

DAVIS EXPEDITION FUND
REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT

Expedition/Project Title: Expedition to Sarawak 2010

Travel Dates: 7 July – 22 August

Location: Malaysia

Group Members: Carmen Puglisi

Aims: Collection of specimens for PhD project “Biosystematic studies in the genus *Paraboea* (Gesneriaceae)”

Outcome (not less than 300 words): see report

Report

Expedition to Sarawak 2010

7 July – 22 August 2010

Carmen Puglisi

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR Edinburgh, UK

cpuglisi@rbge.ac.uk



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of EDINBURGH



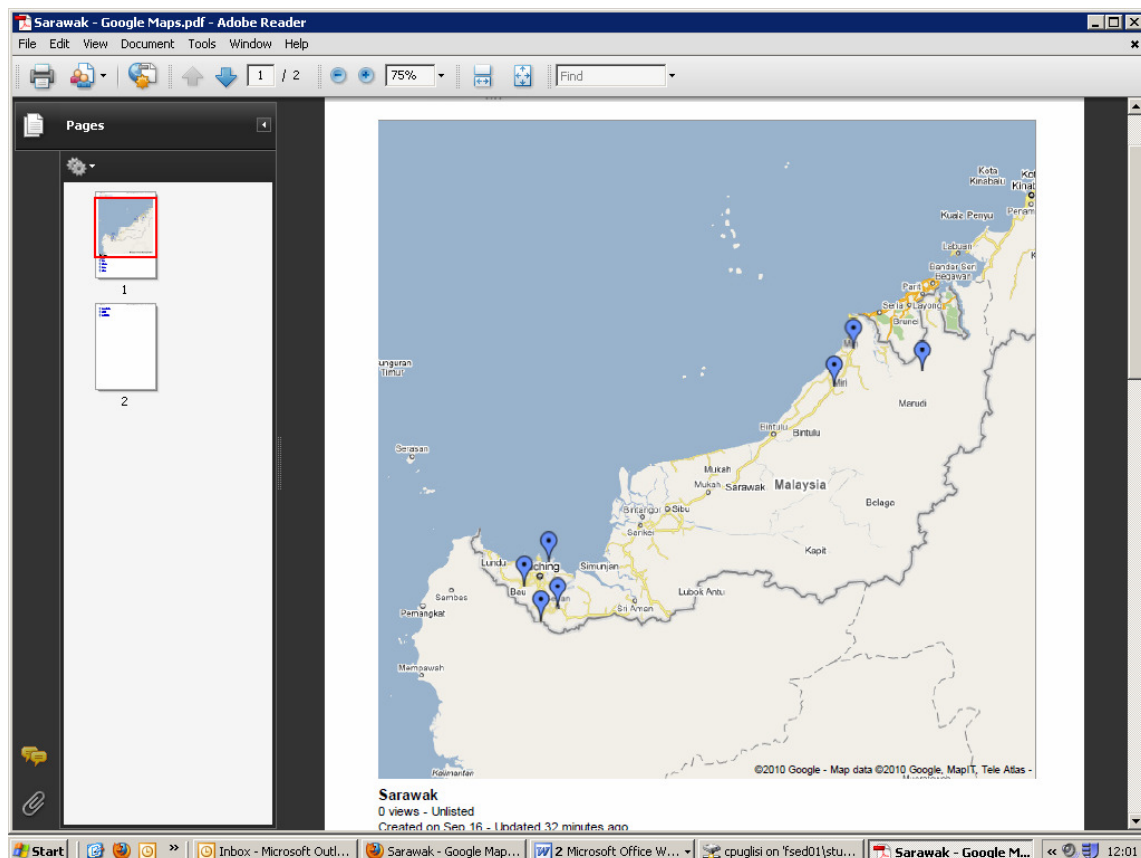
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Introduction

Paraboea counts to date over 95 species. Its distribution is from the East Himalaya to Indonesia. Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo are centres of biodiversity for the genus. *Paraboea* is mostly found on limestone, in dry, exposed habitats as well as wet and shady caves. 11 species are known from Sarawak and some of them are endemic to specific sites of the State. The aim of this expedition was to collect species of *Paraboea* for taxonomic, phylogenetic and morphological analyses.

The expedition

Between the 9th and the 14th July I have visited the KEP herbarium, where an extensive collection of *Paraboea* from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak is held. On the 15th July I flew to Sarawak to visit the local herbarium and start my fieldwork. The expedition mainly touched National Parks, where conservation measures are in place to protect the delicate habitat *Paraboea* grows in. The Parks visited were Bako, Lambir Hills, Niah and Gunung Mulu. I have also explored limestone formations in Western Sarawak, in several localities around the cities of Bau, Serian and Tebedu.



During this field campaign, 20 collections of *Paraboea* were made, each consisting in herbarium specimens (2 duplicates), silica dried leaves and seeds if available. The herbarium specimens are now deposited in Edinburgh (E) and Kuching (SAR).

Outcomes

The expedition to Sarawak allowed me to collect important material for my studies. The preliminary molecular analyses carried out on my return show separation of the Bornean species from those collected in Thailand and China. In order to infer a clear geographical pattern, however, more samples are needed especially from Peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia. The first outcomes of my research have been presented at the 8th Flora Malesiana (Singapore, 23 – 27 August 2010) by Dr D. Middleton and recently at the World Gesneriads Research Conference (Sarasota, USA, 13 – 15 October 2010) in the form of a poster (file attached).

The seeds collected have been partly sown and partly deposited in the seed bank at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Final breakdown of expenses

Preliminary expenses: return flight, vaccinations, equipment	£1409.59
Accommodation	£1045.92
Transport: internal flights and other transport	£ 532.66
Other expenses: food, guide, park fees, etc.	£ 528.38
GRAND TOTAL	£3516.55

Acknowledgements

This expedition was made possible by the Davis Expedition Fund, the James and Eve Bennett Trust and the Weir Fund for Field Studies. Kaylene Bransgrove, Peter Boyce, Wong Sin Yeng and Peter Wilkie are acknowledged for their invaluable help. Sarawak Forestry and the Park Directors have been fundamental in allowing and supporting this research in the Parks.