

**NOTE ON THE RARE TERRESTRIAL ORCHID APOSTASIA ELLIPTICA
FOUND IN BORNEO**

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Apostasia elliptica J. J. Smith has only been collected twice before, in Sumatra and on the Malay Peninsula. The species has now been found in Borneo.

The collection by Bünnemeijer (107) from Sumatra, Westcoast Reserve, Ophir District, N of Talu represents the type and is deposited in BO. The Malay Peninsula collection from Perak, G. Kerbau was made by Md. Haniff (4019). The Bornean material was collected by the author of this note, in Brunei, Temburong District, near



Fig. 1. *Apostasia elliptica* J.J. Smith. A fruiting specimen from Borneo. Photograph A.D. Poulsen.

the subcamp Pondok Busiri on the way to Bukit Belalong. Specimens of the latter collection are deposited in the herbaria of BRUN, K, and AAU. The determination by A.D. Poulsen and H.Æ. Pedersen as *A. elliptica* using the key in De Vogel (1969) was confirmed by the latter.

One specimen (*Poulsen 89*) was collected in flower on May 25, 1991. Two additional specimens were collected in late flower and young fruits (see Fig. 1) on March 20, 1992 a few hundred metres from the first location. During a quantitative inventory of ground herbs in February 1991 one single sterile individual of *A. elliptica* was found 29.7 m S and 22.3 m E from the NW corner of a permanent 1-ha plot (Plot number 2) established by Universiti Brunei Darussalam, at an elevation of 250 m. This plant was left undisturbed.

All four specimens of *A. elliptica* known from Borneo have been recorded from the same ridge in Brunei, occurring only on the drier ridge top near or on a trail and at elevations between 250 and 550 m. As *A. elliptica* is not a common species in the area, the establishment of a National Park of 45,000 ha in the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve, which includes the localities of this discovery, will be important for the future survival of this species in Borneo.

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REFERENCE

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