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Three new species of *Homalomena* (Araceae) from Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: Three new species of *Homalomena* from Sumatra and Kalimantan are described herein. These species are distinguished based on detailed morphological characters, with particular emphasis on vegetative and reproductive features, such as distinct proportions of the spadix zones, petiolar sheath dimensions, and leaf blade shapes. For each species, comprehensive descriptions, high-quality photographs, and taxonomic notes are provided. Additional remarks on distribution and diagnostic characters—notably highlighting their specific morphological differences from closely related taxa such as *H. cristata* and *H. josefii*—are included to facilitate accurate identification. The discovery of these novel taxa significantly enhances our understanding of regional botanical diversity and provides crucial baseline data for the taxonomy and conservation of *Homalomena* in the region.

KEY WORDS: Aroid, *Homalomena cristata*, *Homalomena josefii*, Kalimantan, Malesia, Philodendreae, Sumatra.

INTRODUCTION

Recent taxonomic studies have documented a remarkable increase in the discovery of new *Homalomena* Schott species across Indonesia, highlighting the country as a major center of diversity for the genus. Numerous species have been described from Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and New Guinea, with most originating from western Malesia, reflecting both the region's exceptional species richness and intensified taxonomic exploration (Hay, 1999). This progress has also been supported by the growing involvement of citizen scientists, who contributed to the recognition, documentation, and exchange of information on unusual or potentially new taxa (Hariri and Irsyam, 2025a-c; Irsyam *et al*., 2025a-f; Hariri and Irsyam, 2026; Mustaqim *et al*., 2026; Muzzazinah *et al*., 2026; Yudistira *et al*., 2026).

In this paper, we present three new species of *Homalomena* from Indonesia, further contributing to the expanding knowledge of the genus. Notably, many recently described *Homalomena* species had already been introduced into cultivation as ornamental plants before their formal scientific description. This phenomenon has been documented for several recently described Indonesian *Homalomena* species, including the recently described species from Sumatra, *H. lingua-felis* A.S.D.Irsyam, Raynalta & M.R.Hariri (Muzzazinah *et al*., 2026), *H. bungamerah* Mustaqim, A.S.D.Irsyam, & M.R.Hariri (Mustaqim *et al*., 2026), *H. rex* Weessies, K.Hase & Yudistira (Yudistira *et al*., 2026). This pattern highlights the important role of cultivated material and informal horticultural networks in facilitating the recognition, documentation, and eventual taxonomic description of previously undescribed species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The descriptions were prepared based on measurements obtained from living material studied both in situ and ex situ. Herbarium specimens were prepared in accordance with standardized guidelines outlined by Croat (1985) and Davies *et al*. (2023). Morphological observations were conducted at the Laboratory for Plant Experiment, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), and Herbarium Bandungense (FIPIA), School of Life Sciences and Technology, Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). Ex situ material was examined at Jungle Plant Farm Nursery (Bogor Regency) and Yagiza Nursery (Riau Regency). Conservation assessments were conducted following the standard guidelines of the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee (2024), applying the criteria outlined in IUCN (2012). The type specimens were subsequently deposited in Herbarium Bandungense (FIPIA) and Herbarium Bogoriense (BO).

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Homalomena boesenbergiifolia A.S.D.Irsyam, M.R.Hariri & M.H.Fadhil, ***sp. nov.*** **Fig. 1**

