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A preliminary study on the affinities of Philippine, Bornean and New Guinean hepatics

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Abstract. The generic and specific affinities of the Philippine, Bornean and New Guinean hepatic floras were analyzed by calculating the Kroeber's percentage of similarity on the basis of recently published checklists. It is observed that the overall affinities parallel that exhibited by local moss floras except for one important difference. For the three areas, the number and distribution of species of large, actively evolving hepatic genera are noted to be disparate and with few shared taxa. Contrastingly, the large and actively evolving moss genera produce consistently large number of species in all three areas with an equally large number of shared taxa. The strong dependence of many hepatic taxa on asexual reproduction and the poor spore dispersability are accepted as the best explanation to this phenomenon.

Mosses and hepatics have fundamentally similar life histories, life forms (Mägdefrau, 1982), and life strategies (During, 1977). They also share basic ecological preferences (Pócs, 1982; Richards, 1984). Yet, their overall phytogeographic distribution patterns can be different in some regions. This was observed earlier by Buck and Thiers (1989) who reported that the mosses of the tepuis of the Guayana Highland are disappointingly low in diversity (except for *Sphagnum*), and yet the hepatic flora of that area is distinctive and relatively rich in taxa considered primitive. A similar incongruity is reported below for the distribution patterns of mosses versus hepatics within Malaysia, a vast region embracing the Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea (Fig. 1).

The Philippine moss flora, analyzed for its

phytogeographical affinity (Tan, 1984), is relatively closer to the Bornean flora than to the New Guinean flora both at the generic and species levels. The same author stated that because of its geographical location and geological history, the Philippines has received several continental Asiatic elements as well as a number of Australasian taxa which do not reach New Guinea or Borneo. Admittedly, these are minority elements in the Philippine flora which, on the whole, share a great majority of taxa with Borneo, and to a lesser extent, with New Guinea.

The checklists published recently for the hepatic floras of Western Melanesia (Grolle and Piippo, 1984a), the Philippines (Tan and Engel, 1986), and Borneo (Menzel, 1988) permit a similar preliminary analysis of the phytogeographical

