

IV. THE GENUS *ACTEPHILA* BL. (EUPHORBIACEAE) IN THAILAND

In reporting *Dimorphocalyx ovalis* Ridl. as new for Thailand the author overlooked the fact that *Gage* (1922) has already transferred it to the genus *Actephila*, and hence the correct name is *Actephila ovalis* (Ridl.) Gage.

The author wishes to thank Miss *Chirayuphin Chermisiriwathana* of the Division of Plant Sciences, Department of Agriculture, Bangkok in drawing his attention to the true identity of the above mentioned species, which led to the elaboration of the Thai members of this genus. Thanks are also due to Miss *Amphai Yongboonkird*, Chief, Section of Plant Taxonomy, Department of Agriculture, for her kindness in putting the collection referred to below on loan.

There is a rich collection of this genus in the *Kerr's* Herbarium (BK) in the Department of Agriculture, amongst them *Actephila collinsae* Hunt apud Craib is relevant. After working through the collection, I am able to sort them out into two groups, one belonging to *A. collinsae* and the other *A. ovalis*.

In order to make a thorough study, reference was made to *Gagnepain* (1927), as a result another species, *Actephila siamensis* Pierre ex Gagnepain turned up. This species is based on a single *Pierre's* collection from Phetburi, Southwestern Thailand. Judging from the description it seems to tally well with *A. collinsae*. Unfortunately the type specimen and the reference of *A. siamensis* are not available for a critical study at all, therefore it is not possible to decide whether they are conspecific. It is of great interest to note here that both *A. collinsae* and *A. siamensis* are described from type specimens collected from the same locality, i.e. Phetburi, and both authorities published their find's in 1924.

It is apparent that at the present, only 3 species of *Actephila* are represented in Thailand as followingly enumerated :

Actephila collinsae Hunter *apud* Craib in Kew Bull. 1924, p. 96.

Localities in Thailand : Central. Saraburi, Kaeng Khoi, Maenam Prasak, under 50 m., shrub to about 2 m. high; flowers pale yellow; evergreen forest on rocky limestone, December 9, 1923, *A.F.G. Kerr* 7960 (BK); Maenam Prasak, ca 100 m., Spreading shrub about 1 m. high; among limestone rocks in evergreen forest, June 6, 1923. *A.F.G. Kerr* 7059 (BK!).

Southwestern. Phetburi, Shrub to 1.5 m. high, on rocky limestone hill, July 23, 1926. *Mrs. D.J. Collins s.n.* (BK!); same locality, monoecious evergreen shrub 3-5 ft. high, on limestone hill, evergreen jungle; flowers white, 30 m. October 1918. *Winit* 552 (*Type* in BK! BKF!). Prachuap Khirikhan, Upper Pran River, under 150 m., shrub, flowers green, April 1, 1926, *W.R.S. Ladell* 219 (BK!); Pak Thawan, ca 50 m., shrub ca 1 m. high; light evergreen forest, July 29, 1931. *A.F.G. Kerr* 20510 (BK!).

Geographic distribution : Known from Thailand only.

Local names : Sisom (สี่สม, Phetburi).

Actephila ovalis (Ridl.) Gage in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. IX : 219. 1929; Ridl., Fl. Mal. Penins. 3 : 196. 1924. *Dimorphocalyx ovalis* Ridl. in Journ. As. Soc. Straits. LIX : 178. 1911; Smitinand in Nat. Hist. Bull. 20 : 52. 1961.

Localities in Thailand : Peninsular. Chumphaw, Tha Ngaw, ca 50 m., Shrub ca 1.5 m. high, by stream in evergreen forest, January 16, 1927. *A.F.G. Kerr* 11476 (BK!). Surat, Yan Yao, ca 100 m., Shrub to 2 m. high, evergreen at foot of limestone hill, February 25, 1930. *A.F.G. Kerr* 18249 (BK!); Kaw Samui, Shrub ca 1.5 m. high, evergreen forest, April 10, 1927. *A.F.G. Kerr* 12616 (BK!); Kaw Tao, ca 20 m., Shrub ca 20 m. high, in evergreen forest, September 19, 1928. *A.F.G. Kerr* 16025 (BK!); same loc., ca 30 m., Shrub to 4 m. high, dry evergreen forest, December 30, 1926. *A.F.G. Kerr* 11173 (BK!).

Nakhawn Srithamarat, Khao Ram, 1000 ft., February 1922. *Eryl Smith 645* (BK!) ; Khiriwong, Thap Chang, 400 m., Low shrub 1m. high, not common in evergreen forest; flowers greenish, *Smitinand 741* (BK!) : Phathalung, Khao Okthalu, ca 200 m. Shrub ca 2.5 m. high; evergreen on limestone hill, *A.F.G. Kerr 15344* (BK!). Krabi, Kaw Pipi, ca 50 m., April, 21, 1928. Shrub 1m. high, common in evergreen forest, April 9, 1930. *A.F.G. Kerr 18910* (BK!) ; Phanom Bencha, ca 300 m., March 29, 1930, *A.F.G. Kerr 19389* (BK!).

Geographic distribution : Thailand, Malaya.

Local names : Phut muli (พุ่มลี, Surat) ; Dawk iso khao (ดอกอีโสภา, Srithamarat).

Actephila siamensis *Pierre ex Gagnep.* in Bull. Soc. Bot. France. LXXI : 568, 1924 ; Gagnepain in Lecomte, Fl. Gen. Indo-chine. V : 531. 1927.

Localities in Thailand : Southwestern. Phetburi, (*Pierre ex Gagnepain*, l.c.).

Geographic distribution : Known only from Thailand.

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