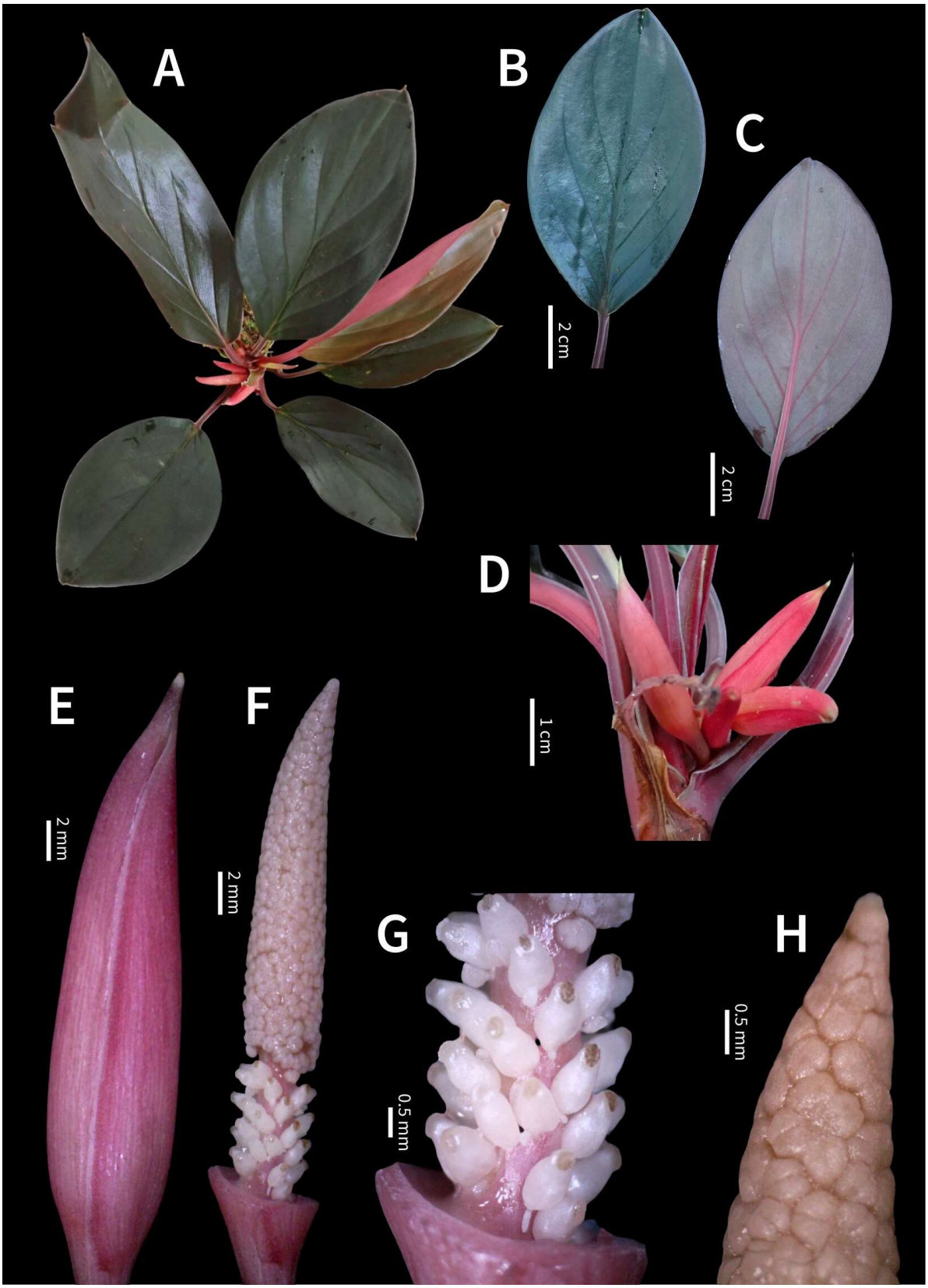

Fig. 1. ***Homalomena boesenbergiifolia*** A.S.D.Irsyam, M.R.Hariri & M.H.Fadhil, sp. nov. **A.** Habit. **B.** Leaf, adaxial surface. Leaf, abaxial surface. **D.** Inflorescences. **E.** Spathe. **F.** Spadix (spathe artificially removed). **G.** Close-up view of the pistillate flower zone. **H.** Close-up view of staminate flower zone.

