



*Thismia bryndonii*



*Diymoplexis obrniformis* var. *maliauensis*



*Schismatoglottis saafiei*.



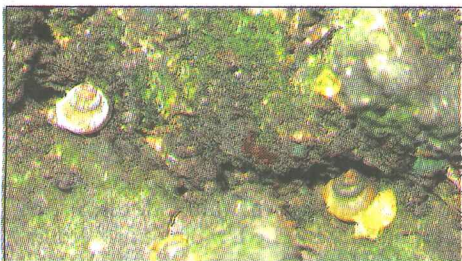
*Schismatoglottis zainuddinii*.



*Alycaeus clementsi*.



*Alycaeus costacrassa*.



*Alycaeus selangoriensis*.



*Alycaeus senyumensis*.

# UMS discovers 11 new snail species

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), through the Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation (IBTP), continues to intensify research on the diversity of natural resources in Malaysia.



The Institute's Acting Director Prof Madya Dr Monica Suleiman (pic) said their researches recently found four species of plants and 11 new species of snails.

"Four plant species were found in Sabah, while 11 snail species were found in the peninsula," she said.

According to her, the two new plant species were discovered when she led a botanical study at the Maliau Basin Conservation Centre together with two research

partners, Dr Kenji Suetsugu, from the Department of Biology, Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Japan and Dr Hirokazu Tsukaya from the Department of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, Japan.

"The first new plant species was named *Thismia bryndonii*, a saprofit plant. While the other plant is a variety of new orchid flowers named *Didymoplexis obrniformis* var. *maliauensis*, in conjunction with the name of the area it was found in the Maliau Basin," said Dr Monica.

She said two more new findings were obtained through a study conducted by Prof Madya Dr Kartini Saibeh together with Sabah Parks at Taman Bukit Tawau.

"The IBTP lecturer, who is currently on "loan" at the UMS Sustainable Agriculture Faculty in the Sandakan campus with two other researchers, Peter C. Boyce from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,

Germany and Prof Madya Dr Wong Sin Yeng from the Science and Technology Resources Faculty Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), has found two new yam species, named *Schismatoglottis saafiei* and *Schismatoglottis zainuddinii*," she explained.

Dr Monica further said the 11 species of shellfish found in the peninsula have been identified as new species by an IBTP researcher, Dr Liew Thor Seng, and Foon Junn Kitt, an IBTP postgraduate student.

"The 11 new species have been named *Alycaeus selangoriensis*, *Alycaeus costacrassa*, *Alycaeus ikanensis*, *Alycaeus alticola*, *Alycaeus charasensis*, *Alycaeus kuraensis*, *Alycaeus regalis*, *Alycaeus virgogravida*, *Alycaeus senyumensis*, *Alycaeus expansus* and *Alycaeus clementsi*," she said, adding that the new find brought the number of *Alycaeus* snail species to a total of 28 identified species in the peninsula.