



The Sarawak Museum Journal

Vol. LXII No. 83

December 2006



ISSN: 0375-3050

E-ISSN: 3036-0188

Citation: I. B. Ipor et al. (2006). *Cryptocoryne Fusca De Wit* (Araceae), A New Record for Sarawak. The Sarawak Museum Journal, LXII (83): 177-184

CRYPTOCORYNE FUSCA DE WIT (Araceae), A NEW RECORD FOR SARAWAK

I.B. Ipor, C.S. Tawanand N. Jacobsen

ABSTRACT

The presence of *Cryptocoryne fusa De Wit* (Araceae) in Sarawak is reported, described and illustrated. Presently it is only recorder at Kampung Bulo, Lubok Antu, Sri Aman, Sarawak and considered very rare and probably facing extinction in Sarawak with the continuous destruction of its habitat as a result of agricultural activities.

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INTRODUCTION

Borneo, being the third largest Island in the world, harboured numerous indigenous *Cryptocoryne* species. Jacobsen (1985) made taxonomic revision that comprised fourteen species in this Island. Since then, five new species were discovered, *vis.* three new species namely *C. yujii* Bastmeijer (Bastmeijer, 2002), *C. eunoi* Y. Sasaki (Sasaki, 2002) and *C. zaidiana* Ipor & Tawan (Ipor *et al.*, 2005) from Sarawak and two other new species such as *C. ideii* Budianto from Central Kalimantan (Budianto & Bastmeijer, 2004) and *C. noritoi* Wongso from East Kalimantan. Amazingly, Jacobsen *et al.* (2002) discovered a natural hybrid of *C. x. purpurea* Ridley nothovar. *borneoensis* N. Jacobsen, Bastmeijer & Y. Sasaki with suspected parents of *C. purpurea* and *C. cordata* var. *zonata* from Sampit, South Kalimantan. Field observation revealed that the *Cryptocoryne* plants have diverse habitats within their endemic regions. In Sarawak, *Cryptocoryne* plants have been reported from the mangrove habitats