

VIII. POMMERESCHEA LACKNERI FOUND IN THAILAND

The genus *Pommereschea* (Zingiberaceae) was described by WITTMARCK in 1895. The rhizome of the plant was introduced by chance to Germany by Carl Lackner with orchids from Burma. As far as it is known to the author, this is the only collection ever made until we refound it in Thailand in 1958. The species is not represented in Kew nor in Berlin, and the type was probably destroyed in Berlin during the war. During the last few years it has been collected repeatedly by botanists visiting the limestone massif of Doi Chiang Dao north of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand, not far from the Burmese frontier.

The plant grows here above 2000 metres in open shrub vegetation among big limestone boulders—and it does not seem to be infrequent. We collected several specimens in 1958 during our first visit to the mountain, regarding the collection as belonging to the genus *Globba* to which it shows great resemblance; unfortunately our material was not flowering, but had only young flowerbuds. During a visit to Edinburgh Mr. B.L. Burt of the herbarium kindly helped me with the determination.

In 1958 I undertook a fixation of root tips from the population on Chiang Dao. Fig. 1 shows the somatic division and the chromosome number $2n = 22$, a rather frequently found number in the Zingiberaceae. In fig. 2 SAT-chromosomes are seen indicating the species as diploid.



Fig. 1. Metaphase plates of *Pommereschea lackneri* showing $2n=22$. The scale is 10μ

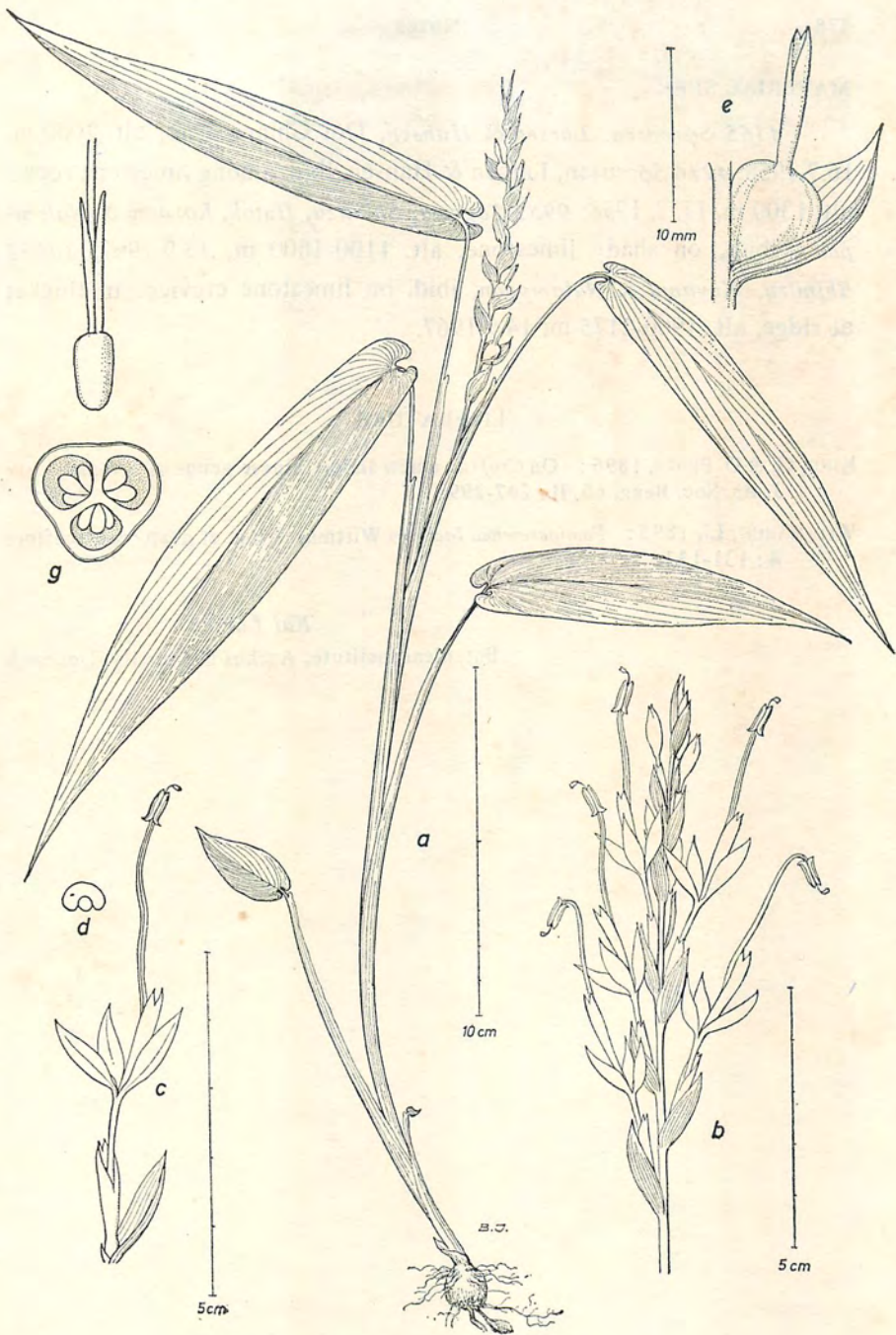


Fig. 2. *Pommereschea lackneri* Wittmarck

a: habitus (drawn after Tagawa & al. No. 9952) b-f: redrawn after Wittmarck.
 b: inflorescence; c: flower with bract; d: cross section of filament and style;
 e: fruit with bract; f: ovary; g: cross section of ovary.—del. B. Johnsen

MATERIAL SEEN :

4165 Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen, Doi Chiang Dao, alt. 2000 m, 16.7.1958; 4216 Sørensen, