

Studies on Homalomeneae (Araceae) of Peninsular Malaysia II: An historical and taxonomic review of the genus *Homalomena* (excluding *Chamaecladon*)

Kiaw Kiaw Ng, P.C. Boyce¹ and S. Othman

Pusat Pengajian Sains Kajiayay (School of Biological Sciences),
Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

¹phymatarum@googlemail.com (corresponding author)

ABSTRACT. An historical and taxonomic review of *Homalomena* (excluding species assigned to the Chamaecladon Supergroup *sensu* Boyce & Wong) for Peninsular Malaysia is presented. Five species are recognised of which one, *H. truncata* (Schott) Hook.f. represents a new species record for the Peninsula. Keys to the Peninsular Malaysian Supergroups and species, and a taxonomic conspectus, are provided. Three species are illustrated from living plants, and *H. wallichii* from the type specimen.

Keywords. Araceae, *Homalomena*, Supergroup, Peninsular Malaysia

Introduction

Recent publications on Asian *Homalomena* have focussed on Papuasias (Hay 1999, Hershovitch & Hay 2003) and East Sunda (Hay & Hershovitch 2002; Boyce & Wong 2008, 2009; Boyce, Wong & Fasihuddin 2010). Until recently, apart from *ad hoc* descriptions of new taxa (Baharuddin & Boyce 2005, 2009), little attention has been paid to the genus in Peninsular Malaysia. Apart from Ridley's adequate but now outdated account (1925), the only complete review is that of Furtado (1939), an account marred not least by poor and often confused species' delimitation.

Hay (1999) provided a concise taxonomic and nomenclatural historical review of *Homalomena* in Papuasias. More recently, Boyce & Wong (2008) and Ng et al. (in press) proposed and elaborated informal supergroups and species complexes as a tool to aid taxonomic study of this speciose and taxonomically ill-understood genus.

This is a precursory account intended to provide a taxonomically and nomenclaturally stable framework for the Peninsular Malaysian *Homalomena* species belonging to the Homalomena and Cyrtocladon Supergroups (*sensu* Boyce & Wong 2008). From this platform it is intended to tackle the taxonomy of the numerous undescribed Peninsular Malaysian species. Species assigned to the Chamaecladon Supergroup (*sensu* Boyce & Wong 2008), which account for the majority of the described species in the Peninsula, present considerable taxonomic and nomenclatural problems and will be the focus of a future study.

History of the genus in Peninsular Malaysia

The first *Homalomena* species pertinent to Peninsular Malaysia appeared in No.1 of Jack's *Descriptions of Malayan Plants* (Jack 1820) as *Calla angustifolia* Jack and *C. humilis* Jack. Both are now treated as synonyms of *Homalomena humilis* (Jack) Hook.f. (Chamaecladon Supergroup – see Boyce & Wong 2008) and fall outside the scope of this paper.

Griffith (1851a) posthumously established new four species, three in *Homalomena*, and one in a new genus, *Cyrtocladon* Griff. (see also Griffith 1851b). Two of Griffith's *Homalomena* species (*H. minor* Griff. and *H. major* Griff.), were based upon incomplete material from the same locality (Pulau Besar, Melaka), and since publication have been treated as, and here remain, doubtful. Griffith's third species, *H. rostrata* Griff., with which *Cyrtocladon sanguinolentum* Griff. is conspecific, is a highly variable colonial helophyte widespread in Sunda and with an extensive synonymy. It has been treated in an account of helophytic *Homalomena* (Wong, Boyce & Fasihuddin 2011).

Schott (1856) recognised nine species for *Homalomena*, with only those described by Griffith listed for the Peninsula. Schott retained Griffith's *Cyrtocladon*, but made no mention of the species assigned by Jack to *Calla*.

Schott (1860) recognized 12 species for *Homalomena*, and a further nine in *Chamaecladon*, which he treated as a genus, and no longer accepted *Cyrtocladon*. He listed four *Homalomena* species for the Peninsula, viz. Griffith's three species (*H. major*, *H. minor*, *H. rostrata*), and added *H. wallichii* Schott, which he had described from Pinang the previous year (Schott 1859).

Engler (1879) recognized 17 species for *Homalomena*, but made no increase to the number, nor altered the status, of species in the Peninsula from that of Schott (1860). Engler treated *Chamaecladon* as a genus, with 13 species.

Hooker (1893) increased to 23 the number of species in *Homalomena*, with 17 recorded for the Peninsula and Singapore, of which 12 are in *Chamaecladon*, treated as a section. Of the other five species, Hooker erroneously considered Javan *H. coerulescens* Jungh. ex Schott to be present in the Peninsula and within it included *H. major*, *H. minor*, and *H. wallichii* as synonyms. Notwithstanding that *H. minor* and *H. major* (Griffith 1851) have priority over *H. coerulescens* (Schott 1856), virtually all material determined as *H. coerulescens* by Hooker represents novel taxa. The remaining species comprise *H. paludosa* Hook.f., *H. rostrata*, and *H. sagittifolia*, now treated as conspecific (= *H. rostrata*), and Peninsular Malaysian and southern Thai *H. pontederiifolia* Griff. ex Hook.f.

Ridley's precursory accounts for the Peninsula (Ridley 1902, 1907) listed 21 species with 17, including *H. mixta* Ridl. (= *Furtadoa mixta* (Ridl.) M.Hotta – see Hotta 1985), treated as belonging to sect. *Chamaecladon*. The taxonomy of Ridley's 1907 treatment follows that of Hooker (1893) with the exceptions that *H. propinqua* Schott was added to the synonymy of *H. sagittifolia*, and *H. pontederiifolia* is treated as a synonym of *H. coerulescens*. Ridley (1907) made no mention of *H. ridleyana* Engl. (Engler 1907), having presumably not yet seen the publication.

Engler (1912) remains the only complete revision of *Homalomena* to date. He recognised 80 species, of which 37 are in sect. *Chamaecladon*. Excluding those assigned to *Chamaecladon*, only six species are recorded for Peninsular Malaysia. One new species, *H. curvata* Engl., is added but otherwise the account generally follows

those of Hooker (1893) and Ridley (1907) in listing *H. coerulescens* (including *H. major*, *H. minor*, and *H. wallichii* as synonyms), and maintaining *H. paludosa*, *H. rostrata*, and *H. sagittifolia* as distinct species. Engler resurrected *H. pontederiifolia*, and treated *H. ridleyana* as a synonym of *H. paludosa*.

Ridley (1925) treated 24 species, with 20 species in sect. *Chamaecladon*. The taxonomy is otherwise as that of Engler (1912) with the exception that Ridley reduced *H. curvata* to *H. coerulescens*, and combined *H. pontederiifolia* as a variety of *H. coerulescens*. *Homalomena deltoidea* Hook.f. (= *H. griffithii* (Schott) Hook.f.) is misplaced in sect. *Homalomena* ('*Eu-Homalomena*').

Furtado (1939) recognized 58 species, of which 35 were placed in sect. *Chamaecladon*, four in *Homalomena* ('*Eu-Homalomena*'), and 18 in *Cyrtocladon*, newly treated as a section. Excluding those assigned to *Chamaecladon*, Furtado listed four species for the Peninsula, of which three (*H. propinqua*, *H. rostrata*, and *H. sagittifolia*) are now treated as a single species: *H. rostrata*. Furtado attempted to update Ridley (1925) and Engler (1912), in particular to deal with confusion surrounding early names published for what is now Indonesia, but in fact his account created more confusion than it resolved. The biggest problem is Furtado's hopelessly muddled treatment of Javan *H. rubra* Hassk., a species absent from the Peninsula, but into which Furtado subsumed five Peninsular taxa: *H. curvata*, *H. major*, *H. minor*, *H. pontederiifolia*, and *H. wallichii*.

Conspectus of *Homalomena* (excluding the *Chamaecladon* Supergroup) in Peninsular Malaysia

Homalomena curvata Engl., Pflanzenr., 55(IV.23Da): 53 (1912). TYPE: Malaysia, Melaka, ("Malakka"), Wells Hill, bei Kuala Lumpur (but see below), 50 m, Feb 1906, A. Engler (*Reise nach Java und Brit. Indien*) n.5292 (holo B!). (Fig. 1)

Notes: Engler's type locality data are confusing. While Wells Hill (modern Bukit Cina) is indeed in Melaka, it lies some 120 km SE of Kuala Lumpur. It is probable that Engler's labeling led Ridley to not recognise *H. curvata* as a valid species, since Ridley appears to have not seen the type and instead based his decision on his collection (cited by Ridley 1925) of a different species from Weld's Hill (now renamed Bukit Nanas, adjacent to Bukit Mahkamah), Kuala Lumpur. It seems that Ridley confounded Weld's Hill, Kuala Lumpur with Wells Hill, Melaka. Ironically, Ridley's Weld's Hill collection almost certainly represents an undescribed species. However, the material is both inadequate and in a poor state of preservation, and thus unsuitable from which to prepare a description.