Type: INDONESIA. Sumatra, Riau, cultivated in a private nursery [originating from Sumatra, Riau, Rokan Hulu], 15 Apr 2026*, M. Tarigan s.n.* (holo: FIPIA!; iso: BO!).

Diagnosis: *Homalomena boesenbergiifolia* is similar to *H. cristata* Alderw., differing in elliptic to asymmetrically elliptic (vs. obovate-lanceolate) leaf blade, cuneate to rounded (vs. rotundate-cuneate) leaf base, apiculate (vs. acuminate) leaf apex, petiole not cristate but winged along its lower half (vs. restricted to basal ⅓), primary lateral veins impressed adaxially (vs. obscure), 7.0–15.0 mm long (vs. 1.5–2.0 mm) peduncle, and white (vs. green) ovary.

Description: Small-sized herbs up to 9.3 cm in height. Stems 7.0 mm in diam., creamy white turning reddish, glabrous; internodes obscured by overlapping leaf bases. Leaves 6 together; petiole quadrangular in cross-section, shorter than the blade, 4.5–5.5 cm long (incl. sheath), canaliculate, winged in the lower half, coppery red; petiolar sheath adnate to petiole, ⅓ to ½ petiole length, 2.0–3.1 cm long, margin revolute, apex truncate, coppery red; leaf blade elliptic to asymmetrically elliptic, 8.3–13.9 × 4.7–6.2 cm, base cuneate to rounded, margin entire, with a reddish hyaline, apex apiculate, adaxial surface glossy reddish-green, abaxial surface coppery red; midrib impressed adaxially, raised abaxially only in lower half, coppery red abaxially; primary lateral veins 3–4 on each side; interprimary lateral veins raised from midrib; secondary veins subparallel. Inflorescences up to 4 together, erect; peduncles slender, 7.0–15.0 mm long, reddish brown, glabrous. Spathe 1.3 cm long, apex with a short white terminal mucro 1 mm long, unconstricted, exterior reddish-pink, interior glossy pink. Spadix 12 mm long, fertile to apex, shortly stipitate; pistillate flower zone shorter than staminate flower zone, ⅓ length of spadix, 2.6 mm long; pistils in 5–6 whorls, loosely arranged, ovoid, upwards, 0.9–1.0 mm in height, 0.3 mm in diam., creamy white; stigma sessile, button-like, 0.2–0.3 mm in diam., white; infrapistillar staminodes few in number, clavate, ⅛ – ½ length of pistil, 0.06–0.30 mm in diam., white; suprapistillar interstice absent; staminate flower zone 9.4 mm long, conical, straight, apex acute; staminate flowers densely arranged, 0.2–0.4 mm long, each consisting of 2–3 stamens; stamens dumbbell-shaped, often unequal or asymmetric, 0.5–1.0 mm long; thecae globose, 0.5–0.6 × 0.5–0.6 mm, opening by a wide terminal pore, creamy white. Fruiting spathe, fruits and seeds were not observed.

Distribution: The new species is only known from Rokan Hulu, Riau, Sumatra Island.

Etymology: The specific epithet *boesenbergiifolia* is derived from the generic name *Boesenbergia* and the Latin suffix *-folia* meaning “leaved”, referring to the leaves shape, which resemble *Boesenbergia rotunda* (L.) Mansf.

Proposed IUCN conservation status: The species is currently known from only two populations, with a total number of mature individuals estimated to be fewer than 100. In addition, its habitat is undergoing significant decline due to conversion into palm oil plantations, accompanied by the use of herbicides that likely impact survival and regeneration. The very small population size, restricted distribution, and continuing decline in habitat quality support its classification as Endangered (EN), particularly under criteria D (very small population).

Note: The original material was collected by Multazam Tarigan and later transported to Bogor, where it was maintained in cultivation as a living collection. The type specimen was subsequently prepared from this cultivated material.

