

CABOMBACEAE IN SARAWAK

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Abstract

Cabombaceae is a family of aquatic flowering plants found in tropical and temperate regions. It is a small family with two genera and only seven species in total. The study of Cabombaceae in Sarawak has never been reported scientifically, although there have been reports in student's theses. The purpose of this writing is to report the discovery of *Cabomba* species in Sarawak. Only two species have been recorded so far in Sarawak, namely *C. furcata*, which has been recorded along the Selangau – Mukah road, and *C. caroliniana*, which has been recorded in a palm oil plantation in Sabal, marking a new record for Sarawak. With this report, knowledge about exotic and invasive plants in Sarawak is enhanced for management purposes.

Keywords: Borneo, Sarawak, Cabombaceae, *Cabomba*, *C. caroliniana*, *C. furcata*

INTRODUCTION

The Cabombaceae family, commonly known as water shield, consists of aquatic, herbaceous flowering plants. It includes two genera, *Cabomba* Aubl. and *Brasenia* Schreb., with only seven species registered. These plants are characterized by their submersed growth, with cylindrical, slender rhizomes that root at the nodes, and they often have dimorphic leaves that can be either floating or submerged (Williamson & Schneider, 1993). Studies have shown that the Cabombaceae family is sometimes grouped with the Nymphaeaceae family under a broader classification. Research on the phylogeny, classification, and biogeography of these families has been conducted, highlighting their evolutionary relationships (Simpson, 2010). The Angiosperm Phylogeny Group IV system recognizes