A good portion of Bukit Nanas is in the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve where some degree of natural vegetation still exists. This is the same hill as St John's Institution, Bukit Nanas Convent, and the imposing KL Tower. On the other hand, the present Bukit Mahkamah used to be called Court Hill (Mahkamah = Court) because the former High Court Building was situated there (precursor to the Menara Maybank). There remains a possibility Ridley's unnamed taxon may have persisted. Bukit Nanas and Bukit Mahkamah are on opposite sides of a road that used to be called Weld Road (now Jalan Raja Chulan).

An alternative interpretation is that Engler only wrote “Malakka” because there was no real country called Malaysia then, and he was in fact referring to Weld’s Hill near Kuala Lumpur (and then misspelling that as ‘Wells Hill’). If that were the case, the locality formerly called Weld’s Hill (now Bukit Nanas) used to accommodate at least two *Homalomena* spp., not impossible by lowland humid forest and *Homalomena* standards. Possible corroboration from Melaka and Bukit Nanas material may become available.

That no one after Engler recognised *H. curvata* as a distinct species is remarkable. Critical examination of the holotype (B), and the first author’s recent new collections from the Jerantut Krau Wildlife Centre, Pahang (*Ng AR-3052* & *Ng AR-3053*) leave us in no doubt that the conspicuous striate pellucid secretory canals running parallel to the primary lateral veins on the abaxial side of the leaf blade make *H. curvata* a species wholly distinct from any other yet described in Peninsular Malaysia.

Homalomena curvata appears to be an outlying representative of a species complex otherwise centred on N. Borneo, and from where at least a dozen species, in the main associated with limestone, await description.

Homalomena pontederiifolia Griff. ex Hook.f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 533 (1893). LECTOTYPE (selected here): Malaysia, Melaka, Air Panas (‘Ayer Punus’) – see below, *W.Griffith 5964* (lecto K!). (Fig. 2)

Notes: As treated here *Homalomena pontederiifolia* is the commonest of the larger species in Peninsular Malaysia, but paradoxically poorly represented in herbaria, possibly because its large and bulky nature dissuades collection. It is very likely that more extensive collecting and exhaustive study will reveal that the species comprises several distinct taxa.

Hooker cites three syntypes, of which Griffith’s collection, here selected as lectotype, is the only one that completely matches the protologue. Griffith’s locality (‘Ayer Punus’) is almost certainly the same as modern Taman Rekreasi Air Panas Jasin, Melaka; the specimen was likely collected not long before Griffith’s death from a parasitic liver disease in Melaka in February 1845, shortly before his 35th birthday.

Of the other syntypes cited by Hooker, *D.F.A. Hervey s.n* (K!), although sterile, represents an undescribed species of the Hanneae Complex (see Ng et al., in press), based on the marcescent margin of the petiolar sheath, and leaf blades with scattered glandular punctuations (the latter admittedly only faintly discernible). *Fr B. Scortechini s.n.* (CAL! K!) approaches *H. pontederiifolia*, but the inflorescences are only half the typical length for the species and the material is otherwise too depauperate to be unequivocally placed taxonomically.

Homalomena rostrata Griff., Not. Pl. Asiat. 3: 154 (1851) [‘*roshalum*’]. TYPE: Malaysia, Melaka, *W. Griffith 5989* (holo K!).

Cyrtocladon sanguinolentum Griff., Not. Pl. Asiat. 3: 147 (1851); *Chamaecladon sanguinolentum* (Griff.) Schott, Prodr. Syst. Aroid.: 316 (1860). TYPE: Malaysia, Melaka, *W. Griffith 5990* (holo K!).



Fig. 2. *Homalomena pontederiifolia* Griff. ex Hook.f. **A.** Plant in cultivation, ex Johor, Malaysia. **B.** Inflorescence at female anthesis. **C.** Inflorescence at female anthesis, spathe artificially removed. Scale bar = 2 cm. **D.** Detail of staminate flower zone. Note the well-defined flowers each with 4–6 anthers and large synconnectives. **E.** Detail of pistillate flower zone and lower portion of staminate zone. The lowermost staminate flowers are sterile (staminodes). Note that interpistillar staminodes equal the pistils in length. A–E from *Boyce AR-2355*. Photo credits: P.C. Boyce.

