

A NEW SPECIES OF *IMPATIENS* (BALSAMINACEAE) FROM CENTRAL SULAWESI

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SUMMARY

A new species of *Impatiens*, *I. punaensis* Wiriad. & Utami from Punabesar, Central Sulawesi is described and illustrated for the first time.

Key words: Balsaminaceae, *Impatiens*, Central Sulawesi.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Impatiens*, which consists of approximately 850 species, is distributed worldwide, except in South America and Australia. *Impatiens* flowers are basically 5-merous, sepals 3 (5), imbricate, 2 minute or absent, 2 lateral small green, 1 posterior large petaloid spurred. Petals 3 or 5, anterior large (standard), lateral 2-lobed (wings) (Grey-Wilson, 1980). In Java and Sumatra there are about 40 species (Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink, 1963; Grey-Wilson, 1989). Information of *Impatiens* from Java and Sumatra as well as from Sulawesi, Kalimantan and the Lesser Sunda Islands is very limited. In May 2000, a peculiar balsam was collected by Wiriadinata during his expedition to Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi. As the result of this examination it turned out that this plant belongs to a new species, which is described below.

***Impatiens punaensis* Wiriad. & Utami, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1**

Caulis repens, ramosa, glabra, 6–20 cm longa. Folia opposita, breviter petiolata, glabra, ovata vel lanceolata, 0.3–1 cm longa, 0.3–0.6 cm lata, petioli 0.5–1 cm longi, stipulae presentes. Flos albus ad purpureus, terminalis, solitarius. Pedicellus 1.5–2 cm longus, glaber, bractea minima. Sepala lateralia 2, lanceolata 0.4–1 cm longa. Labellum non profunde naviculatum ca. 2 cm in diametro. Calcar curvatum filliforme 1–1.5 cm longum. Vexillum ovatum 0.5–1 cm longum, 0.3 cm latum. Capsula ca. 0.5 cm longa, 0.2 cm in diametro, glabra. — Typus: *Wiriadinata 9801* (holo BO), Indonesia, Central Sulawesi, Punabesar, Pamona Utara, 1850 m

Herb 6–20 cm high; stems creeping, branching, glabrous. *Leaves* opposite, somewhat congested towards the stem tops; lamina ovate to lanceolate, 0.3–1 by 0.3–0.6 cm, apex acute to acuminate, base acute, margin remotely spinulose serrate, lateral veins 1–3 pairs, glabrous at upper surface, minutely hairy at undersurface; petiole slender, 0.5–1 cm; stipules present. *Flowers* solitary, terminal, white to purplish, dark purple on the centre of the upper lateral petal. *Bracts* linear 0.2–0.3 cm long. *Pedicels* 1.5–2 cm long. *Lateral sepals* lanceolate to elliptic, 0.4–1 cm long, acuminate. *Lower sepal* shallowly navicular, abruptly constricted into a slightly curved, 1–1.5 cm long

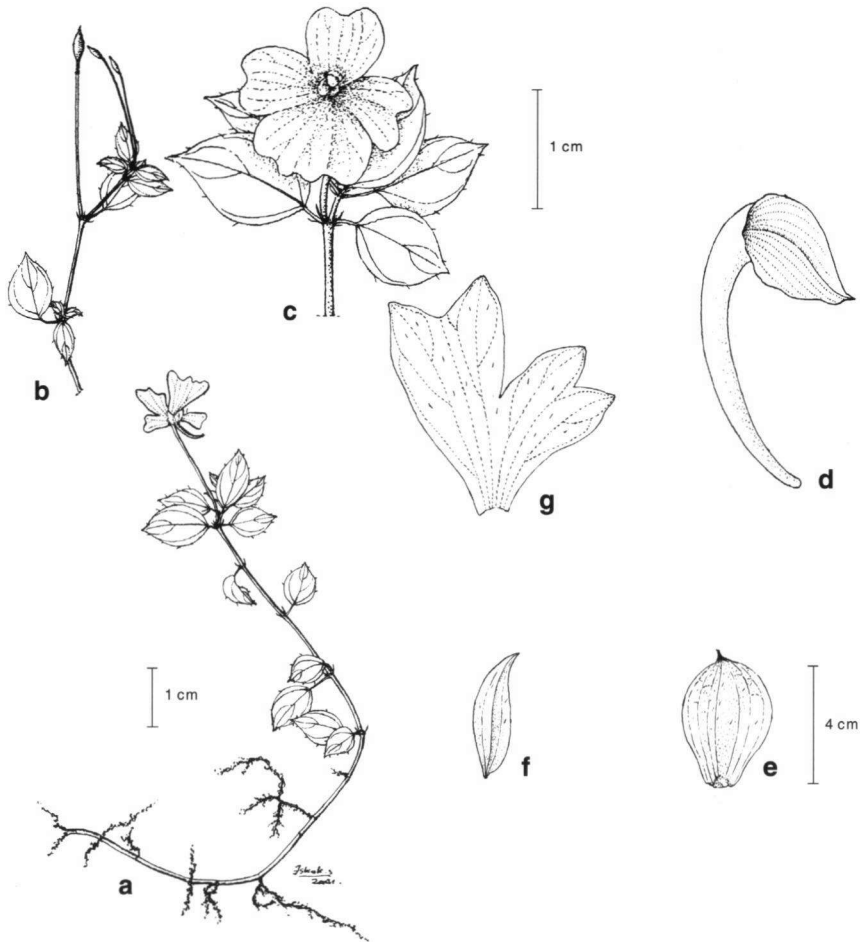


Fig. 1. *Impatiens punaensis* Wiriad. & Utami. a. Habit; b. top part of stem with some fruits; c. top part of stem with a flower; d. spurred, lower sepal; e. dorsal petal; f. lateral sepal; g. one pair of lateral united petals (Wiriadinata 9801, BO).

spur. *Dorsal petal* ovate, 0.5–1 cm long, 0.3 cm wide. *Lateral united petals*: petals subequal in size and shape; upper petal, 0.5–1 by 0.3–0.5 cm, narrow obovate, emarginated; lower petal, 0.3–0.4 cm, ovate and emarginated. *Fruit capsules* fusiform, c. 0.5 cm long and 0.2 cm diameter, glabrous.

Distribution — Endemic in Central Sulawesi.

Habitat — Small riverbank, open places in the forest at 1000–1850 m altitude.

Note — This plant is similar to *I. javensis* Steud., which is distributed in Java and Sumatra, but differs from it in having smaller flowers, a terminal inflorescence and a shorter spur of the lip.

Additional specimens examined:

INDONESIA. Sulawesi. P.J. Eyma 1172, 1486, Maboesa–Soe, 21 July 1937; Singkalong, Loré Bivak, 1 August 1937; Steup 213, Masamba–Limboeng, 19 August 1937.

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