

# Studies on Schismatoglottideae (Araceae) of Borneo LVIII – Further novelties described for the genus *Piptospatha*, and a note on *Piptospatha* Sect. *Gamogyne*

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## ABSTRACT

*Piptospatha bella* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce and *Piptospatha lurida* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce are described and illustrated from Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo. Their recognition takes *Piptospatha* to 18 described species. *Piptospatha lurida* is most similar to

*P. burbidgei*, a species formerly allotted its own genus, *Gamogyne*, later made into a section of *Piptospatha*. Notes on *Gamogyne* are provided and a correction to published information on the placentation of *Gamogyne* offered.

**KEY WORDS**

Rheophyte, sandstones, shales, placentation.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Piptospatha* N.E. Br. in our research collection continue to reveal additional taxonomic novelties. Here we describe two new species that have recently flowered with us for the first time. One of them, here named ***Piptospatha bella* S.Y. Wong & P.C. Boyce, sp. nov.**, has long puzzled us as to its identity since in habit it much better matches species of the genus *Bucephalandra* Schott, although production of numerous adventitious plantlets upon the main roots is reminiscent of *Ooia* S.Y. Wong & P.C. Boyce. The other species, here described as ***Piptospatha lurida* S.Y. Wong & P.C. Boyce, sp. nov.**, was initially assumed to be *Piptospatha burbidgei* (N.E. Br.) M. Hotta so closely does the sterile plant resemble that species, but on flowering proved to be a quite distinct species.

Dimensions used in the descriptions are derived from fertile (i.e., mature) plants. Seedlings have overall smaller measurements.

Interpretation of the intricate geology of Borneo relies as ever on Tate (2001).

***Piptospatha bella*** S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, **sp. nov.** Type: Malaysian Borneo, Sarawak:

Bintulu, Tatau, Sungai Bawang, 02°42'01.6"N 112°40'47.9"E, c. 60 m asl, 9 May 2012, *M. Lo 3909* (holo SAR!). **Figure 1, Figure 4B.**

**Diagnosis**

*Piptospatha bella* is unique in the genus by the diminutive oblanceolate to spatulate leaf blades with undifferentiated primary lateral veins and by producing stiffened stilt-roots. Among *Piptospatha* species with green syncarpous pistils and a spathe lacking rostral keels (= *Piptospatha* Sect. *Gamogyne*), *P. bella* is distinguished by the above characteristics and (except for *P. burbidgei*) by producing abundant plantlets from the spreading roots.

Tufted rheophytic herb to 10 cm tall. **Roots** composed of several stiffened stilt-roots c. 3 mm in diameter and penetrating deeply into mud and extensive spreading roots from which are produced numerous plantlets. **Stem** condensed, to 5 mm in diameter, obscured by leaf bases. **Leaves** many together, arching, forming a rosette; **petiole** 3–4 cm long, c. 2 mm in diameter, weakly D-shaped in cross-section, minutely scabrous, especially dorsally, with dorsal edges minutely crispulate-alate, dull reddish olive-green; **petiolar sheath** with free ligular portion c. 2 cm long, these briefly marcescent, ultimately deciduous, dark reddish brown; **leaf blades** oblanceolate to somewhat spatulate, stiffy chartaceous, 5–10 cm long × 2–3.5 cm wide, base cuneate, apex subacute with stout tubule c. 5 mm long, margins wavy, semi-glossy medium to