Studies on Schismatoglottideae (Araceae) of Borneo XXXXI: Additional new species of Bucephalandra

Authors: Yeng, Wong Sin, and Boyce, Peter C.

Source: Willdenowia, 44(3) : 415-421

Published By: Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin (BGBM)

URL: https://doi.org/10.3372/wi.44.44312
Studies on *Schismatoglottideae (Araceae)* of Borneo XXXXI: Additional new species of *Bucephalandra*

Abstract


DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.3372/wi.44.44312

Two new species of *Bucephalandra* Schott are described and illustrated from Kalimantan Barat, Indonesian Borneo: *B. micrantha* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce and *B. spathulifolia* Engl. ex S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, the epithet of the second name adopted from an unpublished Engler name: “*Microcasia spathulifolia*”. Together these take *Bucephalandra* to 29 species. Both novelties are illustrated from living plants, and inserted into the most recent identification key to *Bucephalandra* species.

Additional key words: Indonesia, Kalimantan, rheophytic

Introduction

The most recent account of *Bucephalandra* Schott accepted 27 species, of which 19 were newly described, and three were transfers from congeneric *Microcasia* Becc. (Wong & Boyce 2014). Mention was then made that a considerable number of plants in the living collection underpinning the account still remained taxonomically unplaced, and were likely additional novelties; it was also noted that taxonomic interpretation of the abundant herbarium material posed considerable difficulties.

Recently two of these hitherto undetermined living collections have flowered and proven to be additional taxonomic novelties. Their unique defining combinations of characteristics are highlighted here in modifications to the key presented in Wong & Boyce (2014). One of these, described below as *Bucephalandra micrantha* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, is remarkable for the diminutive stature of the plant and inflorescence, even in a genus notable for the tininess of some of its constituent species. The other species, proposed here as *B. spathulifolia* Engl. ex S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, offers an almost unique example of the occurrence of a living plant precisely matching a historical herbarium specimen.

Results and Discussion

*Bucephalandra micrantha* S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, sp. nov. – Fig. 1.

Holotype: Indonesian Borneo, Kalimantan Barat, Sintang, Sepauk, Kayu Lapis, village at km 46 on road to...
Fig. 1. Bucephalandra micrantha – A: plant in cultivation; B & C: inflorescence at pistillate anthesis, dorsal (B) and ventral (C) views; D: inflorescence at staminate anthesis, lower spathe artificially removed to reveal entire spadix; note the deflexed interstice staminodes and staminate flowers; E: inflorescence at staminate anthesis viewed from above; note the almost fallen spathe limb. – All from Hiroyuki Kishi AR-4080. – Photographs by Peter C. Boyce.
Description — Bucephalandra micrantha is most similar to B. belindae S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, differing by the little-branched shortly creeping stems rooting profusely (vs stems much-branched and elongated, not rooting along their length), and by a spadix interstice with c. 3 solitary green staminodes (vs interstice with a complete whorl of white staminodes).

Distribution — Bucephalandra micrantha is known only from the type locality.

Ecology — Bucephalandra micrantha occurs on shaded granitic rocks in swift-flowing streams under moist lowland forest at c. 100 m above sea level.

Etymology — The epithet is combined from the Greek adjective, mikros (small), latinized to micros, and the Greek noun, anthos (flower), treated as a Latin adjective, anthus (flowered); hence small-flowered.

Remarks — Bucephalandra micrantha is one of a group of species with very narrowly oblong leaf blades with undulate-crispulate margins. The other described species are B. belindae and B. catharinae P. C. Boyce & al. It is not yet clear if they constitute a natural assemblage, although differences in the spadix appendix staminodes suggest that they do not.

Bucephalandra spathulifolia Engl. ex S. Y. Wong & P. C. Boyce, sp. nov. — Fig. 2 & 3.


Description — Bucephalandra spathulifolia is immediately distinguished from all other species in the genus by the spathulate leaves and globose brain-like spadix appendix.
Fig. 2. Bucephalandra spathulifolia – A: plant in cultivation; B & C: inflorescence at pistillate anthesis, dorsal (B) and lateral (C) views; D: inflorescence at staminate anthesis, spathe artificially removed to reveal entire spadix; note the globose brain-like appendix. – All from J. Setiawan Sutanto AR-4227. – Photographs by Peter C. Boyce.
Fig. 3. *Bucephalandra spathulifolia*, holotype specimen (BO 1563010). – Photograph by Peter C. Boyce.
long; lower spathe funnel-form, green, fading to white at spathe-limb junction, persistent; limb inflating and gaping distally to form a wide opening at pistillate anthesis, caducous during staminate anthesis, white, dorsal median vein speckled pinkish red, tip blunted, red. Spadix c. 9 mm long; pistillate zone sessile, c. 2.25 mm long × c. 1.5 mm in diam., with c. 3 spirals of pistils; pistils compressed globose, c. 0.75 mm in diam., bright green; stigma sessile, slightly impressed discoid, c. ½ diameter of ovary, moist and papillate at anthesis; pistillodes absent; intersticewith 2 rows of scale-like staminodes, these c. 1 mm long and wide, almost circular, thickened, initially erect (pistillate anthesis), during staminate anthesis reflexing until perpendicular to spadix axis, greenish white during anthesis, later turning green post-anthesis; staminate zone c. 2 mm long × c. 2.5 mm in diam., consisting of 3 rows of flowers; staminate flowers each consisting of a single stamen; stamen c. 0.6 mm across, white with at least some of thecae stained reddish pink; filament short; connective strap-like; thecae inserted ventrally on connective, individually ellipsoid, c. 0.4 mm long × c. 0.2 mm wide, separated by a deep suture, smooth, waxy white, occasionally stained reddish pink; thecae horns c. ⅓ length of associated theca, basally quite stout, remainder setaceous; appendix globose, c. 3 mm long × c. 3 mm in diam., glossy waxy medium yellow; appendix staminodes hardly individually differentiated, together forming a brain-like mass. Fruitting spathe broadly funnel-form, c. 6 mm in diam., pale green, with green shield-shaped persistent staminodes; fruits and seeds not seen.