Homalomena trigona A.S.D.Irsyam, M.R.Hariri & M.H.Fadhil, ***sp. nov.*** **Fig. 2**

Type: INDONESIA. West Java, Bogor, Gunung Picung, cultivated in a private nursery [originating from Sumatra], 5 April 2026, *MR Hariri 2112* (holo: FIPIA!).

Diagnosis: *Homalomena trigona* is similar to *H. cristata* Alderw., differing in having entire-winged (vs. cristate) petiole, ovate to asymmetrically elliptic (vs. obovate-lanceolate) leaf blade, reddish green (vs. dull green) adaxial leaf surface, cuneate to rounded (vs. rotundate-cuneate) leaf base, revolute (vs. flat) margin, apiculate (vs. acuminate) leaf apex, primary lateral veins impressed adaxially (vs. obscure), conspicuously raised (vs. flat to slightly sunken) intercostal regions, and white (vs. green) ovary.

Description: Small herbs up to 9.6 cm in height. Stems 3.0 mm in diam., reddish, glabrous; internodes obscured by overlapping leaf bases. Leaves 6 together; petiole slender, quadrangular in cross-section, longer than the blade, 2.0–4.0 cm long (incl. sheath), canaliculate, fully winged, reddish-green to coppery red; petiolar sheath adnate to petiole, ⅓ to ½ of the petiole length, 6.0–10.0 mm long, margin undulate, apex truncate, reddish-green; leaf blade ovate to asymmetrically elliptic, 2.3–6.2 × 1.2–2.5 cm, base cuneate to rounded, margin entire with revolute reddish hyaline, apex apiculate, adaxial surface reddish-green, abaxial surface reddish-green to coppery red; midrib impressed adaxially, raised abaxially, coppery red abaxially; primary lateral veins 3 on each side; interprimary lateral veins raised from midrib; secondary veins subparallel. Inflorescences up to 2 together, erect; peduncles slender, 18–22 mm long, coppery red, glabrous. Spathe 1.6 cm long, apex with a short green terminal mucro for 1.0 mm long, unconstricted, exterior deep red, interior deep red, longitudinally ribbed. Spadix 14 mm long, fertile to apex, sessile; pistillate flower zone shorter than staminate flower zone, ¼ length of spadix, 3.0 mm long; pistils in 3 whorls, loosely arranged, ovoid-trigonal, upwards, 0.9–1.0 mm in height, 0.5–0.9 mm in diam., white; stigma sessile, button-like, 0.2–0.3 mm in diam., white;

