

THE PROGRESS OF THAI BOTANY No. 1

by

Bertel Hansen ¹

1. Introduction

After the second world war several nations have taken part in the exploration of Thailand. The collaboration between the Thai Forest Department and Japanese and Danish botanists thus dates back more than 10 years; recently also Dutch botanists have started to collaborate with the Forest Herbarium.

Eventually during the work the idea of establishing a "Flora of Thailand" Working Group arose, and a first meeting was held in Kew in 1965 on the initiative of Mr. Tem SMITINAND and Professor Kai LARSEN. Here the working-group was established, and the search for collaborators began. A second conference took place in Leyden in November 1967 where the final set-up of the flora was decided. Participants in the Leyden meeting were (in alphabetical order): Mr. C.F. VAN BEUSEKOM (Leyden, Secretary), Mr. B.L. BURTT (Edinburgh), Mr. L.L. FORMAN (Kew), Mr. B. HANSEN (Copenhagen), Prof. K. LARSEN (Aarhus), Mr. Ch. PHENGKHLAI (Bangkok), Mr. T. SMITINAND (Bangkok), and Prof. C.G.G.J. van STEENIS (Leyden, Chairman).

A full report has been produced which can be obtained from the participants. It includes: 1. General Statements, 2. Prerequisites for the proper execution of the Flora of Thailand, 3. Collaborators, 4. Financial scheme, 5. Publication Media, 6. General set-up of the Flora, 7. Proposed contents of the Introductory Volume, 8. Flora Technique, Working Scheme, and Basic Information for collaborators, 9. List and sequence of collaborators approved at the Leyden meeting.

One of the decisions was to edit a "Progress of Thai Botany" which would reflect and digest contemporaneous data on the Flora of Thailand: personalia, collaboration, news on progress, field work, and also a bibliography in which would be recorded literature

1) Botanisk Museum, Copenhagen.

references containing data on Thai plants and plant names; the latter will be published separately.

The intention is to print the "Progress" annually in the Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society. We are thankful to the Society for their agreement to print the series.

All who are working on Thai botany are hereby invited to provide us with material, which may be sent to the author.

2. Revisional work

Manuscripts for the following families have been approved by the members of the editorial board:

HALORAGACEAE (R. van der MEIJDEN, Leyden), RHIZOPHORACEAE (Ding HOU, Leyden), OXALIDACEAE (J.F. VELDKAMP, Leyden), OCHNACEAE (A. KANIS, Leyden) and ROSACEAE (J. VIDAL, Paris; RUBUS by N.V. THUAN, Paris).

The revisions will appear in the first volume of the Flora of Thailand, which is planned to be printed in 1969.

3. Expeditions and other explorational work

During February and March 1968 the sixth Thai-Danish Botanical Expedition was held in cooperation between the Royal Thai Forest Department and the University of Copenhagen. The scientific participants were Tem SMITINAND, Director of the Forest Herbarium, Bangkok and from Denmark Ambassador Dr. G. SEIDENFADEN and M. Sc. BERTEL HANSEN from the Botanical Museum. Financial aid was contributed by the National Research Council of Thailand, the Ministry of Agriculture (a helicopter with crews) and the Danish "Rask Oersted Foundation". By means of the helicopter it was possible to investigate five mountain areas along the Burmese border between 16°N and 19°30'N at a distance of 15-30 km from the border. None of these localities have earlier been explored by botanists.

The collections amounted to 725 numbers of flowering plants, ferns, mosses and fungi and 400 numbers of living orchids now under cultivation in the greenhouses in the Botanical Garden, Copenhagen. A full report appears in this issue.

During March to June 1968 Mr. C.F. VAN BEUSEKOM (Leyden) made collecting trips in various parts of Thailand, together with Mr. CHAMLAONG PHENCKHLAI (Bangkok).

About 1360 numbers of Phanerogams and Ferns were collected. The material has not yet been investigated, and a report on the preliminary results will appear later on.

This expedition was the first of a series planned during the next few years. This exploration-work is carried out within the framework of the "Flora of Thailand" Project, in which the Thai Government and the Dutch Department of International Technical Help are cooperating.

During July-August 1968 the second "Flora of Thailand-Project" expedition was undertaken. The expedition was financed by the Danish State Research Foundation and Aarhus University. In cooperation with the Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, it was led by Professor KAI LARSEN. Furthermore, the Bryologist Mr. E. WARNECKE, M. Sc. took part from Denmark, and from Thailand Mr. THAWATCHAI SANTISUK.

