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A new and remarkable aquatic species of *Schismatoglottis* (*Araceae*) from the Philippines

Abstract

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Schismatoglottis prietoi P. C. Boyce, Medecilo & S. Y. Wong (*Araceae: Schismatoglottideae*), the first recorded aquatic species of *Schismatoglottis* Zoll. & Moritz, is described and illustrated from Cebu and Luzon islands in the Philippines.

Additional key words: aroids, *Schismatoglottideae*, *Schismatoglottis prietoi*, Cebu, Luzon

Introduction

Three genera of *Araceae* include rooted-aquatic species: Indo-Malesian *Cryptocoryne* Fisch. ex Wydler, wherein most species are rooted aquatics, related *Lagenandra* Dalzell (India and Bangladesh), and monospecific *Jasurum* G. S. Bunting (Guiana Shield). In *Schismatoglottideae*, whereas there is a high incidence of rheophytism – species adapted to the flood-zone of forest streams, alternately being buffeted by strong spate currents and exposed to dry conditions depending on rainfall (Wong 2013), and very occasionally species capable of persisting underwater for long periods of time (e.g. *Schismatoglottis roseospatha* Bogner), and even flowering in that situation (i.e. *Bucephalandra sordidula* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce; see Wong & Boyce 2014) – to date no species have been found that are fully aquatic in the way that *Cryptocoryne* species are.

Schismatoglottis Zoll. & Moritz was last monographed for the Philippines 15 years ago (Hay & Yuzammi 2000), when 10 species were recognized. Since then one additional species has been described (Wong & al.

2010). Late in 2013 the first and third authors were contacted by Engr. Esquerion P. Prieto, of Cebu City, with images of an aroid he had found occurring as very extensive continuous populations, tens of square metres in extent, in a shallow fast-flowing freshwater river in Cebu. The habitat photographs were highly suggestive of a species of *Cryptocoryne*, although images of the flowering plant were instead reminiscent of a diminutive species of stoloniferous *Schismatoglottis*. Plants brought into cultivation grew readily and soon flowered enabling confirmation of placement in the Calyptrata Group (sensu Hay & Yuzammi 2000) of *Schismatoglottis*, where it represents an undescribed species. It gives us great pleasure to describe this remarkable plant for Engr. Prieto.

About one year after the original discovery, Engr. Prieto again contacted the authors with a newly found aroid that matched well what we here describe as *Schismatoglottis prietoi* except in being almost twice as large in all vegetative dimensions and occurring as an amphibious plant rather in the manner of *Cryptocoryne ciliata* (Roxb.) Blume. This second plant has now flowered and conforms in floral details exactly to the typical *S. prietoi*.

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