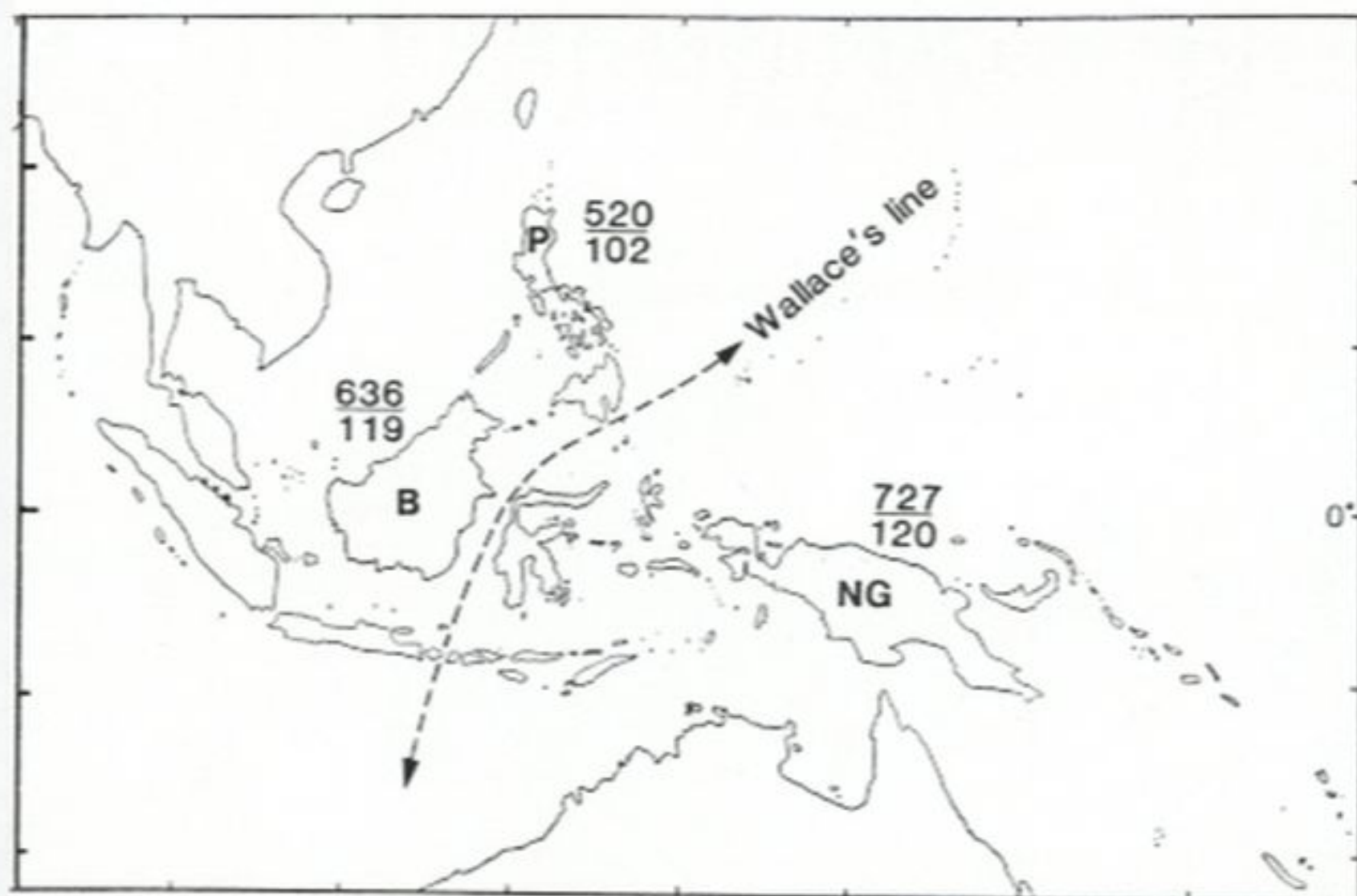


Fig. 1. Number of genera (the denominator) and species (the numerator) in Philippine (= P), Bornean (= B) and New Guinean (= NG) hepatic floras.

with the more recent publications of Gradstein and Vána (1987), Piippo (1985a-c, 1988a-b, 1989), Inoue (1989), Hattori and Piippo (1986) and Grolle and Piippo (1984b, 1986).

Table 1 shows the affinities of the Philippine, Bornean and New Guinean hepatic floras expressed in Kroeber's percentage of generic and specific similarity. Although at the species level the Philippine-Bornean floras have a much higher percentage of affinity than the Philippine-New Guinean floras, the percentage of generic similarity is not decisively in favor of a closer Philippine-Bornean floristic relationship.

A detailed comparison was made to analyze the patterns of distribution of genera and species among these three areas. The results are presented in Tables 2-3, and highlights are discussed below.

Like its moss counterpart, the Philippine hepatic flora shows principally a Laurasian origin. It

has many taxa that: (1) belong to widespread, nontropical, northern hemisphere groups (e.g., *Jungermannia hyalina* Lyell, *Lepidozia reptans* [L.] Dum., *Tritomaria exsecta* [Schard.] Loeske, and *Marsupella emarginata* [Ehrh.] Dum.); (2) have primarily a Himalayan-East Asiatic range (e.g., *Kurzia makinoana* [Steph.] Grolle, *Trichocolea tonkinensis* Steph., *Bazzania sikkimensis* [Steph.] Herz., *Metacalypogeia cordifolia* [Steph.] Inoue, and *Plagiochasma* spp.); and (3) belong to hyper-oceanic, North Pacific coastal groups (e.g., *Makinoa crispata* [Steph.] Miyake, *Isotachis japonica* Steph., and *Bazzania japonica* [Sande Lac.] Lindb. Often these taxa fail to colonize New Guinea and/or Borneo, which lie farther to the south. Indeed, very few, like *Makinoa crispata*, reach New Guinea.

Borneo, on the other hand, has an insignificant number of tropical, lowland, Laurasian taxa which range widely from Sri Lanka, Indochina, Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Borneo, but do not reach the Philippines. Good examples are

Table 1. Generic and species affinities of the Philippine, Bornean and New Guinean hepatic floras (see text for information sources).

	Philippines	Borneo	New Guinea
Genera	102	119	120
Species	520	636	727
Genera shared with Philippines		92	89
Kroeber's % of generic Similarity		83.75%	80.71%
Species shared with Philippines		283	242
Kroeber's % of specific Similarity		49.46%	39.91%

Kroeber's % of Similarity = $C(a+b)/2ab \times 100$
 where C = common taxa between areas 1 & 2 under comparison
 a = total number of taxa in area 1
 b = total number of taxa in area 2

Table 2. Hepatic genera with restricted range within the three areas.

Philippines Only	Borneo Only	New Guinea Only
Metacalypogeia	Adelanthus	Anthelia
Notothyas	Aphanotropis	Apotreubia
Plagiochasma	Eopleurozia	Calatholejeunea
	Stenorrhypis	Cylindrocolea
	*Steerea	Hygrolembidium
	Rectolejeunea	Marsupidium
	Takakia	Siphonolejeunea
		Pseudocephalozia
		Wiesnerella
		Zoopsidella

* endemic taxon

Table 3. Number of species of selected hepatic genera of Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea (see text for information sources).

