



## *Salacca acehensis* (Arecaceae), A New Species from Sumatra, Indonesia

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### Abstract

A new species of *Salacca* sect. *Salacca* from Sumatra is described and illustrated. It is characterized by dwarf habit, with leaves to 2.5 m long; erect and slender staminate inflorescences to 7 cm long; and small infructescences, to 10 cm long, with up to 3 branches. The most similar species, *S. rupicola* from Borneo, is different in having the apical leaflets composed ca. 8 united segments versus 2 in the new species, and in having larger inflorescences, the staminate to 15 cm long and the pistillate to 40 cm long.

**Key words:** Aceh, dwarf salak, Gunung Leuser National Park, section *Salacca*

### Introduction

*Salacca* Reinwardt (1825: 3; Arecaceae, subfamily Calamoideae, tribe Calameae) comprises 22 species (Govaerts et al. 2013) distributed from Burma and Indochina south and eastwards to Borneo, Java and the southern most part of the Philippines (Dransfield et al. 2008) with the largest number of species and the greatest morphological diversity found in the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. Although there are widespread species, such as *S. affinis* Griffith (1845: 9) and *S. zalacca* Voss (1895: 1152), most of the species are restricted to very small areas (Dransfield 2009). The genus is neatly divisible into two sections (Beccari 1918; Dransfield et al. 2008): section *Salacca* with strigose ovary, hispid subspinous fruit, and pistillate rachillae bearing dyads of one fertile pistillate and one sterile staminate flower; and section *Leiosalacca* with ovaries and fruits covered in smooth scales, and pistillate rachillae bearing solitary pistillate flowers. Of the 22 species currently recognized, 20 belong to section *Salacca* and two to section *Leiosalacca* (Dransfield et al. 2008).

In this paper we describe a new species first collected by J. Dransfield and D. Saerudin at Gunung Kemiri, Southeast Aceh Regency, Aceh Province in 1971. The species was later recollected by one of the authors of this paper (JM) who annotated the specimens with the name *S. acehensis*. However, the name remained unpublished. In this paper we describe the new species and compare it to other small species of section *Salacca*.

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