**Distribution** — Bucephalandra spathulifolia is known from two localities c. 500 km apart separated by the Muller Range. *Amdjah 127* was made under the aegis of the Nieuwenhuis 1898–1899 central Borneo expedition, with a presumably field-written tag attached to one of the 10 mounted plants stating “Soengai Boeleng” with the date “28 Oct 98”. From this it is possible to conclude that *Amdjah 127* was collected in the Ulu (headwaters) of the Mahakam River, where the Nieuwenhuis expedition was based from shortly after 16 September 1898 until 13 April 1899. However, no such locality name appears in the Nieuwenhuis account of the expedition (Nieuwenhuis 1900), although the index to this work provides two similarly spelled possibilities for approximately the correct date of the Ahdjah collection. One is Boeloengan, one of the Dutch Administrative zelfbesturen (self-governing) Native States, and which includes much of modern Kalimantan Timur to its border with present day Kalimantan Barat, including the headwaters of the Mahakam River between the Muller and Iran Ranges. The other is Boeloeng (appearing in the index as Nanga Boeloeng and Telang Boeloeng), and which equates to an area of the NE part of the Muller Range.

**Ecology** — At both known localities *Bucephalandra spathulifolia* occurs on Cretaceous sediments under perhumid lowland forest, recorded at between 60 m and 150 m above sea level.

**Etymology** — The epithet is adopted from the unpublished name “*Microcasia spathulifolia*”, used by Engler on a label on the holotype specimen (Fig. 3). It is combined from the Latin feminine noun, *spathula* (a paddle-shaped stirring tool), and the Latin neuter noun, *folium* (leaf), referring to the spathulate leaf blades.

**Remarks** — *Bucephalandra spathulifolia* is one of the most highly distinctive species yet described, offering a good example that species well-differentiated as living plants are often impossible to describe solely on the basis of herbarium material even when it is adequate and fertile.

**Additional specimen seen (paratypes)** — **INDONESIAN BORNEO**: Kalimantan Barat: Sanggau, Sekayam, Balai Karangan, 00°49’02.0”N, 110°28’04.5”E, 27 Sep 2013, J. Setiawan Sutanto AR-4227 (BO! [alcohol], SAR! [alcohol]).

*Bucephalandra spathulifolia* and *B. micrantha* may be inserted in the key to *Bucephalandra* species presented in Wong & Boyce (2014) as follows:

4. Appendix ellipsoid, accounting for c. ⅔ of the spadix
   — Appendix globose, or bullet-shaped to conoid, accounting for c. ⅔ of the spadix
5. Appendix bullet-shaped to conoid; leaf blade elliptic, margin smooth, petiole long and well defined.
   — Appendix globose; leaf blade spathulate, margin undulate, petiole short and not readily discernible. Kalimantan Barat: Cretaceous sediments.
   — *Bucephalandra spathulifolia* Then to 5 in Wong & Boyce (2014).

16. Spadix appendix globose, comprised of several small staminodes, waxy white; stems little-branched, creeping, rooting profusely to rocks. Kalimantan Utara: Gunung Sungai Pendan, rheophytic on basalt
   — *Bucephalandra catherineae* Then to 17 in Wong & Boyce (2014).

17. Stems much-branched and elongated, not rooting along their length except occasionally; interstice with a complete whorl of white staminodes. Kalimantan Barat: Nanga Pinoh, granite cascades under mostly permanent water flow
   — *Bucephalandra belindae* Then to 17 in Wong & Boyce (2014).
Acknowledgements

This study is part of an ongoing research funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, by the Exploratory Research Grant Scheme Vote No. ERGS/01(02)/808/2011(03) and Fundamental Research Grant Scheme Vote No. FRGS/STWN10(01)985/2013(26). Fieldwork was most recently under Sarawak Forestry Department Permission to Conduct Research on Biological Resources – Permit No. NCCD.907.4.4(Jld.9)-69 and Park Permit No 140/2013. The collaboration and support of the Sarawak Forestry Department and the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre are gratefully acknowledged. We also thank an anonymous reviewer for comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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