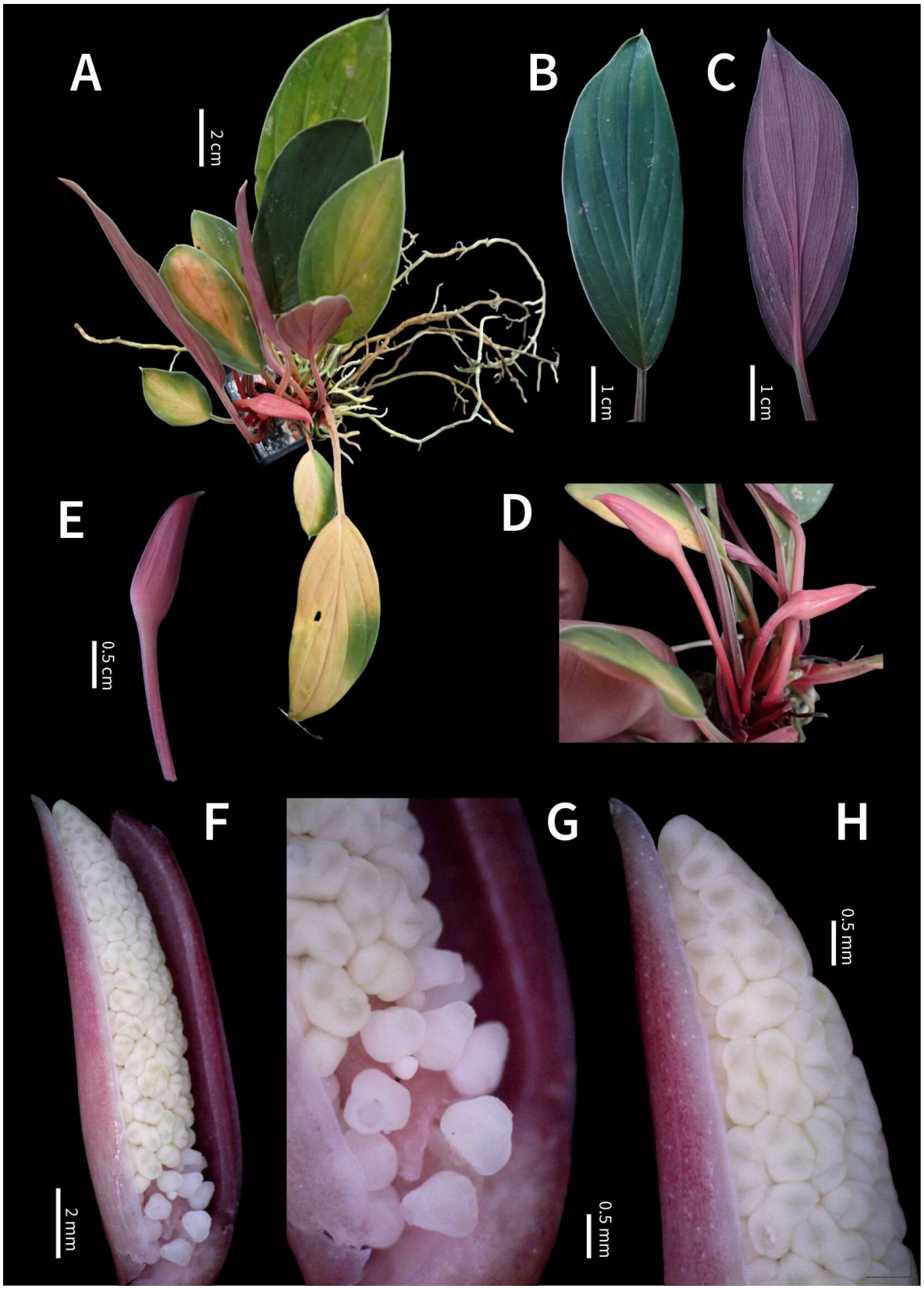

Fig. 2. ***Homalomena trigona*** A.S.D.Irsyam, M.R.Hariri & M.H.Fadhil, sp. nov. **A.** Habit. **B.** Leaf, adaxial surface. Leaf, abaxial surface. **D.** Inflorescences. **E.** Spathe. **F.** Spadix (spathe artificially removed). **G.** Close-up view of the pistillate flower zone. **H.** Close-up view of the staminate flower zone.

Table 1. Morphological comparison of ***Homalomena boesenbergiifolia***, ***Homalomena trigona***, and ***Homalomena cristata***.

Character	*H. boesenbergiifolia*	*H. trigona*	*H. cristata*
Habit	small herbs up to 9.3 cm in height	small herbs up to 9.6 cm in height	small herbs up to 15 cm in height
Leaf blade	elliptic to asymmetrically elliptic	ovate to asymmetrically elliptic	obovate-lanceolate
Leaf base	cuneate to rounded	cuneate to rounded	rotundate-cuneate
Leaf margin	revolute	revolute	flat
Leaf apex	apiculate	apiculate	acuminate
Petiole	not cristate (entire wings)	not cristate (entire wings)	cristate in basal ⅓ of petiole length
The number of wings/cristae on petiole	4 wings	4 wings	cristae up to 7
Primary lateral veins	impressed adaxially	impressed adaxially	obscure
Peduncle length	7.0–15.0 mm	18–22 mm	1.5–2.0 mm
Spadix	shortly stipitate	sessile	sessile
Ovary color	white	white	green

infrapistillar staminodes few, clavate, ⅛–⅓ length of pistil, 0.06–0.3 mm in diam., white; suprapistillar interstice absent; staminate flower zone 11 mm long, conical, straight, apex acute; staminate flowers densely arranged, 0.7–1.0 mm long, each consisting of 2–3 stamens; stamens dumbbell-shaped, often unequal or asymmetric, 0.5–1.0 mm long; thecae globose, 0.5–0.6 × 0.5–0.6 mm, opening by a wide terminal pore, creamy white with apex almost transparent. Fruiting spathe, fruits and seeds were not observed.