Genus	Philippine Species	Bornean Species	New Guinean Species	Common Species
Acromastigium	4	16	10(9)*	3
Anastrophyllum	2	11	9(10)	2
Bazzania	32	44	53	11
Cheilolejeunea	12	21	14	6
Cololejeunea	48	48	24	8
Colura	6	18	15	4
Drepanolejeunea	14	19	16	6
Frullania	40	44	82	16
Herbertus	15	1	5	1
Lepidozia	18	22	20	6
Marchantia	13	4	10	2
Marsupella	2	5	4	1
Metzgeria	21	8	16(14)	2
Plagiochila	40	41	65(50)	11
Porella	6	1	4	1
Radula	19	32	34(42)	14
Riccardia	6	10	29	0
Schistochila (including Paraschistochila)	9	9	18	5
Telaranea	7	5	5	2
Trichocolea	8	3	5	1

()* number of species estimated by S. Piippo (pers. comm. 1989)

[Sande Lac.] Lindb. Often these taxa fail to colonize New Guinea and/or Borneo, which lie farther to the south. Indeed, very few, like *Makinoa crispata*, reach New Guinea.

Borneo, on the other hand, has an insignificant number of tropical, lowland, Laurasian taxa which range widely from Sri Lanka, Indochina, Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Borneo, but do not reach the Philippines. Good examples are *Lopholejeunea ceylanica* Steph. and *Schiffneriolejeunea pulopenangensis* (Gott.) Gradst. Some of these may reach as far as New Guinea via Sulawesi or the Lesser Sunda Island group.

Nonetheless, the proximity of the Philippine Islands to Borneo since the mid-Tertiary, and the presence of land bridges between them during Pleistocene glaciation have apparently allowed several taxa to migrate between the two places. As far as we know there have never existed continuous land routes at any geologic time for plants from Borneo or the Philippines to have used in reaching the New Guinean mountains. Good examples of elements shared by the Philippines and Borneo, but not with New Guinea, are *Metzgeria borneensis* Kuwah., *Kurzia borneensis* Mizut., *Dactylophorella muricata* (Gott.) Schust., *Frullaniapulogensis* Steph., *Lejeunea eifrigii* Mizut., *Bazzania indica* (Gott. & Lindenb.) Trev. and *Apomeztgeria pubescens* (Schrack) Kuwah. var. *kinabaluensis* Kuwah.

In comparison, fewer taxa are shared by the Philippines and New Guinea. Noteworthy examples are *Triandrophyllum*, *Treubia* and *Symphygynopsis*. The last genus is probably present in Borneo judging by the total range reported for it in Grolle and Piippo (1986). Species belonging to this category are of Gondwanic origin or have a narrow Australasian range. In the Philippines, they are known mostly from Mindanao Island.

A few of these may have reached the northeastern Sabah State of Borneo via the southern Philippine pathway (cf. van Steenis, 1964).

One intriguing Hepatic is *Tylimanthus saccatus* (Hook.) Mitt. ex Schiffn. This species, according to Piippo (1985a), ranges from Australia and New Zealand to West Irian, New Guinea. Kitagawa and Kodama (1974) reported it from Mt. Kinabalu of Borneo. *Tylimanthus saccatus* is currently not known from the Philippines, but its absence is likely a case of under collecting. Similarly, 'non-occurrence' of the widespread *Cyathodium* in Bornean rainforests and the lack of a record for the weedy *Notothylas* in the New Guinean flora are probably the result of human oversight.

There are at present a handful of taxa known only from Borneo and New Guinea. Examples are members of *Acrobolbus*, *Andrewsianthus*, *Metahygrobiella*, *Cryptochila*, *Pseudolepicolea*, *Southbya*, *Aneura*, and *Gymnomitrium*. The first five genera are thought to be austral taxa that have successfully crossed Wallace's Line (Schuster, 1983; cf. Fig. 1). They may be present in the southern Philippines at upper elevations.

The last three genera, together with *Anastrophyllum minutum* (Schreb.) Schust. and *A. assimile* (Mitt.) Steph., are taxa that prefer alpine habitats well above 3000 m within the tropics. Outside the tropics, they are rather common in high latitude regions. The absence of Philippine records for these taxa may be real owing to the absence of alpine habitats, the highest mountain in the Philippines (Mt. Apo) reaches only 2924 m.

Borneo and New Guinea each harbor a large cluster of narrowly restricted and endemic genera. These are listed in Table 2. The situation is likely due to the long isolation, and older geologic age of these

Table 4. Number of species of selected moss genera in Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea.

