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Cover images: *Plagiostachys strobilifera* var. *conica* Salasiah & Meekiong. A. Habit. B. Inflorescence, lateral view. C. Whole flower, lateral view. D. Flower with calyx removed. E. Calyx. F. Bracteole. G. Inflorescence, aerial view. H. Young inflorescence. A–G. *Salasiah* 0003; *H. Salasiah et al.* 0014. Photos by Salasiah Mohamad.

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DRACAENA JIEWHOEI (ASPARAGACEAE), A NEW ENDEMIC SPECIES FROM SUMATRA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

HAMBALI, G. G., SULISTIARINI, D. & RUGAYAH. 2020. *Dracaena jiewhoei* (Asparagaceae), a new endemic species from Sumatra, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 19(2): 75–79. — *Dracaena jiewhoei* Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah, a new endemic species from Muara Emat, Batang Merangin, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia is described and illustrated. It is related to *Dracaena cantleyi* Baker but differs substantially in a range of morphological and its growth pattern characteristics.

Keywords: Dracaena jiewhoei, Indonesia, Jambi, Muara Emat.

ABSTRAK

HAMBALI, G. G., SULISTIARINI, D. & RUGAYAH. 2020. *Dracaena jiewhoei* (Asparagaceae), satu jenis baru endemik dari Sumatra, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 19(2): 75–79. — Jenis baru *Dracaena jiewhoei* Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah, endemik dari Muara Emat, Batang Merangin, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia dipertelakan dan dibuat ilustrasinya. Jenis ini berkerabat dekat dengan *Dracaena cantleyi* Baker, tetapi berbeda pada karakter morfologi dan pola pertumbuhan.

Kata kunci: Dracaena jiewhoei, Indonesia, Jambi, Muara Emat.

INTRODUCTION

Dracaena is a genus included in several family names, Liliaceae, Agavaceae, Ruscaceae, Dracaenaceae (Lu & Morden, 2010). Later Dracaena is placed in Asparagaceae, together with Cordyline (ex Agavaceae), Arthropodium, Asparagus, Chlorophytum, Disporopsis, Liriope, Ophiopogon, Peliosanthes, Thysanotus and Tupistra (ex Liliaceae) (van Balgooy, 2010). Recently, Damen et al. (2018) have recorded 116 species of Dracaena in the world.

Baker (1875) has revised genera and species of Asparagaceae, and he enumerated 38 species of Dracaena, some of them found in Malesian region e.g. D. finlaysonii (Malacca and Borneo), D. angustifolia (Java and Borneo), D. porteri (Penang), D. timorensis (Timor), D. spicata var. aurantiaca (Malacca, Penang and Singapore). D. atropurpurea var. griffithii (Malacca, Borneo), D. atropurpurea var. gracilis (Penang) and D. elliptica (Sumatra, Java and Borneo).

In early 2000s while exploring various places in Sumatra with the purpose of procuring ornamental and fruit plant materials for supporting the breeding project in Taman Buah Mekarsari and Yatazawa Research & Development Gardens (YRDG) in Bogor, G. G. Hambali stumbled upon several attractive individuals of an unidentified Dracaena species in a disturbed secondary forest in the vicinity of Muara Emat village. The Dracaena propagules obtained from the trip and from two more trips to the same place were planted in YRDG. Nowadays, there are about 30 mature living plants growing in the ground along with mature plants of D. cantleyi and D. elliptica. After an arduous search of information which includes the studies of Dracaena herbarium specimens in BO and SING and several hybridization experiments, it is concluded that the attractive Muara Emat Dracaena is an undescribed species and named here as Dracaena jiewhoei Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Exploration in various places of Sumatra, in the early 2000s were carried out. Several attractive individuals of an unidentified *Dracaena* species then planted at YRDG. Further observations on the living plants as well as specimens of *Dracaena* spp. deposited in Herbarium Bogoriense (BO) and Herbarium Singapore (SING) were carried out to confirm the taxonomical status of the plant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dracaena jiewhoei Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah *spec. nov.* — TYPE: INDONESIA, West Java, Bogor, Yatazawa R & D Gardens, 2 March 2018, *Diah Sulistiarini 1109*; originally collected from a small patch of disturbed forest to the hillside direction on the roadside between Bangko and Sungai Penuh, approaching Muara Emat village from Bangko, Batang Merangin, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia, *ca.* 400 m asl. (Holotype BO). Fig.1.

