

# Seed Micromorphology of *Orthosiphon* spp. and Its Relatives (Lamiaceae)

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## ABSTRACT

The genus *Orthosiphon* in the Lamiaceae or Mint family is closely related to *Ocimum* and is economically important for medicinal and ornamental plants. Even though the leaf and flower morphology look different, but the characteristics of the seeds (nutlets) are almost the same. This study aims to determine the micromorphological character of the *Orthosiphon* seeds using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Observation of seeds apart from using SEM also with light microscopy on four taxa of *Orthosiphon* spp (*Orthosiphon aristatus* with pink flower, *O. aristatus* with white flower, *O. endanghidayatae* sp. nov., *O. radjaampatensis* sp. nov. and two taxa of *Ocimum* (*O. canum* and *O. basilicum*) as comparisons of their close relatives in the Lamiaceae. The largest seed size in *O. aristatus* with purple flowers (2727  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1364  $\mu\text{m}$ ) was elliptic oblong and the smallest size was *O. hidayatae* (2182  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1591  $\mu\text{m}$  in the oblong shape), while the color of the seeds was from blackish brown to black. A detailed explanation of the surface of the seeds, whether or not trichomes, the characters at the end of the seed axis are described in this paper. The evolution of the main seed characters in *Orthosiphon* is also discussed.

**Keywords:** micromorphology, seeds, *Orthosiphon*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Plant systematics in general use morphological characteristics to classify their diversity into taxonomic subunits. Plant morphological variations usually use these characteristics to deduce the basics of morphological group division regardless of their systematic relationship. The characteristics of certain plant organs can be found in other organs that are usually smaller or finer in size, such as hair (*pilus*), scales (*lepis*), and lenticels (*lenticulus*) which are called micromorphology or additional complementary organs (*organa accessoria*). Together with the morphological characteristics of stems, leaf stalks and leaf anatomy, the types and distribution of trichomes, pollen and micromorphology of seeds or nutlets are important in the systematics of *Salvia*, a member of the Lamiaceae family [1]; [2]; [3], [4], [5]; [6], [7]. However, the seed structure or mericarp and trichomes of most species have not been studied. The micromorphology of the mericarp or seed and distribution of trichomes was studied for the first time to understand the usefulness of these characteristics

for systematic purposes. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) studies of the seeds have revealed that they are round-spheroidal and exine oblate with perforated reticular ornament commonly. The seeds are the ovate area for fat, and the surface of the sculpting pattern is verrucate or slightly reticulated. Research from [8] that the surface micromorphology of leaves and seeds in 12 species of 6 members in the genus *Teucrium* L. was observed using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) provides information about the existence of kinship between members of the Lamiaceae family.

This study aims to determine the micromorphological character of the *Orthosiphon* seeds using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM).

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1. Sample Collected

This activity was carried out with samples of

*Orthosiphon* spp. and *Ocimum* spp. All Lamiaceae member cultivated in Bogor Botanic Gardens, Bogor, West Java, then continued at the SEM Laboratory in Research Center for Biology, Cibinong Science Center, Cibinong, Bogor. Observations were made on the fruit of *Orthosiphon* spp. (*Orthosiphon aristatus* “pink flower”, collected from Central Kalimantan, *Orthosiphon aristatus* “white Flower”, *Orthosiphon* sp. nov. collected from Waigeo island, West Papua, *Orthosiphon* sp. nov. collected from West Java), *Ocimum basilicum* and *Ocimum canum*.

