

ALPINIA EUBRACTEA (ZINGIBERACEAE) REDISCOVERED

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ABSTRACT. Attention is drawn to the rediscovery of *Alpinia eubractea* K. Schum., native to Sulawesi and the type species of *Alpinia* sect. *Eubractea*. A new description is included.

The precise determination of recently collected material of Zingiberaceae from Sulawesi (Celebes) is often impossible. This is because many of K. Schumann's species (1899, 1904) were based on single collections, particularly those collected by Sarasin, which were destroyed at Berlin in 1943. The descriptions of these plants are, in several cases, less than adequate.

It is, therefore, of special interest that a recent Indonesian-Dutch expedition to the island has rediscovered *Alpinia eubractea* K. Schum., the type species of section *Eubractea*. The plant was first collected by Sarasin from near the Takalekadjo Mts during his crossing of central Sulawesi from the Gulf of Bone to the Gulf of Tomini in 1895; the recent material was found in the Sopa Valley which lies c.100 km NNW of the type locality. There can be no doubt as to the identity of this new material; it corresponds with Schumann's rather brief description and matches his figures well. Schumann was not quite precise in his account of some floral details, and the opportunity is taken here to expand the original description and provide a new, and more complete, illustration.

Alpinia eubractea K. Schum. [in Bot. Jahrb. 27: 289 (1899)] & Pflanzenr. Zing. 353, f. 41, A, B (1904); Smith in Notes RBG Edinb. 34: 160 (1975). Fig. 1.

Type: Sulawesi (Celebes); near Takalekadjo, 1500 m, 8 ii 1895, Sarasin 846 (B, destroyed).

New description:

Herb of up to 2.5 m. *Leaves* subsessile, to 35 × 10 cm, oblong-lanceolate, shortly caudate, glabrous; ligule 4-7 mm, truncate, densely pilose; sheaths areolate, with some sparse pubescence below the ligule, striate and glabrous lower down. *Inflorescence* terminal on the leaf-shoot, up to 35 cm long, probably erect. *Bracts* red, 4 cm long at base of spike, smaller (2 cm) towards the apex, lanceolate, persistent, well-spaced on the main axis, each subtending a cincinnus of up to at least 15 flowers. *Bracteoles* c. 2 cm long (smaller towards the top of the cincinnus), tubular, truncate, shortly split unilaterally, very sparsely pubescent. *Flowers* white to pinkish (reddish—K. Schumann), pedicels to c. 2 cm long, pubescent; calyx 1-1.5 cm long, shortly 3-lobed, sparsely pubescent at the base; corolla-tube equal to the calyx in length, slender, pubescent at throat within; lobes c. 8 mm, elliptic-oblong, acute; labellum about the same length as the lobes, joined in the lower part to the filament forming a c. 3 mm tube above the insertion of the corolla lobes, cuneate, obscurely 3-lobed, held erect; lateral staminodes present as minute teeth, one on either

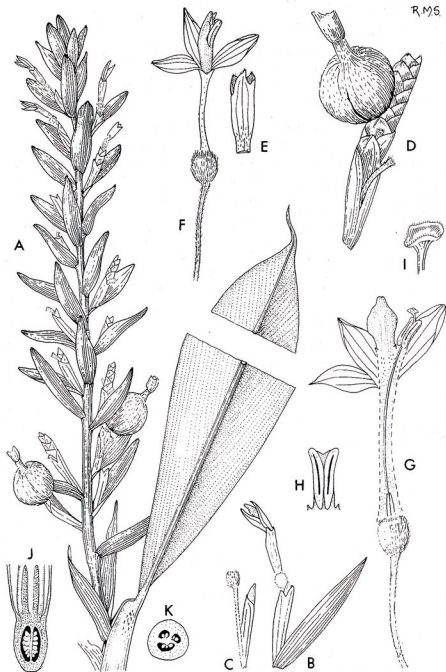


FIG. 1. *Alpinia eubracea* K. Schum. A, inflorescence and uppermost leaf $\times \frac{1}{2}$; B, young cincinnus showing bract, first bracteole and first flower $\times 1$; C, young cincinnus, first bracteole removed $\times 1$; D, old cincinnus, showing bracteoles, old pedicels and fruit $\times 2$; E, calyx $\times 2$; F, flower, calyx removed $\times 2$; G, corolla, dissected $\times 3$; H, stamen $\times 6$; I, stigma, much enlarged; J, ovary and base of corolla tube (showing epigynous glands) in L.S. $\times 4$; K, ovary in T.S. $\times 4$. From de Joncheere 1168 (dried material).

side of the free part of the labellum (or associated with the filament); anther sessile (i.e. free part of filament absent), thecae 3–4 mm, slightly divergent at the apex, pubescent, ecristate; style glabrous; epigynous glands 4 mm, linear; ovary c. 3 mm long, densely pubescent, trilocular, sometimes incompletely so, with axile placentation. *Fruit* 1.5–2 cm in diameter, spherical, lightly pubescent, the apex prolonged into a short beak which is surmounted by the persistent calyx remains.

Material seen: Sulawesi; Sopa Valley, 1100 m, near logging rd, large herb in floodplain of river, 3 v 1979, *de Joncheere* 1168 (Bo — n.v., L, E).

Schumann made no mention of the short, but distinct, tube formed by the base of the labellum and the filament, although his fig. 41B indicates this feature quite well. The character is not uncommon throughout a wide range of Zingiberaceae (*Achasma* Griff., *Geanthus* Val. and *Nicolaia* Horan. for example) and is found in other sections of *Alpinia*; notably *Presleia* Val. (Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea). As far as known, this is the first record of its presence in section *Eubractea*, but in many respects (e.g. the large persistent bracts, flowers borne in cincinni and the small inconspicuous labellum) *A. eubractea* seems closely allied to the other members of the section.

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