INTRODUCTION

*Rhynchoglossum* Blume was a genus of fleshy herb belongs to family Gesneriaceae. It comprised of 10 species all over the world. It is classified in the tribe *Epithemateae* or *Epithematoid Gesneriaceae* together with *Epithema* Blume, *Gyrogyne* W.T. Wang, *Loxonia* Jack, *Monophyllaea* R. Br., *Stauranthera* Benth., *Whytckia* W.W. Sm. *Rhynchoglossum* was mainly found from India, Ceylon, Nepal, South China, Formosa, Indochina, Thailand, and Malesia, with only one species grow in Southern America (Mayer et.al. 2003; Weber 2004b).

The genus *Rhynchoglossum* was established by Blume (1826) with one species of *Rhynchoglossum obliquum*. The type specimen was collected from Java. The species has a wide distribution from India, Ceylon, South China, Indochina, and Malay Archipelago through New Guinea. Some genus allied like *Antonia* Br., *Glossanthus* Benth., *Klugia* Schltdl., and *Loxotis* R. Br. are proposed later the synonym of *Rhynchoglossum* (Burtt 1962).

*Rhynchoglossum* can be recognized morphologically as fleshy herb plant with anisophyllous decussate leaf or alternate leaf arrangement, asymmetrically of blade and the unilaterally inflorescence. The genus has a little economic value but several Botanic Gardens and private gardens are growing the plant as an ornamental (Skog 1985). One of the most ornamental planted is *Rhynchoglossum gardneri* Theobald & Grupe from India and Ceylon. The epithet name of *Rhynchoglossum* is from Greek whereas *Rhynchos* means beak; and *glossa* means tongue. The second part of the name clearly alludes to the broad, tongue-like lower lip of the corolla, the first part perhaps to the narrow corolla tube or to the pointed petal tips (Weber 2004b).

Weber (2004b) put *Rhynchoglossum* under *Epithematoid Gesneriaceae*. This group has unique and special characters of unequal cotyledons, symmetrically leaf blade and capsule fruit. The distribution of the group was mostly in tropical Asia, few from Africa, and one species from southern America. The disjunction distribution from this group was very unique especially in *Rhynchoglossum*. 
Several taxonomic study of *Rhynchoglossum* has done since the genus proposed by Blume. Most of the studies generally observed the family *Gesneriaceae*, whereas the *Rhynchoglossum* was included. Some of comprehensive studied were by Bentham (1876) and Clarke (1883). The latest study was a little revision done by Burtt (1962) which is stated that *Rhynchoglossum* has 13 species and with very limited material specimens. From many studies and revisions, there was no specific taxonomic revision for Malesian region that known as the center of biodiversity for the genus. Revision about species biodiversity and the number of species in Malesia has not been done before. Based on that information, the revision of the genus *Rhynchoglossum* is needed.

The research objective of this study was to revise taxonomic of *Rhynchoglossum* in Malesia. Taxonomic revision was done to find the information about generic and species delimitation, by providing data on its diversity, identification key for species, analytic description for genus and species, distribution pattern, and phylogenetic of *Rhynchoglossum* in Malesia.