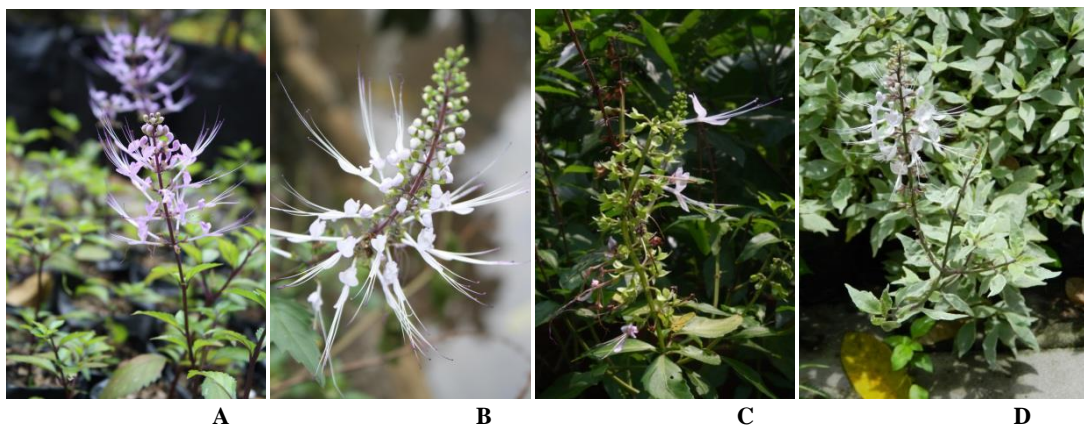
## 2.2. Seed Observations

In addition, other characters are considered as characters that stand out from the observation such as the fur on the surface of the seeds. Seed specimens were taken in duplicate for each type of plant which was labeled according to the collection number. Each seed specimen must be whole and clean. Preparation using 70% ethanol fixation and affixed to the plate and vacuum until clean and dry. Furthermore, using Hitachi SEM, detailed morphology was observed. Observations were made in 2018.

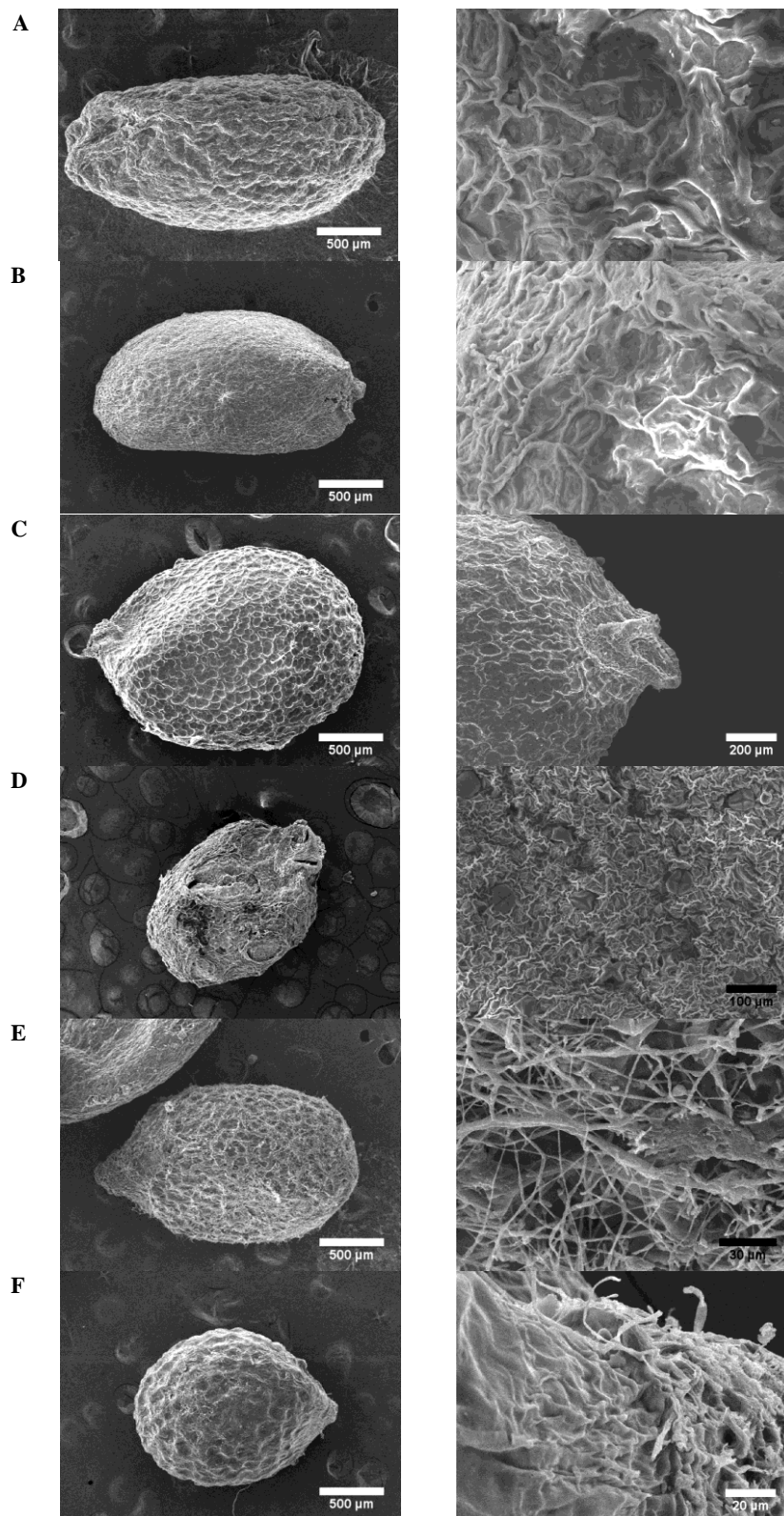
## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Botanical description on *Orthosiphon* plants are shrubs that grow to a height of 1.5 m. *Orthosiphon aristatus* is a plant that is popular both as a traditional medicine and as an ornamental plant. The flowers are white or purple with a stamen and a pistil stalk extending out of the corolla to resemble a cat's whiskers. *O. aristatus* “pink flower” was collected from Central Kalimantan (accession number BO-0017329), see figure 1(A). Habitus is shrub by 1.0 –

