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A NEW RECORD OF THE FERN *PLATYCERIUM RIDLEYI* CHRIST. (POLYPODIACEAE) IN SARAWAK

C.S. Tawan, I.B. Ipor, Jusoh, I. & Bulan, P., K. Meekiong & M. Demise

SUMMARY

Platycerium ridleyi Christ., a tropical fern, is a new record for Sarawak. It has been recorded from the peat swamp forest of Sadong Jaya, Kota Samarahan, Loagan Bunut National Park, Miri and Maludam National Park, Sri Aman. It is a spectacular and attractive epiphytic fern of the peat swamp forest. It possessed two types of leaves, the nest and the foliage leaves. The foliage leaves produced a dichotomous branching, erect and each produces a fertile spoon-shaped lobe where the spores are found. The taxonomic characteristic of this fern is described.

Keywords: *Platycerium ridleyi*, fern, peat swamp forest, Sarawak

A NEW RECORD OF THE FERN *Platycterium ridleyi* Christ. (POLYPODIACEAE) IN SARAWAK

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INTRODUCTION

Platycterium ridleyi belonging to the family Polypodiaceae is known as the Ridley's staghorn fern or locally known as *Tanduk rusa* in Malay or *Lukud* in Dusun (Wong, 1990). It is found in the lowland peat swamp forest. The nest leaves are strongly ribbed, enclosing the rhizome and the roots. The nest leaves are associated with black ants *Lecanopteris crustacean* Copel. The new foliage grows from the centre of the nest, arching upwards and produces dichotomously erect branches. Every foliage frond produces special inverted spoon-shaped lobes with yellowish and golden brown stellate hairs. *Platycterium ridleyi* has been reported to occur in