

***Hanguana neglecta* (Hanguanaceae): a new plant species from a heavily collected and visited reserve in Singapore**

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Abstract

We describe and illustrate a new species, *Hanguana neglecta* (Commelinales, Hanguanaceae), from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve in Singapore, one of the most heavily collected and frequently visited forests in the world. The species, growing prominently near the path at the nature reserve, was not described despite being identified as new fifteen years ago, owing to long-standing taxonomic misconceptions in *Hanguana*. The key to *Hanguana* in Peninsular Malaysia is here updated.

Key words: Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Commelinales, Endangered, *Hanguana loi*, *H. malayana*, *H. nitens*

Introduction

In contrast to the rest of the region, Singapore, situated in the middle of the Sundaland, has one of the best-known tropical vascular plant floras in the world. With continuous botanical collecting stretching as far back as 1870, and over 33,000 plant specimens stored in the Singapore Botanic Gardens Herbarium (SING) alone, Singapore currently has a collection density of 5,721 specimens per 100 km². This value is the highest collection density reported for any country on Earth (Prance 2001, Middleton 2003, Roos *et al.* 2004, Newman *et al.* 2007). Singapore's botanical collecting has long been accompanied by taxonomic work, with the first flora of Singapore published in 1900 (Ridley 1900), subsequently updated as part of Flora of the Malay Peninsula (Ridley 1922–1925), and followed in the form of checklists (Keng *et al.* 1998, Chong *et al.* 2009). Analysis of type material deposited at Singapore Herbarium shows, that over 230 new species have been described from Singapore between 1890–1955, with a complete hiatus in collection of types after 1955. As the number of general collections added to Singapore Herbarium continued to be more or less consistent even after 1955, the explanation of a sudden drop in species description is, according to our opinion, result of re-focusing the botanical work from alpha taxonomy to plant ecology, rather than a sign of complete knowledge of Singapore flora. There is some indication that species description is starting to speed again in Singapore: a new endemic *Cryptocoryne* Fisch. ex Wydler (1830: 428) hybrid was described in 2001 (Bastmeijer & Kiew 2001), a new species of *Thottea* Rottbøll (1783: 529) which extends to Singapore was described in 2013 (Yao 2013), a new endemic *Zingiber* Miller (1754: unpagged) (Leong-Škorničková *et al.*, 2014), and two species of *Utania* Don (1837: 663) (both extending to Peninsular Malaysia) were described from Singapore this year (Sugumaran & Wong 2014).

Hanguana neglecta is significant for several reasons. It was identified as a new species relatively early for the genus (Tillich & Sill 1999), but was not formally described. Regardless, in the absence of a much-needed taxonomic revision, the species has remained invariably referred to as *H. malayana* (Jack 1820: 25) Merrill (1915: 3) (Keng *et al.* 1998, Davison 2008, Chong *et al.* 2009, Ng *et al.* 2011). It is also the most prominent of recently described species in Singapore, as it grows along footpaths in Bukit Timah Nature Reserves, the most heavily collected area in Singapore, and one of the best-known forests in the world. That it was overlooked for this long may be attributed to the state of knowledge of *Hanguana* Blume (1827: 15). It is only in recent years that the species diversity of this genus has been recognised and new species described (Airy Shaw 1981, Tillich & Sill 1999, Siti Nurfazilah *et al.* 2010, Siti Nurfazilah *et al.* 2011, Mohd Fahmi *et al.* 2012). The key to *Hanguana* in Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore provided by Siti Nurfazilah *et al.* (2010) is updated to fit in the new addition.

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