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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Schismatoglottideae (Araceae) of Borneo LXXXI: Two New Species of Ooia

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ABSTRACT

Ooia rhea and *O. stygis* are described as new species from, respectively, Paleogene shales in Kalimantan Utara and Palaeogene granites in Kalimantan Barat, Indonesian Borneo, and together taking the genus to fourteen species. A comparative figure of the spadix, the definitive means to delimitate species, of all species is provided and both proposed novelties are illustrated from living plants.

1 | Introduction

The genus *Ooia* S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce (Wong and Boyce 2010, 2016; Low et al. 2018) includes twelve species of small to medium-sized obligate Steenisian (Boyce and Wong 2019) rheophytes with habitually nodding mostly fragrant pink-spathed anthomorphs that are either solitary or emerge as synanthomorphs (and then anthomorphs maturing sequentially), a spadix persistent into fruiting, pistillate florets inserted on a conspicuous cushion, staminate florets and pistillodes deciduous post-anthesis, a spathe completely persistent to persistent for more than half its length, with the persistent portion ovoid-subcylindric to fusiform–funnelform and never flaring, and, by flexing of the peduncle base, fruiting spadices in most species pendulous (erect in *O. basalticola* S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, *O. kinabaluensis* (Bogner) S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, and *O. paxilla* P.C.Boyce & S.Y.Wong). Fruit/seed is water dispersed (so far observed to complete dispersal in *O. havilandii* (Engl.) S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce and *O. secta* S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, and partial evidence of this process in all species with pendulous fruiting spadices) with the ripe fruiting spadices hanging in the water and fruits/seeds dispersed by water flushing the interior of the spathe with the persistent spadix axis functioning an as agitator. Seeds have a curved long translucent micropylar appendage up to twice seed length. *Ooia* are notable for stout main roots with active tips with conspicuous gel caps and finer roots producing large numbers of adventitious plantlets, a characteristic shared with the genus *Gamogyne* N.E.Br.

As discussed in Wong and Boyce (2016), excepting *O. manduensis* (Bogner & A.Hay) S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, species of *Ooia* are remarkably uniform in overall appearance, most notably not only are the anthomorphs (Wong et al. 2026) are outwardly highly similar, but the spathe also entirely obscures the spadix upon which the most characteristic morphologies occur making observation of such characteristics, even in well-prepared herbarium collections, problematic.

Ooia is endemic to Borneo with centres of diversity in the NW and NE of the island, although this distribution richness is certainly collection-biased given that species occur throughout the island, with so far all described species both localized and geologically obligated.

2 | Taxonomic Account

Ooia rhea S.Y.Wong & P.C.Boyce, sp. nov.

(Figures 1A and 2).