Homalomena sagittifolia Jungh. ex Schott, Prodr. Syst. Aroid.: 311 (1860). TYPE: Malaysia, Sabah, Labuan, *Motley* s.n. (holo K!); epitype (see Wong et al., 2011): Indonesia, Java, *F.F.W. Junghuhn* s.n. W†; Schott Ic., no. 2111 (W!). – Fiche no. 44: a4 in the microfiche edition.

Homalomena miqueliana Schott, Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavi 1: 126 (1863). TYPE: Indonesia: Borneo, Kalimantan, *P.W. Korthals* s.n. (holo L!).

Homalomena propinqua Schott, Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavi 1: 280 (1864). TYPE: Indonesia, Kalimantan, Kalimantan Selatan, Mt. Gintang, *P.W. Korthals* s.n. (holo L!).

Homalomena beccariana Engl., Bull. Soc. Tosc.ortic. 4: 296 (1879). TYPE: Malaysia, Sarawak, Kuching, Jul 1865, *O. Beccari* P.B. 260 (holo FI-B!).

Homalomena paludosa Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 531 (1893). LECTOTYPE: Malaysia, Perak, Larut, *H.H. Kunstler* ('Dr King's Collector') 3082 (lecto K! isolecto CAL, SING!).

Homalomena sagittifolia var. *pontederiifolia* Ridl., J. Straits Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc. 44: 172 (1905). – *Homalomena ridleyana* Engl., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 37: 123 (1907). TYPE: Malaysia, Borneo, Sarawak, Kuching, *E. Bartlett* & *G.D. Haviland* 3134 (holo SING!).

Homalomena teysmannii Engl., Pflanzenr., IV, 23Da: 68 (1912). TYPE: Indonesia, Sumatera, Bangka Island, *J.E. Teijsmann* 3227 (holo B! iso BO!).

Homalomena raapii Engl. Pflanzenr., IV, 23Da: 73 (1912). LECTOTYPE (see Wong et al., 2011): Indonesia, Sumatera, *H. Raap* 235 (lecto BO!).

Homalomena triangularis Alderw., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 4: 181 (1922). TYPE: Indonesia, Sumatera, Deli, 27 Jul 1915, *J.A. Lörzing* 4071 (holo BO!).

Homalomena sagittifolia var. *sumatrana* Alderw., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 4: 192 (1922). LECTOTYPE (see Wong et al., 2011): Indonesia, Sumatera, Ophir, Taloe, 10 Apr 1917, *H.A.B. Bunnemeijer* 129 (lecto BO!).

Homalomena ensiformis Alderw., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 4: 335 (1922). TYPE: Indonesia, Kalimantan, *J.G. Hallier* 1465 (holo BO! iso L!).

Homalomena miqueliana var. *truella* Alderw., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 4: 336 (1922). TYPE: Indonesia, Sumatera, Riau Archipelago, Ampoelai, Pulau Bintang, 14 Jun 1919, *H.A.B. Bunnemeijer* 6200 (holo BO! iso L!).

Homalomena sagittifolia var. *angustifolia* Furtado, Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem. 10: 228 (1939). LECTOTYPE (see Wong et al., 2011): Malaysia, Johore, Mt Austin, *H.N. Ridley* 12018 (lecto SING! isolecto K!).

Notes: See Wong et al. (2011) for a detailed discussion and illustrations of this species.

Homalomena truncata (Schott) Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 535 (1893). – *Chamaecladon truncatum* Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 6: (1858). LECTOTYPE selected here: Myanmar, Mergui, *W. Griffith s.n.* (lecto K!). (Fig. 3)

Notes: Schott (1858) cited no material for *Chamaecladon truncatum*, although the protologue is explicitly prepared from preserved rather than living plants. Schott's description in the *Prodromus* (Schott 1860) is largely identical to that in Bonplandia, and further cites two specimens, from Mergui and Tenasserim, both extant in Kew (K). That chosen as lectotype is autographed by Schott, and is also the better preserved of the two.

Schott's placement of *H. truncatum* in *Chamaecladon* is at odds with the morphology of the interpistillar staminodes (exceeding the associated pistils), and the staminate flowers comprising four stamens and synconnectives. It seems likely that Schott regarded the rather small, unconstricted spathes as more pertinent to placement than the finer floral details.

