

## SHORT NOTES

### I. A third edible marine algae from Thai waters.

Among the 194 genera of seaweed existing in Thai waters only a few have been utilised and only two genera found locally were known to be valued as food. These two, *Geladium* and *Gracilaria*, have been collected and exported commercially.

Returning recently from a survey trip to the southern part of Thailand a third genus of algae was found for sale in fresh form in Songkhla market. Specimens were bought and their origin traced. Subsequently wild specimens were collected in a rocky habitat at the foot of Khao Kao Seng near Songkhla. This third genus, *Porphyra*, is purplish red. It grows in clumps attached to fully exposed rocks that are splashed constantly by the waves. A paper has been published in Thai giving greater detail.

*Jinda Thiemmedh.*

### II. The Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis* Milne-Edwards)

It was on October 25, 1968 that two live specimens of crabs, illegally imported by a Bangkok Chinese merchant, were kindly presented to Kasetsart University by The Vice-Director, Mr. Swasdi Uthaisri of the Department of Customs. They are identified as *Eriocheir sinensis* Milne-Edwards.

The crab is reported to be a native of China. Its habitat is somewhere north of Shanghai. The crab is easily recognized by the thick mass of hairs on the claws, from which the name is derived.

According to Hynes (1960), this crab was first noticed in Europe in 1912 and was found to become a pest because of its habit of burrowing in river banks. By 1935 it was spreading in all the Baltic countries and in France.

Elsewhere the author has presented some important characters of the imported crabs, which would upset the delicate balance of

nature in Thailand. He has also cited instances in the past of the undesirable results of the introduction of foreign species of aquatic animals which became harmful pests to the host countries.

Since there are no less than 227 species of crabs, many of which are noted for their food value and eating quality, found everywhere in Thai waters, the importation of the Chinese mitten crab is therefore truly futile, and, in order to prevent the spreading of the animal of destructive nature, the introduction of this foreign crab into Thailand should henceforth be strictly prohibited.

*Jinda Thiemmedh.*

### III. A new *Pomatocalpa* (Orchidaceae) from Laos.

Among the orchids collected near Luang Prabang in 1957 (see Seidenfaden: On a small collection of orchids from Laos, Nat.Hist.Bull.Siam Soc. Vol. 21, 1966) there was a sterile plant of the *Vanda-Arachnis* group which was taken alive to Copenhagen where we have kept it for more than ten years without it showing any sign of flowering until in the summer of 1969 it produced an inflorescence which flowered for several months. On inspection it proved to be a true *Pomatocalpa* i.a. on account of the bifid tongue on the backwall deep in the entrance to the spur, and the shape of the stipes and pollinia. In the size and shape of the flowers and in the colouring it is quite different from the other species within the genus known to me. Some 35-40 species have been described in this genus but I have not found any description fitting the Laotian plant. Although it is necessary to be careful in connection with this genus because many entities were originally described under the names of *Cleisostoma*, *Saccolabium* etc., I feel pretty sure that we have here a new species, which I will describe as follows:

#### *Pomatocalpa laoticum* n. sp.

*Ab aliis speciebus generis floribus majoribus, sepalis dorsalis ita circiter 10 mm longo, ut calcari conico porro directo praesertim diversa. Flores albi, sepalis et petalis striis longitudinalibus purpureis ornatis.*