The new species is closely related to *D. cantleyi* in its paniculate inflorescences, but differs substantially from the latter in the verticillate leaves which are intermittently

arranged along the stem. In *D. cantleyi*, the numerous leaves which could be as many as 90 leaves on a large plant are arranged in a continuous spiral along the stem.

Shrub to 1.5 m tall. Stem terete, branched or unbranched, 3-5 cm diam. near ground level. Leaves coriaceous, sessile, up to 24 on the most robust specimen, usually far fewer, in 2-3 intermittent pseudowhorls of 4-8 leaves each; each pseudowhorl always preceded by up to 16 early caducous acutely triangular rudimentary leaves of $3-6 \times 3-4$ cm, these when completely detached from the stem create the intermittent gap between pseudowhorls of normal leaves, uppermost pseudowhorls always terminated by a dormant bud with dormancy duration up to 6 months long before growth resumption; sheathing leaf base clasping the stem slightly less than its circumference; lamina green with distinct or blurred scattered small white dots only at its upper surface, broadly elliptic oblong up to 45×16 cm, apex acuminate, mucro ca. 2 mm; midrib at the upper lamina surface only slightly raised, starting from near lamina base to about half way the lamina length, and soon flattened and becoming inconspicuous, midrib at the lower lamina surface inconspicuous. Inflorescence erect, terminal, paniculate or racemose; branches 0-4,

Table 1. Comparison of some characteristic features between *Dracaena jiewhoei* Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah *spec. nov.* and *D. cantleyi* Baker, based on living specimens in YRDG.

Characters	Dracaena jiewhoei	Dracaena cantleyi
Plant height	1.5 m	6 m
Stem diam. at ground	2–3 cm	8–11 cm
level		
Leaf number	Up to 24	Up to 90
Leaf arrangement	Intermittent pseudowhorls (4-8 leaves each)	A continuous spiral
Leaf shape	Broadly elliptic oblong	Oblong lanceolate
Leaf size	Up to 45 cm long and 16 cm wide	Up to 85 cm long and 10 cm wide
Midrib	On upper leaf surface slightly raised near lamina base and soon flattened towards the leaf tip; on lower leaf surface inconspicuous	On upper leaf surface impressed, forming a shallow groove; on lower leaf surface prominent
Leaf variegation	Distinct or slightly blurred small white dots visible on the upper leaf surface only; dots often still visible on old leaves although rather vague	Coalescing yellowish green blotches visible on both leaf surfaces; blotches conspicuous only on new leaves, undetectable on old ones
Inflorescence	Panicle branches 0-4, the upper most confined to the lower one third of the length of panicle rachis	Panicle branches <i>ca</i> . 7 or more, the upper most reaching to three fourth of the length of panicle rachis
Growth pattern	Interrupted by the bud dormancy	Continuous
Vegetative propagation	Easy	Difficult
	<i>.</i>	



Fig. 1. Dracaena jiewhoei Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah spec. nov. A. Habit. B. Leaf. C. Leaf sheath. D. Stem. E. Inflorescence. F. (1, 2 & 3). Flowers. G. Stamen. H. Pistil. I. Fruit. From DS 1109, drawn by Wahyudi Santoso.

confined to the lower one fourth of the panicle length; rachis smooth, terete, becoming 6-grooved upward along the fascicles bearing part, green, up to 55 cm long, bracts present, conspicuous at the lower section of the rachis, getting scale-like upwards. Flowers fasciculate, fascicles up to 80 on the panicle rachis, up to 15 on the panicle branches, each fascicle 2-6 flowered; flower length ca. 2.4 cm, pedicel length 1-2 mm, flower tube and perianth lobes more or less of equal length ca. 1.2 cm long, perianth lobes ca. 0.15 cm wide, greenish white; stamens 6, ca. 1 cm long, each inserted slightly above the middle of perianth lobe base, anthers ca. 1.5×0.5 mm, filaments ca. 8.5 mm long; pistil ca. 2.2 cm long, ovary ovoid ca. 2×1.5 mm, style filiform, stigma globular ca. 0.5 mm diam. Ripe fruit globular, orange, ca. 0.9 cm diam., usually 1-seeded.

