A NEW SPECIES OF SYMPLOCOS (SYMPLOCACEAE) FROM SULAWESI

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Symplocos ambangensis Noot., spec. nov. – Fig. 1.

Arbor 25 m alta ramulis glabris foliis glabris 3 ad 6 cm longis et 1,5 ad 2,5 cm latis nervis primariis 5 ad 10 paribus petiolo 2 ad 5 mm longo. Inflorescentia racemosa pedicellis brevissimis bracteis foliaceis sed apicem inflorescentiae versus hau foliaceis caducis bracteolis ciliatis 2,5 ad 3 mm longis demum caducis. Calyx glabrus quinquenlobatus lobis 1 ad 1,5 mm longis divisus. Corolla glabra 8–10 mm longa. Stamina multa. Discus quinqueglandulatus sparsim pilosus base stylis pilosa. Ovarium glabrum 2,5 mm altum. Fructus ignotus. – Typus: de Vogel & Vermeulen 7199 (L), Sulawesi Utara, Bolaang Mongondow.

Tree 25 m high and 25 cm Ø. Twigs glabrous. Leaves glabrous, elliptic, 3–6 by 1.5–2.5 cm with cuneate to somewhat rounded base, crenulate margin, and rounded or hardly acuminate apex with blunt tip; nerves in 5–10 pairs, faintly prominent on the undersurface, meeting in an also faintly prominent intramarginal vein; reticulation coarse. Petiole 2–5 mm. Inflorescence a leafy raceme, but pedicels very short, axis glabrous or pilose; bracts resembling foliage leaves (sometimes solitary flowers in the axes of the upper foliage leaves), the largest 2 cm long, flowers at the top of the racemes, or in other racemes all flowers, probably suspended by normal bracts, but all fallen; bracteoles ciliate, 2.5–3 mm, later caducous than the bracts. Calyx glabrous, divided into 5 ciliate 1–1.5 mm long lobes; corolla glabrous, 8–10 mm long; stamens many (more than 100); ovary glabrous, 2.5 mm high; disk 5-glandular, sparsely hairy; style base hairy. Fruits not known.

Distribution. Indonesia, North Sulawesi, Menado Dist. (type) and Poso Dist. (Eyma 3638, buds only).

Ecology. Mountain plant, 1780 m (once cited), in the other collection only 'Top of mountain', in elphin forest.

Notes. This species resembles S. buxifolia Stapf from North Borneo (Mount Kinabalu) but differs from it i.a. in the longer racemes, longer pedicels, the calyx being only 1–1.5 mm, wholly divided into the lobes. It also shows resemblance with S. bractealis Thwaites from Sri Lanka and some forms of S. cochinchinensis (Lour.) Moore from New Guinea. Apparently, the leaf characters are an adaptation to higher altitudes.

In Flora Malesiana I, 8 (1977) 229–230, key for Celebes and the Moluccas, it keys out at lead 25 next to S. maliliensis:
   25a. Leaves 15–22 cm long .................................. 36. S. maliliensis
   25a. Leaves 3–6 cm long .................................. S. ambangensis

In the key on pp. 237–238 it keys out whether next to *S. maliliensis*:

17a. Leaves 15–22 cm long .................................. 36. S. maliliensis
17a. Leaves 3–6 cm long .................................. S. ambangensis

or next to *S. cochinchinensis*:

20. Stone different.
   20a. Leaves more than 6 cm long ..................... 16. S. cochinchinensis
   20a. Leaves shorter than 6 cm .......................... S. ambangensis