Distribution: *Homalomena trigona* is cultivated in Bogor, West Java, where it is maintained as part of a living collection. The species is originally native to Sumatra, Indonesia, from which the cultivated material was sourced. This ex situ cultivation ensures its continued study and conservation outside its natural habitat.

Etymology: The specific epithet *trigona* is derived from the Latin *trigonus*, meaning "three-angled" or "triangular," referring to the distinctive three-angled morphology observed in the pistil.

Proposed IUCN conservation status: Based on the currently available information, the species is known only from cultivated material of uncertain precise provenance, and there is no reliable estimate of the number of mature individuals. Given the absence of sufficient data on population size, trends, and potential threats, the species is best classified as Data Deficient (DD).

Note: The original material was collected by Ronal Chandra and later transported to Bogor, where it was maintained in cultivation as a living collection. The type specimen was subsequently prepared from this cultivated material. The morphological comparison among *H. boesenbergiifolia*, *H. trigona*, and *H. cristata* is presented in Table 1.

Homalomena widyatmokoi A.S.D.Irsyam & M.R.Hariri, ***sp. nov.*** **Fig. 3**

Type: INDONESIA. West Java, Bogor, Gunung Picung, cultivated in a private nursery [originating from Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, Kapuas Hulu, Bunut Hulu], 5 April 2026, *MR Hariri 2110* (holo: FIPIA; iso: BO!).

Diagnosis: *Homalomena widyatmokoi* is similar to *H. josefii* P.Boyce & S.Y.Wong but differs in having petiolar sheath up to ½ (vs. ¼ to ⅓) of the petiole length, green (vs. flush pink) upper spathe limb, naked (vs. with staminode) suprapistillar interstice, the absence of pistillodes at the base of interstice (vs. present), two rows of staminodes at the base of staminate flower zone (vs. one), and staminate flower zone ⅔ (vs. ½) of spadix.

Description: Medium rheophytic herbs, 18.4 cm in height. Stem 11.0 cm long, 2.3 cm in diam.; internodes obscured by overlapping leaf bases. Leaves up to 9 together; petiole D-shaped in cross-section, up to 18.6 cm long, 4.0 mm in diam., 1.5× as long as the blade, reddish-brown, canaliculate; sheath 1.0–1.3 cm long, pale green, margin in-rolled, entire, hyaline; blade cordate to sub-rhomboic, 12.9–15.7 × 9.1–11.5 cm, coriaceous, base cordate to sagittate, margin entire, apex acute with a cylindrical tip 5.0–7.0 mm long, adaxial surface glabrous, brownish green, abaxial surface reddish brown to coppery red, midrib impressed adaxially, prominently raised abaxially, reddish brown; primary lateral veins 9 on each side, obscure adaxially, prominently raised abaxially, reddish brown. Inflorescences up to 5 together, in a synflorescence; peduncle slender, up to 51.6 cm long, pale red. Spathe 7.3 cm long, lower spathe and limb green turning red after anthesis, pale red at insertion of peduncle, constricted; lower spathe ovoid-ellipsoid, 3.1 × 2.1 cm, moderately constricted at the junction of the spathe limb, the constriction coinciding with the lower fertile male flowers; spathe limb 4.2 cm long, elliptic at anthesis. Spadix equalling the spathe, 6.7 cm long, elongate, cylindrical to fusiform, tapering in the lower male zone in correspondence with the constricted spathe, where it gradually transitions into staminodes, stipitate; stipe 2 mm long and pale green at anthesis, becoming 5 mm long and reddish after anthesis, staminodes present at the point of peduncle insertion, resembling the interpistillar staminodes; pistillate flower zone shorter than staminate flower zone, ¼ length of spadix, 1.5 cm long, weakly fusiform; pistils in 8 whorls, densely arranged, globose, 1.8–2.0 mm in height, 1.6–2.0 mm in diam., reddish-white with red spots; stigma sessile, button-like, 1.3–1.6