1.5 m high. Leaves is simple, obovate, acute-rhomboid – ovate, crenate – serrate. Inflorescences, terminal, corolla labiate by color is pink. Seeds in figure 2(A). Seed or nutlet shape is elliptic oblong, bald and blackish brown by size 2727  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1364  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 1). There is no hair. *O. aristatus* “white flower” was collected from Bogor, West Java. See figure 1(B). Shrub is 1.0–1.5 m in high. Leaves are simple, obovate, acute-rhomboid – ovate, crenate – serrate. Inflorescences is terminal, 13-15 nodes, 5-6 flowers per node 12.4 cm Corolla is labiate, pinkish white. Seeds are in figure 2(B). Nutlets shape are ovate, bald and blackish brown, 2227  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1227  $\mu\text{m}$  in size, oblong (Table 1). There is no hair. *Orthosiphon* sp. nov. was collected from Waigeo island, West papua BO-18 82360 - West Papua, Sorong, Raja Ampat islands, Waigeo island, 50-66 m, 27/04/2008, collected by Sudarmono, H. Okada, H. Tsukaya. See in figure 1(C). Shrub by high 60-120 cm, and leaves are simple, ovate, acute, serrate – sub serrate. Inflorescence is terminal, 5-12 nodes, 5-6 flowers per node. Corolla shape is labiate, pinkish white. See seeds in figure 2(C) are nutlets shape as ovoid, bare and black, 2272  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1682  $\mu\text{m}$  in size, oblong. There is no hair. *Orthosiphon* sp. nov. was collected from West Java, see figure 1(D). Leaves are simple, ovate, acute, serrate – sub serrate. Inflorescence is terminal, 9-14.7 cm, 14-16 nodes, 5-6 flowers per node. Corolla is labiate, pinkish white. See seeds in figure 2(D). Nutlets shape are ovate, and surface are verrucate pattern and blackish brown, 2182  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1591  $\mu\text{m}$  in size, oblong (table 1). No hairs or few of hair in apex. Observations on the nutlets of all four taxa are almost ovate and hairless. Only on *O.* sp. nov.. from West Papua, which has little hair on the edges. But in both *Ocimum* have brown color and hair in an apex of seed.



**Figure 1.** Left to right, four taxa in this study i.e. *Orthosiphon aristatus* “pink flower” (A), *O. aristatus* “white flower” (B), *O. radjaampatensis* sp. nov. (C) and *O. endanghidayatatae* sp. nov. (D).



