

DAVIS EXPEDITION FUND

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT

Expedition/Project Title: The Taxonomy and Systematics of Peninsular Malaysian *Cyrtandra* (Gesneriaceae).....

Travel Dates: 9th July - 1st August 2002

Location: Peninsular Malaysia

Group Members: Gemma Bramley

Aims: To collect species of Peninsular Malaysian *Cyrtandra* (Gesneriaceae) and other Gesneriaceae

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

A very successful fieldwork trip was made to Peninsular Malaysia. Five species of *Cyrtandra* were collected, as well as three species of other Gesneriaceae genera, of interest to researchers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The success of the trip was for the most part due to the extremely helpful staff at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and also the Economic Planning Unit of Malaysia, who granted the permit to conduct research in Peninsular Malaysia.

Fieldwork Schedule

16th July: Ulu Semangkok, Pahang
17th July: Kanching Forest Reserve, Selangor
19th July: Ulu Gombak, Selangor
25th-28th July: Cameron Highlands, Pahang
29th-30th July: Genting Highlands, Pahang/Selangor;
Sungei Pisang, Selangor.

Specimens collected:

GB24: *Henckelia platypus* (C.B.Clarke) A.Weber
GB25: *Cyrtandra wallichii* (C.B.Clarke) B.L.Burtt
GB26: *Cyrtandra wallichii* (C.B.Clarke) B.L.Burtt
GB27: *Aeschynanthus parvifolius* R.Br.
GB28: *Cyrtandra cupulata* Ridl.
GB29: *Cyrtandra cupulata* Ridl.
GB30: *Scaphium* sp.
GB31: *Aeschynanthus rhododendron* Ridl.
GB32: *Cyrtandra wallichii* (C.B.Clarke) B.L.Burtt
GB33: *Cyrtandra* aff. *wallichii* (C.B.Clarke) B.L.Burtt
GB34: *Cyrtandra stonei* B.L.Burtt
GB35: *Cyrtandra wallichii* (C.B.Clarke) B.L.Burtt
GB36: *Cyrtandra patula* Ridl.
GB37: *Cyrtandra pendula* Blume

The *Cyrtandra* species found were quite variable morphologically. *Cyrtandra cupulata* is a striking species with large white bracts that enclose the inflorescence, found commonly in the lowlands. *C. wallichii* is a common species in upland areas, distinctive due to its large and fleshy leaves, green or purple utricular bracts and white flower with purple spotting in the throat. *C. pendula* has pale yellow flowers that trail from the plant on a peduncle up to 10 cm long and its leaves often have attractive white markings. *C. patula* has not been widely collected, so it was very fortunate to find it in the foothills of the Genting Highlands. In addition, *C. stonei* has a very limited distribution, growing at high altitude in the Genting Highlands. It is the only representative of section *Dissimiles* C.B.Clarke in Peninsular Malaysia. Field observations made will form an important part of the taxonomic paper, the *Cyrtandra* species of the Peninsular Malaysia, currently in preparation.

Silica dried leaf material was collected of all five *Cyrtandra* species for sequencing of the ITS region. This will increase the sample size of the *Cyrtandra* phylogeny at RBGE. The results of phylogenetic analyses including these samples should elucidate the affinities of the Peninsular Malaysian *Cyrtandra*.