

## **Recent developments in the study of *Hoya* (Apocynaceae-Asclepiadoideae)**

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*Hoya* R.Br. species are mainly found in South East Asia, and present biodiversity centres in the Malesian region, particularly in the Philippines, New Guinea, the western Pacific Islands and southern Asia including the Indian subcontinent. They are generally climbing epiphytes with opposed rather thick and fleshy leaves and milky sap in all parts. They tend to inhabit primary rather than forests while secondary forests. The genus is badly in need of taxonomic revision. Today, it comprises 200–300 species and there are over 500 names listed in the International Plant Names Index, although it is uncertain how many of these names can be correctly applied. A network of international collaborations has been recently set up to try to address the problems related to *Hoya* systematics, taxonomy and nomenclature. In addition a five years project aimed at studying *Hoya* from Papua New Guinea in the field has just started. Papua New Guinea *Hoya* diversity, despite being very little studied, is reportedly very high (about 70 species described so far, the majority endemic), therefore in the course of the present project new species are likely to be identified. Recent studies aimed at clarifying name-application, species-delimitation and describing novel species are hereby presented.