

TWO BORNEAN RHODODENDRONS

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Rhododendron* (Ericaceae), *R. burttii* P. Woods, is described and comments given on *R. nervulosum* Sleum. var. *exuberans* Sleum. Both taxa are from Sarawak and are illustrated. A relationship is suggested between *R. nervulosum* and *R. stenophyllum* Hook. f.

***Rhododendron burttii* P. Woods, species nova, insignis e serie *Buxifoliarum*, nulli arcte affinis. Fig. 1, a-d.**

Frutex terrestris, c. 0.5 m altus; rami decumbentes internodiis 4(-6-10) cm longis, ultimis puberulis, ad partes novellas parce lepidotis. *Folia* in pseudoverticillis 5-9-meris; lamina coriacea $\pm$ convexa, oblanceolata, apice obtusa, basi cuneata, 2.2-5(-3.8) $\times$ (0.9-1.0(-1.3) cm, superne atrovirens, nitida, initio laxa lepidota, deinde glabrescens, subtus pallidior (in sicco pallide ferruginea), nervis lateralibus obscuris, parce lepidota (squamis sessilibus leviter impressis margine lata irregulariter dentata); petioli 2-3 mm longi, parce puberuli et lepidoti, pilis secus costam breviter excurrentibus. *Flores* 1-2(-4), nutantes; perulae anguste ovato-acuminatae, ad 6 $\times$ 2 mm, superne sericeae, margine lepidoto-ciliatae; bracteolae filiformes, c. 1 cm longae, ciliatae. *Pedicelli* (1)-2-2.5 cm longi, purpurascens, parce albo-pilosi. *Calyx* membranaceus indistincte lobatus, margine ciliatus, ad 4 mm diam. *Corolla* tubulosa-campanulata, tota 2.5-2.8 cm longa, punicea, extra albo-pilosa, intus ad basin pubescens, tubo c. 1.5 cm longo 5 mm diam., ad basin dilatato (c. 7 mm diam.), lobis patentibus c. 10 $\times$ 6 mm, oblongo-ellipticis, obtusis. *Stamina* 10, e corollae tubo paullo exserta; filamenta c. 18 mm longa, sursum attenuata, in parte quarta inferiore pubescentia; antherae oblongae, c. 1.5 $\times$ 1 mm. *Discus* glaber. *Ovarium* oblongum, 3-4 $\times$ 2 mm, dense pilosum, pilis squamas abscondentibus; stylus ex ovario subabruptus, ad anthesin c. 18 mm longus, in dimidio inferiore laxe pilosus; stigma 1 mm diametro, grosse verrucosum. *Capsula* cylindrica, pilosa et lepidota, 11-18 $\times$ c. 6 mm.

Type. Sarawak. Fifth Division: route from Bakelalan to Gunong Murud, near helicopter pad on ridge above Long Rapata, c. 1500 m, undershrub in forest, collected only as live material, 16 x 1967, *Burt & Martin* B.5549, cult. in hort. bot. reg. Edinb., iv 1970, C.6461 (holo. E; iso. L, SAR).

R. burttii has no obvious affinity with any other Malesian species. In Sleumer's account of *Rhododendron* in *Flora Malesiana* ser. 1, 6(4): 580 (1966), it keys out to *R. frey-wisslingii*, a Sumatran species which differs in its shorter (1.4-1.6 cm), broadly tubular-campanulate, lepidote corolla.

The species is named after Mr B. L. Burt whose introductions of Malesian plants have made a significant contribution to the rich collections of Ericaceae in cultivation at Edinburgh and whose advice and friendship over the years I wish to acknowledge.

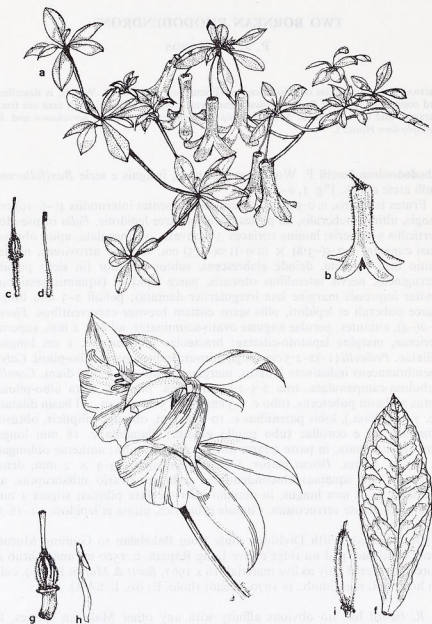


FIG. 1. a-d, *Rhododendron burtii*: a, habit $\times c. \frac{1}{2}$; b, flower $\times 1$; c, gynoecium $\times 1$; d, stamen $\times 1$. e-i, *R. nervulosum* var. *exuberans*: e, habit $\times c. \frac{1}{2}$; f, leaf $\times \frac{1}{2}$; g, gynoecium $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$; h, stamen $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$; i, capsule $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. (e, f & i from *Argent* 823, g & h from *Burt* C7261).

Rhododendron nervulosum Sleum. var. *exuberans* Sleum. in *Blumea* 12:113 (1963). Fig. 1, e-i.

Type. Sarawak, Gunong Mulu, 1430 m, 30 vi 1961, *Anderson SAR 4596*, (holo. L; iso. K!, SAR).

SARAWAK. Fourth Division: Gunong Mulu, west ridge near camp iv, c. 4° 03' N, 114° 54' E, c. 1800 m, 24 x 1977, Royal Geographical Society Expedition, *Argent et al.* 823 (E, SAR); Fifth Division: route from Bakelalan to Gunong Murud, above camp iv, c. 3° 56' N, 115° 32' E, c. 1950 m, 2 x 1967, *Burt & Martin B.5351A* (E); *ibid.*, cult. in hort. bot. reg. Edinb., vi 1972, C.7261 (E, K, L, SAR).

In the original description, the variety is separated from the species by its wider leaves and shorter flowers. However examination of the Argent and Burt specimens shows that corolla length is not a reliable character: the flower length may be as short as 2.5 cm or as long as 4 cm (5 mm longer than the maximum length given for the species by Sleumer).

There are further inconsistencies in that whereas the flower colour recorded for species and variety is scarlet, Burt's material has bright orange flowers and those of Argent's are noted as "deep salmon pink" (despite a colour photograph of the living material taken on Mulu which shows the flowers bright orange!).

Almost mature capsules on Argent's specimen, the longest measuring 20 mm, are narrowly ellipsoid.

There is a similarity between *R. nervulosum* var. *nervulosum* and *R. stenophyllum* Hook. f. (also from Borneo), in the narrow leaves and the shape and texture of the scarlet or orange-coloured flowers. This suggests that *R. stenophyllum* has a closer affinity with *R. nervulosum* of series *Javanica* than with the three New Guinea species which Sleumer (*Flora Malesiana* ser. 1, 6(4):576, 1966) allies to it by their inclusion in series *Stenophylla*.

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