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Conservation status and nrITS-supported classification of the Philippine endemic genus *Greeniopsis* Merr. (Rubiaceae)

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Greeniopsis Merr. (Rubiaceae) is a poorly known endemic genus in the Philippines comprising of six species of shrubs to medium-sized trees. The present study utilized the ITS region of the nuclear rDNA in search for additional support on the tribal position and monophyly of *Greeniopsis* within Rubiaceae, assess sister-taxa relationships, ascertain the congruence of ITS data with other sources of evidence such as cpDNA and morphology, and provide an assessment of the conservation status of all *Greeniopsis* species. *Greeniopsis* was found to be monophyletic and is nested within the tribe Aleisanthieae together with the Southeast Asian genera *Aleisanthia* and *Aleisanthiopsis*. Its inclusion within subfamily Ixoroideae and its sister-taxa relationship with Ixoreae were likewise supported. Our results showed that combined plastid (*rps16* and *trnT-F*) and nuclear ribosomal (ITS) analysis yield very similar tree topologies and that morphological features corroborate with ITS analysis. Moreover, most species of *Greeniopsis* were classified as critically endangered (CR) due primarily to the small number of mature individuals in all populations. Finally, there is an imminent need for the conservation of *Greeniopsis* as potential source of biologically useful compounds.

***Key words*: *Greeniopsis*, Aleisanthieae, Rubiaceae, endemic, conservation status, ITS, Philippines**

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