROM SERAM

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Two new species of *Aeschynanthus* from Seram, *A. intraflavus* Mendum and *A. roseoflorus* Mendum, are described and illustrated. An expanded description and illustration is provided for *A. amboinensis* (Merr.) Mendum, comb. nov.

*Keywords.* *Aeschynanthus*, Seram, new species, new combination.

### INTRODUCTION

The island of Seram, lying east of Sulawesi and west of New Guinea, is little known botanically. During an Operation Raleigh expedition to Seram in 1987, Dr George Argent collected herbarium and living material of three species of *Aeschynanthus*, all of which subsequently flowered in cultivation. The genus is at present split into sections on seed-hair characters, and seeds of *A. intraflavus* and *A. roseoflorus* were obtained; *A. amboinensis* died before it set seed. The two new species show strong affinities with New Guinea members of the genus, while *A. amboinensis* surprisingly has strong links with species to the west.

#### *Aeschynanthus intraflavus* Mendum, sp. nov. Fig. 1, A–E.

Species ab omnibus aliis sectionis *Polytrichium* absentia ullorum pilorum vel ullarum papillarum intus partem inferiorem tubi corollae distincta; ab *A. arfakensis* C.B. Clarke colore floris extus rubro-aurantiaco, intus pallide luteo (non sordide aurantiaco apicem versus purpureo-tincto) et coma seminum e pilis 8–10 tantum (haud c.40) insuper distinguenda.

Type: Seram, Manusela National Park, N side of Gunong Binaia above Kanikeh village, on fallen tree in lower montane forest on limestone, 'climbing herb to 3m long, throwing off branches at nodes up to 80cm long. Flowers reddish orange outside, pale yellow inside. Stigma purple, style and stamens yellowish white', alt. 800m, 13 ix 1987, G.C.G. Argent C87192 (holo. E!, iso. BO.).

Subshrubby epiphyte. *Stems* scrambling and trailing to 3m, rooting from nodes, branches to 80cm, glabrous, light green when young and becoming brown with age; internodes to 5 × 0.3cm. *Leaves* opposite, thick and leathery, glossy mid-green above and paler below, glabrous; blade 4–7.5 × 1.1–3.2cm, narrowly to broadly elliptic, margins entire, apex acuminate, base acute, midvein impressed above and prominent below, other veins indistinct; petioles 6–10mm, glabrous. *Inflorescences* 1- or 2-flowered, in leaf axils near tips of branches or pseudoterminal. *Peduncles* minute.

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*Bracts* 0.5–1mm, triangular, with an occasional minute glandular hair. *Pedice* light green flushed orange, 5–6mm, glabrous, slightly ribbed towards apex. *Calyx* divided to base, lobes pale green flushed orange towards apex, 5–6mm and slightly uneven in length, narrowly linear with acute tip and with scattered minute sessile glands. *Corolla* externally reddish orange, internally pale yellow with a faint orange midline on lateral and lower lobes, tubular, arcuate, 2.2–2.6cm long, 1.5mm wide at base then flaring gradually to 4mm at throat, lobes not widely spreading; upper lobes 2.5 × 2.5mm, rounded, lateral lobes 4 × 4mm, rounded oblong, lower lobe 5 × 3mm, rounded oblong, all fringed with glandular hairs; corolla externally with very sparse 0.05–0.1mm glandular hairs, internally with a few papillae near bases of lateral and lower lobes. *Stamens* 4, inserted about 1.4cm from base of corolla, exerted; filaments yellowish shading to greenish towards apex, posticous pair c.1.4cm with scattered papillae towards base, anticous pair c.1.8cm with quite dense 0.3mm glandular hairs in upper half and papillae towards base; anthers yellowish white, oblong, posticous pair 1.5 × 1mm, anticous pair 2 × 1mm; staminode 1mm. *Disc* 1.2mm, slightly lobed. *Ovary* and *stipe* with occasional minute sessile glands; stipe 4.5mm. *Style* yellowish white to greenish, 17mm when mature, densely hairy in upper half, hairs 0.1–0.2mm. *Stigma* pink to purple, 1mm diam., discoid. *Capsule* linear cylindric, to 20.2 × 0.3cm. *Seeds* numerous, 1.5mm, papillose, with a coma of 9 or 10 hairs 1.2–1.4cm at the hilar end and a single 2–2.3cm hair at the other end.

*Additional specimen examined.* Specimen cult. RBGE, accession no. 19880250, originating from Seram, Manusela National Park, N side of Gunong Binaia, *Argent* 87/1 (E!).

This species appears to be close to the New Guinea *A. arfakensis* (syn. *A. hartleyi* P. Woods) from which it differs principally in the flower colour, in the absence of hairs inside the lower part of the corolla tube, and in the number of hairs in the seed coma. *A. arfakensis* (Clarke 1883: 36) has dirty orange-yellow flowers purplish towards the apex, 5 tufts of multicellular hairs in the lower part of the corolla tube and usually in excess of 40 hairs in the seed coma. Flower colour within species of *Aeschynanthus* is in most cases constant, and in addition the pale internal colour extending over the whole lobes in *A. intraflavus* is distinctive. The presence and arrangement of internal hairs, or their absence, seems also to be a reliable taxonomic character. Coma hair numbers in members of sect. *Polytrichium* require further study but would appear to have significance (Burt & Woods, 1975: 478).