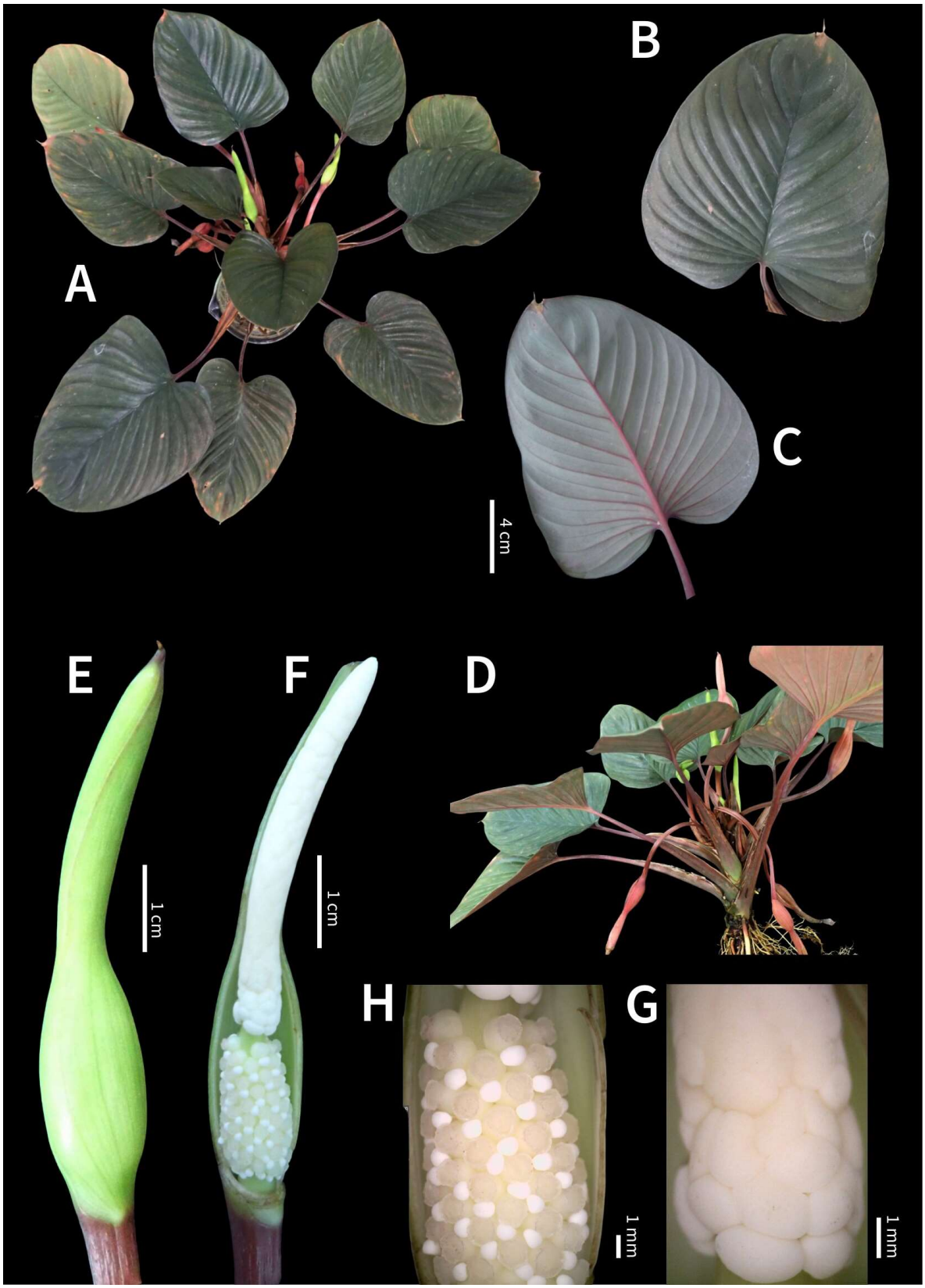

Fig. 3. ***Homalomena widyatmokoi*** A.S.D.Irsyam & M.R.Hariri, sp. nov. **A.** Habit. **B.** Leaf, adaxial surface. Leaf, abaxial surface. **D.** Inflorescences. **E.** Spathe. **F.** Spadix (spathe artificially removed). **G.** Close-up view of the staminate flower zone. **H.** Close-up view of pistillate flowers.

mm in diam., creamy white; infrapistillar staminodes clavate, 0.9–1.0 mm in diam., equalling or slightly overtopping the pistil, white; pistillodes absent; sterile interstice naked, short, 2.3 mm long and pale green at anthesis, becoming 3.0–4.0 mm long and reddish after anthesis; staminate flower zone slender, 4.8 cm long, separated from the interstice by a weakly constricted lower portion of the male zone, bearing fertile staminate flowers that gradually transition into two rows of staminodes; staminodes up to 2.3 mm long, white; staminate flowers densely arranged, 2.5–3.2 mm long, comprising 3–4 truncate stamens; stamens trapezoidal, 1.5 mm long, overtopped by a large, flat connective, white. Fruiting spathe, fruits and seeds were not observed.

Distribution: The species is currently known only from cultivated material originating from Kapuas Hulu.

Etymology: The name *widyatmokoi* honours Didik Widyatmoko for his significant dedication to botanical research and conservation in Indonesia. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network and made lasting contributions to the study and preservation of Indonesia's flora.

Proposed IUCN conservation status: Based on the currently available information, the species is known from only a single collection, and there is no reliable estimate of the number of mature individuals. Given the absence of sufficient data on population size, trends, and potential threats, the species is best classified as Data Deficient (DD).

