Chromosome number of Impatiens ridleyi Hook. f.

In 1971 Dr. C. S. CHUNG of the University of Malaya kindly sent me some seeds of Impatiens ridleyi Hook. f. for chromosome examination, which were collected by him at Batu Cave in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur. They were grown to maturity in an air-conditioned room in Matsumoto. The chromosome number was counted by squashing the root tip cells and also smearing the pollen mother cells. The result is that the present species is proved to be 2n=34 and n=17 (v. figs., voucher specimen, T. SHIMIZU 23927 in SHIN).

![Chromosomes of Impatiens ridleyi](image)

A: First meiotic anaphase, n=17 (x1000)
B: Second meiotic metaphase, n=17 (x1000)
C: Somatic division, 2n=34 (x1800)

It is the second example of the genus Impatiens having 17 chromosomes in the haploid phase. The first species of such is I. mirabilis Hook. f. (Keith JONES and J. B. SMITH 1967). Both of the species are limestone plants, being restricted to the very small area; I. ridleyi in south Malaya and I. mirabilis in the north of Malaya to south Thailand. Both of them are characterized by 4 lateral sepals, connate wing-petals and shortly spurred lips, though the inflorescences are different from each other. (T. SHIMIZU)