This represents a new record for the Peninsula. *Homalomena truncata* is a common species in the north of Peninsular Malaysia occurring in subhumid to humid forest, often, but not exclusively, associated with limestone.

Homalomena wallichii Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 7(3): 30 (1859). TYPE: Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, Aug 1822, *N. Wallich EIC 8951* (holo K-W!). (Fig. 4)

Notes: Much as with *H. curvata*, *H. wallichii* was reduced to synonymy virtually the moment it was published, and as with *H. curvata* one can only speculate as to how such a distinctive species could have been so treated. The habit of the sterile plant – with long-petiolate pendent leaf blades (leaf tip directed downwards) recalls that of an *Alocasia* – while fertile plants are unmistakable by the exceptionally long peduncle, with the inflorescence often equalling the preceding petiole. *Homalomena wallichii* is very uncommon in the wild, and furthermore appears to be restricted to a very small area of Pinang, fortunately within the Taman Negara Pulau Pinang (“Muka Head N.P.”)

Inadequately known species

Homalomena major Griff. (*‘majus’*), Notul. Pl. Asiat. 3: 153 (1851). TYPE: Malaysia, Melaka, Pulau Besar [‘Pulo Bissar in Sylvis collinis’], Sep 1842. *W. Griffith 6011* (K).

Homalomena minor Griff. (*‘minus’*), Notul. Pl. Asiat. 3: 152 (1851). TYPE: Malaysia, Melaka, Pulau Besar [‘Pulo Bissar in Sylvis collinis’], Sep 1842. *W. Griffith 5961* (K).

Notes: These collections are almost certainly the same species, but the material is inadequate, seemingly preserved late in anthesis (thus many important floral characters probably already lost) and now too fragile to enable dissection to assign them to any known plant. A further problem is that Pulau Besar is now much degraded, although