**Figure 2.** Seeds micromorphology at *Orthosiphon aristatus* "pink flower" (A), *O. aristatus* "white flower" (B), *O. radjaampatensis* sp. nov (C) and *O. endanghidayatae* sp. nov. (D). *Ocimum basilicum* (E), *O. canum* (F). The size follows the pictures below the scale line in each image.

**Table 1.** Seed micromorphology of four *Orthosiphon* and two *Ocimum* taxa

	Taxon	Nutlet size/shape	Nutlet color	Nutlet surface	Presence/absence of trichomes in apex
1.	<i>Orthosiphon aristatus</i> ( <i>O pink fl</i> )	2727 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1364 $\mu\text{m}$ / elliptic oblong	Blackish -brown	verrucate	No hairs
2.	<i>Orthosiphon aristatus</i> ( <i>O white fl</i> )	2227 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1227 $\mu\text{m}$ /oblong	Blackish -brown	reticulate	No hairs
3.	<i>Orthosiphon radjaampatensis</i> sp. Nov.	2272 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1682 $\mu\text{m}$ / oblong	Black	verrucate	No hairs
4.	<i>Orthosiphon endanghidayatae</i> sp. Nov.	2182 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1591 $\mu\text{m}$ / oblong	Blackish -brown	verrucate	No hairs
5.	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	2091 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1364 $\mu\text{m}$ /oblong	Brown	verrucate	hairs
6.	<i>Ocimum canum</i>	1591 $\mu\text{m}$ x 1318 $\mu\text{m}$ / rounded	Brown	verrucate	hairs

From the table 1, that the largest seed size in *O. aristatus* with purple flowers was 2727  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1364  $\mu\text{m}$  or 2.7 mm x 1.4 mm, shape was elliptic oblong and the smallest size was *O. hidayatae* was 2182  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1591  $\mu\text{m}$  or 2.2 mm x 1.6 mm in the oblong shape, while the color of the seeds was from blackish brown to black. Reticulate in surface is finely reticulate, there is in *Orthosiphon aristatus* “white flower” seed only (figure 2B). Verrucate in surface of seed is with irregular projections or knobs, i.e. in *Orthosiphon aristatus* “pink flower” figure 2(A), *O. radjaampatensis* sp. nov figure 2(C) and *O. endanghidayatae* sp. nov. figure 2(D).

Scientific classification in the family Lamiaceae or Labiatae (Mint Family) of the order Lamiales, i.e. one of the subfamily Lamiaceae, namely Nepetoideae, has the tribe Ocimeae and sub-tribe Ociminae. According to [9], which for Southeast Asia was revised on four genera including Basilicum, Orthosiphon, Ocimum and Platostoma. Orthosiphon has a close relationship with Ocimum with similar morphological features on its stems, flowers and seeds. [10] concluded that the nutlet morphology of 11 taxa of *Mentha* spp. distributed throughout Turkey was broadly oblong or ovoid. The *Mentha* taxa studied can be divided into three groups, based on nut sculpturing type such as distinctly biretulate, inconspicuously biretulate and reticulate. Based on the data of seeds then the systematic value of four taxa Orthosiphon morphology features can to evaluate relationship of Ocimeae tribe member of Lamiaceae.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The seed micromorphology of four taxa *Orthosiphon* spp. and two taxa of *Ocimum* spp,

Lamiaceae family members to be similar in size to each other. The largest seed size in *O. aristatus* with purple flowers was 2727  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1364  $\mu\text{m}$  (shape was elliptic oblong) and the smallest size was *O. hidayatae* was 2182  $\mu\text{m}$  x 1591  $\mu\text{m}$  (oblong shape), while the color of the *Orthosiphon* seeds was from blackish brown to black. Seed surface is reticulate in *Orthosiphon aristatus* “white flower” seed only and verrucate in surface of seed in *O. aristatus* “pink flower”, *O. radjaampatensis* sp. nov and *O. endanghidayatae* sp. nov. Seed of four taxa *Orthosiphon* has no hairs, but hairy in *Ocimum* taxa seeds.

Seeds micromorphology in four taxa of *Orthosiphon* and two taxa of *Ocimum* in Nepetoideae tribe (Lamiaceae) can determine relationship both genera in Lamiaceae.

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