Collections were undertaken in the North-Western part of Thailand:

Chiengmai-Fang-Mae Sariang and adjacent areas, and in the area around TREND-camp South of Korat.

The collections were restricted to mosses, ferns and flowering plants. All in all about 1300 numbers were collected. A full report appeared in the first issue of this volume.

4. Miscellaneous notes

A. Additions to "Citations of Books and Serials".

The following titles should be added to the list of abbreviations of books and serials in *Flora Malesiana* vol. 5: cxlv-clxv. 1956.

(See *Flora Technique* for collaborators *Flora of Thailand*, point 18).

Fl. C.L.V.—Aubréville, A. (ed.), *Flora du Cambodge, du Laos et du Vietnam*. Paris (1960 onwards).

Back. & Bakh. f., Fl. Java—Backer, C.A. & Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr., R.C., Flora of Java. 3 vols. Groningen (1963-67).

Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.—Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society. Bangkok.

B. Enumeration of Thai Euphorbiaceae.

Mr. H.K. AIRY SHAW (Kew) is planning to compile an annotated critical enumeration of all Thai *Euphorbiaceae*; it is estimated to contain over 300 names.

5. New Records for Thailand

Prunus zippeliana Miq. (*Rosac.*), known from Japan, Taiwan, S. China and N. Vietnam, has also been found in Thailand. The two collections (BKF 31834, Hennipman 3233) both come from Doi Chieng Dao in Chiang Mai Province. Two other collections of this species are from the Lushai Hills in Assam, India. (Communicated by C. KALKMAN, Rijksherbarium, Leiden).

Eurysolen gracilis Prain (*Labiatae*), known from Burma (Kachin) and Yunnan are recorded from Thailand as follows:

Northern: Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen 1288, Doi Chieng Dao, alt. 1500 m, 17.2. 1958; idem 6555, ibidem, 26.12.1958.

Eastern: Chamlawng Phengkhlai 414, Klang Dong, 9.12.1962.

Southeastern: Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen 346, Soi Dao North Chantaburi, alt. 2-300 m, 15.1.1958.

Scutellaria shweliensis W.W. Smith (*Labiatae*) known from Yunnan was found recently in Thailand: Southwestern: Larsen 9137, Tapoh, 4.1.1962. (The collections of *Labiatae* including the two species just mentioned were identified by C.Y. WU, Herbarium of the Kunming Branch of Academia Sinica.)

The following species of *Compositae* recently collected in Thailand are probably new records:

Artemisia japonica Thunb., known from Japan to Afghanistan.

Northern: Hansen, Seidenfaden & Smitinand 10804, Om Koi, alt. 900 m 20.1. 1964.

Sphaeranthus indicus L., known from Ceylon to Australia.

Northern: Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen 1194, Chieng Dao, alt. 350 m, 17.2.1958. *Southeastern*: Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen 416, Soi Dao, alt. 200 m, 16.1.1958.

Vernonia birmanica O.Ktze., known from Burma.

Southwestern: Larsen 8492, Sai Yok, 4.12.1961.

(The *Compositae* were identified by Mr. C. JAFFREY, Kew)

Among unidentified Thai plants, especially collections of Kerr and Put in the British Museum, which were investigated at the Rijksherbarium at Leyden, several new records for Thailand were found, namely *Platea latifolia* Bl. (*Icac.*) from Chieng Mai (Put 3838), *Scaphocalyx spathacea* Ridl. (*Flac.*) from Ban Wo, Toh Moh (Lakshnakara 692) and *Hedyachras philippinensis* Radlk. (*Sapind.*) from Rayong (Put 2724).

In the BKF collection at Bangkok the specimen Smitinand & Robbins 7896 from Khao Yai Nat. Park appeared to represent *Doryxylon albicans* (Bl.) Balak. (*Euph.*), which is a new record; see literature reference Balakrishnan 1967 in the Thai Botanical Index.

During preliminary identification of the collections made by VAN BEUSEKOM & PHENCKHLAI (see Exploration) several specimens appeared to belong to species new for Thailand, such as *Nothapodytes montana* Bl. (*Icac.*) from Khao Yai Nat. Park (nr. 48), *Capparis assamica* Hook. f. & Thoms. (*Capp.*) from Kanchanaburi (nr. 274), *Homalium bhamoense* Cubb. & W.W. Sm. (*Flac.*) from Kanchanaburi (nr. 409) and *Canarium patentinervium* Miq. (*Burser.*) from Phuket (nr. 725). Doubtless more new records will turn up from this collection in due time.