Note: Material originally collected by Hamidi in Kapuas Hulu was subsequently brought to Bogor and established in cultivation as a living collection, from which the type specimen was later prepared.

DISCUSSION

Taxonomic note on the new Sumatran and Bornean *Homalomena*: All new species from Sumatra described in this study are assignable to the Chamaecladon Supergroup (SG), as circumscribed by Ng *et al*. (2011) and further elaborated by Wong *et al.* (2013). This placement is supported by a consistent suite of morphological characters, including small and often creeping habit, unconstricted spathe, and the presence of interpistillar staminodes that are shorter than the pistil (Ng *et al*., 2011; Wong *et al*., 2013). These features correspond well with the diagnostic criteria established for the Chamaecladon lineage. The inclusion of all Sumatran novelties within this supergroup highlights the prominence of Chamaecladon-type diversity in western Malesia and suggests that this lineage represents a significant component of the region's *Homalomena* radiation.

On the other hand, *H. widyatmokoi* is assignable to the Cyrtocladon Supergroup based on its diagnostic morphological characters, as circumscribed by Ng *et al*. (2011) and Wong *et al*. (2013). This placement is supported by the presence of a spathe distinctly divided by a moderate to pronounced constriction into a well-defined lower portion and an upper limb. In addition, the species exhibits a leaf blade with pronounced posterior lobes and a base that is cordiform to sagittate. The staminate flowers, each comprising 3–4 stamens, and the staminodes equalling or slightly exceeding the pistil further conform to the defining features of the Cyrtocladon lineage (Ng *et al*., 2011; Wong *et al*., 2013).

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