***Aeschynanthus roseoflorus* Mendum, sp. nov. Fig. 1, F–J.**

Species nova aliquot speciebus novoguineensibus, praecipue *A. leptoclado* C.B. Clarke et *A. pullei* Schltr., valde similis, sed ab omnibus lobis calycis anguste ovatis patentibus et corollis colore vivide roseo dignoscitur.

FIG. 1. *Aeschynanthus intraflavus* Mendum. A, habit (× 1); B, calyx; C, corolla; D, gynoecium (all × 2); E, seed (× 3); drawn from *Argent* 87/1, cult. RBGE 19880250. *A. roseoflorus* Mendum. F, habit (× 1); G, calyx; H, corolla; I, gynoecium (all × 1.5); J, seed (× 8); drawn from *Argent* 87/14, cult. RBGE 19880263.

(Schlechter 1923: 270; 1926: 308) has a corolla to 2.7cm and linear calyx lobes to 1.5cm. *A. roseoflorus* has a corolla to 3.9cm and narrowly ovate calyx lobes to 8.5mm.

***Aeschynanthus amboinensis* (Merr.) Mendum, comb. nov. Fig. 2.**

Syn. *Trichosporum amboinense* Merr. in Phil. J. Sci., Bot. 11: 313 (1916)

Type: Amboina, Mahiya, 12 viii 1913, 'hanging over rocks at an altitude of about 333m; locally known as *manumpang*', B. Robinson 1728, Reliquiae Robinsonianae (iso. K!).

Subshrubby epiphyte. *Stems* hanging or trailing, sometimes rooting from nodes, branches purple-flushed and eglandular hairy when young, becoming brown and glabrous with age; internodes to 4.5cm. *Leaves* opposite, very hard and thick, glossy mid-green above and paler below; when young with scattered 0.1mm eglandular hairs on both surfaces and margins, becoming glabrous with age; blade 2.2–4.2 × 1.3–2.9cm, narrowly to broadly ovate, margins entire, apex acute, tip rounded, base rounded to cordate, midvein impressed above and prominent below, other veins indistinct; petioles 2–5mm, sparsely hairy to glabrous. *Inflorescences* several-flowered in leaf axils. *Peduncles* 3–6mm, eglandular hairy, single or briefly joined by a common

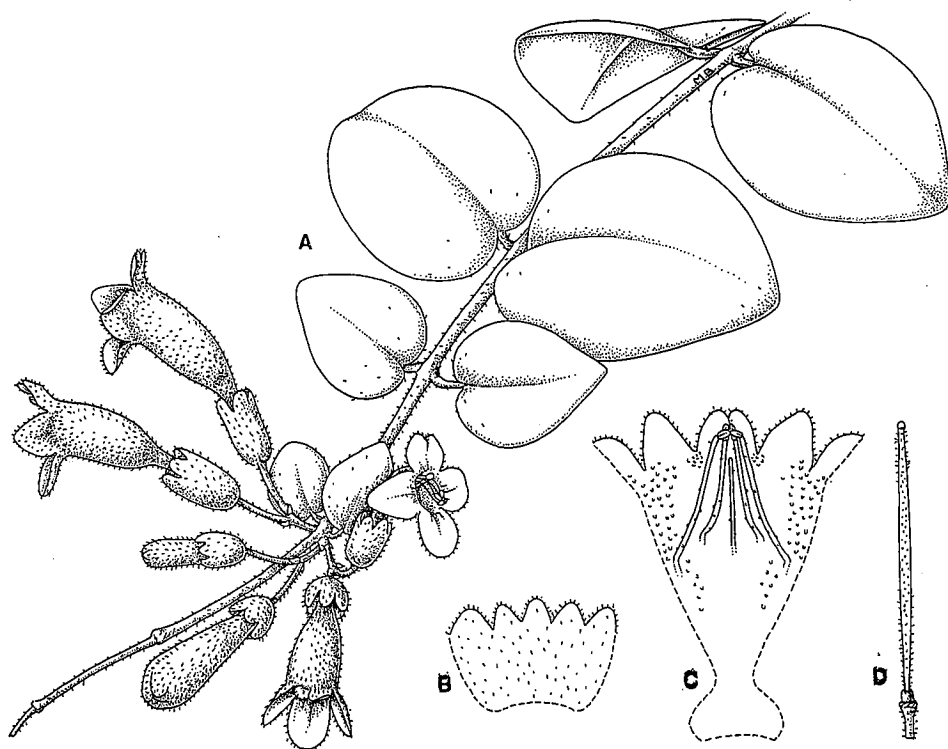


FIG. 2. *Aeschynanthus amboinensis* (Merr.) Mendum. A, habit ( $\times 1$ ); B, calyx; C, corolla; D, gynoecium (all  $\times 1.5$ ); drawn from *Argent* 87/5, cult. RBGE 19880254.

With best wishes,

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WITH COMPLIMENTS

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