Genus	Philippine species	Bornean species	New Guinean species	common species	Information species *
Acroporium	14	16	15	12	3, 8, 14
Calymperes	13	14	15	11	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14
Chaetomitrium	14	17	28?	11	3, 8, 12, 14
Distichophyllum	14	20	15	11	3, 8, 12, 14
Dicranoloma	7	9	11	6	3, 8, 9, 11, 14
Ectropothecium	15	24	30?	12	3, 8, 14
Fissidens	30	28	26	22	1, 5, 8, 10, 14
Garovaglia	5	8	14	4	2
Hypnodendron	8	8	10	6	13
Syrrhopodon	16	18	18	14	3, 6, 7, 8, 14

- * (1) Misa, M. F. F., 1988
 (2) During, H. J., 1977
 (3) Iwatsuki, Z. & B. C. Tan, 1979
 (4) Mohamed, H. & W. D. Reese, 1985
 (5) Norris, D. & T. Koponen, 1987
 (6) Reese, W. D., T. Koponen & D. Norris, 1986
 (7) Reese, W. D. & H. Mohamed, 1985
 (8) Schultze-Motel, W., 1963
 (9) Tan, B. C., 1989
 (10) Tan, B. C. & Z. Iwatzuki, 1989
 (11) Tan, B. C. & T. Koponen, 1983
 (12) Tan, B. C. & H. Robinson, in press
 (13) Touw, A., 1971
 (14) Touw, A., 1978

two islands.

One may state, as a general summary, that widespread Asiatic or Laurasian genera (cf. Gradstein and Vána, 1987) have more species in common between the Philippines and Borneo than between the Philippines and New Guinea. The opposite appears to be true for species belonging to genera of austral origin (cf. Schuster, 1983).

However, the parallel patterns between the distributions of Malesian mosses and hepatics described above ends here. One noteworthy feature, not seen in moss distribution patterns, emerges when one considers the number of hepatic species evolved in each of the three places and their taxonomic affinity.

Significantly, several large, 'modern' genera such as *Acromastigum*, *Anastrophyllum*, *Plagiochila*, *Frullania*, *Bazzania*, *Colura*, *Herbertus*, *Radula*, *Cololejeunea*, *Porella*, and *Marchantia* have conspicuously disparate numbers of species distributed in the three areas (see Table 3). Genera such as *Frullania*, *Plagiochila* and *Bazzania* are represented in New Guinea by a large number of species. Yet the same genera consist of a much lower number of species in the Philippines or Borneo (see Table 3). Conversely, genera like *Herbertus*, *Cololejeunea*, *Metzgeria* and *Marchantia*, which have a high species diversity in the Philippines, have speciated poorly in New Guinea and/or Borneo. More strikingly, many of these genera have a low number of species in common among the three areas (see Table 3). Thus, the differences in the species number of each area are the result of the number of endemics plus taxa shared by any two (not three) study areas. Distributional patterns for mosses are different. The species distribution within large and actively evolving moss genera in the Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea is presented in Table 4. Genera

such as *Acroporium*, *Calymperes*, *Chaetomitrium*, *Distichophyllum*, *Ectropothecium*, *Fissidens* and *Syrrhopodon* consistently have large numbers of species in all three areas. In addition to its own endemic species, each of the three areas also shares a large assembly of common taxa.

This peculiar 'hepatic phenomenon' of having disparate distribution of species numbers and diversity across adjacent areas within the same phytogeographical unit, i.e., Malesia, is difficult to explain satisfactorily in terms of differences in local precipitation, habitat diversity and geological history. Undoubtedly, broad versus narrow species concepts provided by the authors of monographs and floras for the genera under consideration have had an effect on this hepatic phenomenon. This alone could not explain the marked reduction of the number of species, in some cases nearly half the number, between neighboring areas.

Under-collection on some islands may be another explanation. However, based on the numbers of past expeditions and new collections made from Malesia, all three places can be safely described as equally under collected (Touw, 1982; Prance and Campbell, 1988).

The best explanation seems to lie in the reproductive biology and spore dispersability of hepatics. Schuster (1983) has asserted that, in general, hepatics depend more than mosses on asexual diaspores for the maintenance and expansion of populations. This may have resulted in the proliferation of many clonal populations. These asexually maintained populations, often exhibiting some morphological variations interpreted as individual species, can inflate unduly the number of species in one area.

On the other hand, the relatively poor dispersability of hepatic spores may severely reduce the free flow of genes in an area and fix the species at a low number. Recently, Gradstein and Vána (1987)

demonstrated a positive correlation between a widely disjunctive range pattern and low viability of spores in some hepatic species.

Future field studies can help to resolve this mystery by looking into the percentage of hepatic species in the Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea that employ principally asexual means of reproduction. These findings should then be correlated with the ranges of species and their individual taxonomic distinctiveness.

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