Relationship to other Dracaena species

In our interspecific hybridization experiments, when used as a male parent, D. jiewhoei is crossable to D. cantleyi, a species which was known only from Singapore when it was first described by Baker (1881) but based on GGH's personal survey we know now that it also occurs in southern Thailand including Phuket island, Malay Peninsula, Sarawak and West Kalimantan in Borneo, and also in North Sumatra. Although this crossability reveals the close genetic relationship, D. jiewhoei differs substantially from D. cantlevi as shown in Table 1. The living specimens of D. cantleyi in YRDG were originally raised from seedlings of a plant brought back by the late Mr. Sukasdi (GGH's former colleague in Bogor Botanic Garden) from Sibolangit forest in North Sumatra more than 20 years ago. His collection, hence, represented a new record for Sumatra. The relationship to other sympatric Dracaena species is still being investigated.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the name of Mr. Tan Jiew Hoe, the President of Singapore Gardening Society, who provided several transportation grants to G. G. Hambali that enabled him to visit various places in Sumatra.

Distribution and habitat. *Dracaena jiewhoei* is of much restricted distribution. The small population appears not to be represented elsewhere apart from this small area in Muara Emat, Batang Merangin, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia. The area where the plant was found was covered by a relatively thin layer of leaf litter on podzolic soil at *ca*. 400 m asl.

Conservation assessment. During the last visit to the area in 2007 the habitat of Dracaena jiewhoei was already converted to a coffee plantation and at that time not a single plant of this species was found there. The plants which are now in cultivation are being propagated to ensure its conservation. As the plants themselves are self incompatible, seed set can be only effected between different cross compatible clones through hand pollination in the late evening. Throughout our observation in YRDG, we notice that a synchronous flowering which is very crucial for a cross pollination system to operate properly for ensuring fruit and seed set in a self incompatible species rarely occurs in the collection of \hat{D} . *jiewhoei*. It is quite clear that in the wild the rarity of synchronous flowering could be detrimental to the dissemination and eventually the survival of any plants which could only produce seeds through cross pollination.

This situation when coupled with the absence or the rarity of the proper nocturnal pollinators such as hawk moths to ensure fruit and seed set and also the rarity of seed dispersal agents particularly frugivorous bird which can effectively disperse seed to great distances are interacting factors that are most likely responsible for the restricted distribution of D. jiewhoei. As far as we know despite the long history of plant exploration activities by many botanists in South East Asia and GGH's own botanical forays to many forested places in this region, this species has never been known to occur in places other than Sumatra. However, now we do not know whether there is still a possibility that D. jiewhoei may also occur in some isolated forest pockets in Sumatra. At this stage we are in the process of exploring all possible means to increase and diversify D. *jiewhoei* materials in YRDG through an interclonal cross pollination program.

Considering the situation above, for the moment the conservation status of this new species is Data Deficient (DD), until further assessment.

Note. The best F1 hybrids between *D. cantleyi* and *D. jiewhoei* are named as *Dracaena* 'JT Stardust' and most of the hybrids produce better looking variegation on the leaves (Fig. 2C). The living collections of F1 hybrid were given to nurseries *e.g.* in Taman Buah Mekarsari, Indonesia and Handelskwekerij van der Velden, the Netherlands.



Fig. 2. A. *Dracaena jiewhoei* Hambali, Sulistiarini & Rugayah. B. *Dracaena cantleyi* Baker C. F1 hybrid, Dracaena 'JT Stardust'. Photos by G. G. Hambali.

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