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Pollen Characters of *Firmiana malayana* Kostem. (Malvaceae: Sterculoideae) in Malaysia.

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Abstract

Firmiana malayana also known as "Bullocks eye or Mata Lembu" in Malaysia and can be found along riverbanks and open forests in Peninsular Malaysia and seldom planted in populated areas. The flowers of the *Firmiana malayana* are vivid orange in colour, on tassels up to 12 cm long. Usually this species will shed its leaves after a dry period and remains bare for six to eight weeks. The objective of this study is to determine the pollen morphological characteristics of the *Firmiana malayana* in order to add more information on the species under the family of Sterculiaceae in Malaysia. Methods for this study includes acetolysis technique for the pollens and viewed under light microscope and scanning electron microscope. Results shown that the pollens of the species *Firmiana malayana* appeared to be monad and dyad with tricolporate class with both porate and colpi present. The shape of this species is prolate with PIE index of 1.49. This species was considered as medium-size pollens as the pollens ranges from 26-36 µm. The ornamentation of the pollen is reticulate where the ornamentation is network-like pattern formed by exine elements of lumen and murus. Based on the results obtained, pollen morphology is a great tool that can aid in plant identification and classification as well having taxonomic values.

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