



A new species of *Antherostele* (Urophyllaeae, Rubioideae, Rubiaceae) from Mt. Sohoton, Samar, Philippines

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Abstract

Antherostele samarensis, a new species from Mt. Sohoton, Samar, Philippines, is here described and illustrated. This seemingly rare species is the second record of *Antherostele* in the locality. It is characterized by the non-canaliculate petioles, small triangular stipules, colleters distributed throughout the adaxial side of the stipules, small calyces, and strongly reflexed corolla lobes. The affinity among the new species and the other species of the genus is also discussed.

Key words: Mindoro, vulnerable

Introduction

Antherostele Bremekamp (1940: 26) is a small genus of Rubiaceae, endemic to the Philippines, comprising, prior to our study, four species [*A. banahaensis* (Elmer 1906: 70) Bremekamp (1940: 27, 28), *A. callophylla* Bremekamp (1940: 29), *A. grandistipula* (Merrill 1913: 61) Bremekamp (1940: 30) and *A. luzoniensis* (Merrill 1917: 161) Bremekamp (1940: 30)] of small to medium-sized trees distributed on the islands of Luzon and Visayas. All species of the genus are represented on Luzon, indicating that its center of diversity is in this island. Three species (*A. banahaensis*, *A. callophylla*, *A. grandistipula*) are components of the forest understory, and usually prefer habitat near bodies of water. To date, *Antherostele* is poorly known. The only contribution to the taxonomy of this genus was published by Bremekamp (1940), thus implying the need for a revisionary and molecular phylogenetic studies. Recent collections of *Antherostele* are lacking, as evidenced by the scarce collections in local (e.g., PNH, PUH) and foreign (e.g., A, HUH, K, L, NY, and US) herbaria. Currently, all known species of *Antherostele* are threatened and categorized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (2007) under vulnerable status.

Antherostele was formerly included in *Urophyllum* Wallich in Roxburgh (1824: 184; tribe Urophyllaeae) as they share several common features, such as unisexual flowers, salverform corolla, axile placentation, multiovulate locules, and alveolate seeds. However, *Antherostele* was treated as distinct by Bremekamp (1940) because of its syngenesious stamens, long pedicels, presence of leaf domatia, and velvety hairs on the corolla lobes. *Antherostele* was named after the unique feature of its fused anthers.

During the ongoing process of producing a new taxonomic revision of *Antherostele*, a new species from the foothills of Mt. Sohoton, Samar, Philippines was encountered and is here described, illustrated, and compared with the other species of the genus.