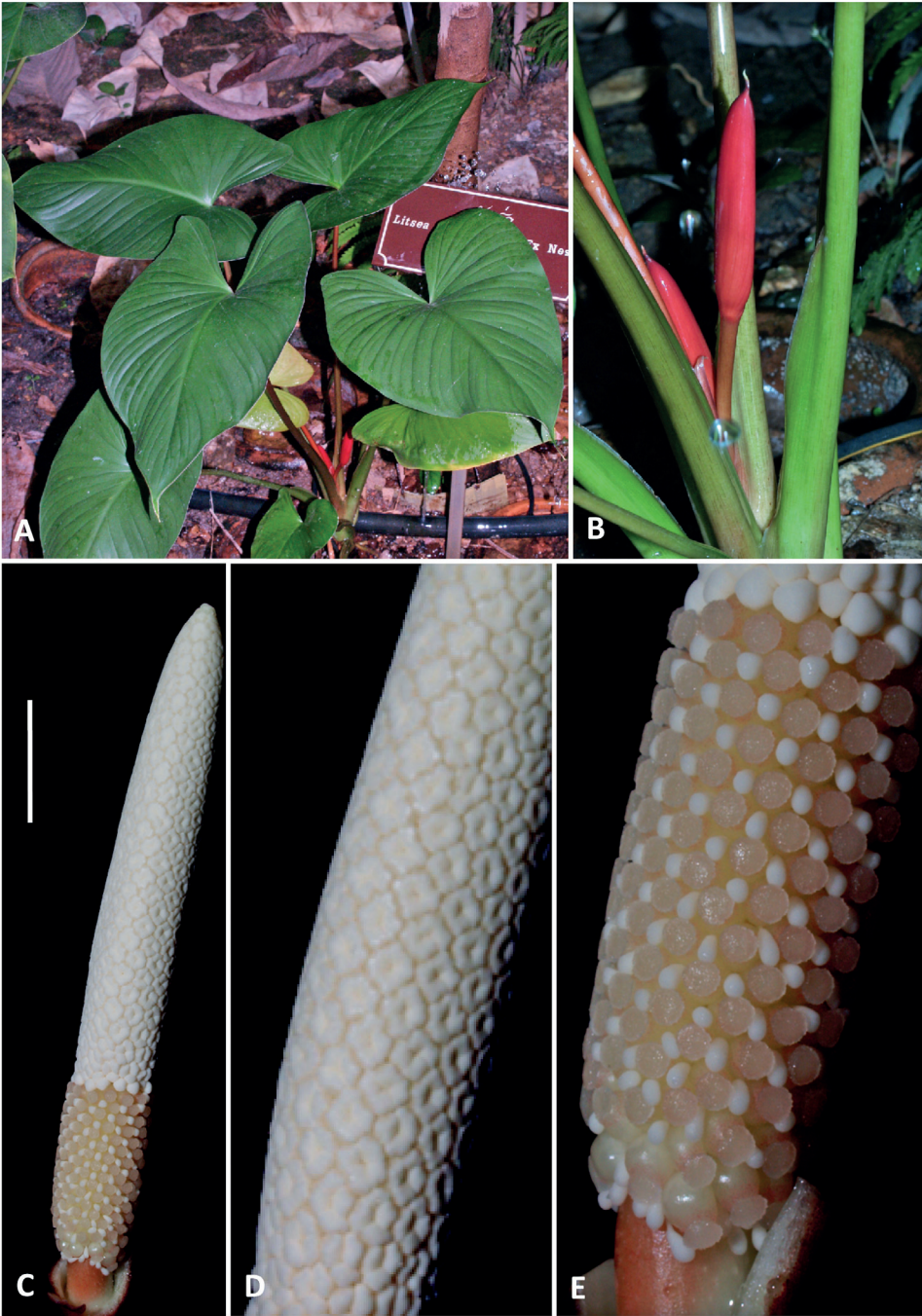


Fig. 3. *Homalomena truncata* (Schott) Hook.f., **A.** Plant in cultivation, ex Kedah, Malaysia. **B.** Emerging inflorescences. **C.** Inflorescence at female anthesis, spathe artificially removed. Scale bar = 1 cm. **D.** Detail of staminate flower zone. Note the well-defined flowers each with 4 anthers and small synconnectives. **E.** Detail of pistillate flower zone and lower portion of staminate zone. The lowermost staminate flowers are sterile (staminodes). Note that interpistillar staminodes subequal the pistills in length. A–E from *Boyce AR-2354*. Photo credits: P.C. Boyce.



Fig. 4. *Homalomena wallichii* Schott. Holotype, K-W. Photo credit: The Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Used with permission.

certainly an attempt to re-collect at the site must be attempted before these names are relegated to “nomina obscura”.

Key 1. Peninsular Malaysian Homalomena Supergroups

- 1a. Spathe at most 1.5cm long, often much less, without a constriction. Staminate flowers each comprising 2–3 stamens not united by a common connective. Interpistillar staminodes shorter than the pistils. (Mostly small plants and often rheophytic.) **Chamaecladon Supergroup**
- 1b. Spathe more than 2.5 cm long, often much longer, with or without a constriction. Staminate flowers each comprising 3–4 (rarely 5–6, very rarely 1) stamens united by a conspicuous common connective. Interpistillar staminodes equaling or slightly exceeding the pistils. (Mostly medium to large plants and in the Peninsula wholly mesophytic.) **2**
- 2a. Spathe not divided into a lower and upper portion by a constriction. Inflorescence movement during anthesis comprising simple gaping and closing of the spathe limb, with virtually no spadix movement **Homalomena Supergroup (see Key 2)**
- 2b. Spathe divided by a moderate to pronounced constriction into a well-defined upper (limb) and a lower portion. Inflorescences during anthesis with complex spathe and spadix movements and often spadix elongation **Cyrtocladon Supergroup (see Key 3)**

Key 2. Peninsular Malaysian Homalomena

- 1a. Flowering plants large, often exceeding 1 m tall. Spathe 8–14 cm long; spadix 7–13 cm long ***H. pontederiifolia***
- 1b. Flowering plants of medium size, seldom exceeding 40 cm tall. Spathe 4–6 cm long; spadix 5–6.5 cm long **2**
- 2a. Leaf blade abaxially with conspicuous striate pellucid secretory canals running parallel to the primary lateral veins. (S Peninsula as far north as S Pahang.) ***H. curvata***
- 2b. Leaf blade abaxially without striate pellucid secretory canals. (Kedah, Perlis.) ***H. truncata***

Key 3. Peninsular Malaysian Cyrtocladon

- 1a. Colonial helophytes, almost always in peat swamp or the wet facies of *kerangas* (*kerapah*) forest and always in inundated situations ***H. rostrata***
- 1b. Solitary to clumping forest mesophytes in moist well-drained situations in lowland perhumid mixed dipterocarp forest **(numerous sp. nov.)**

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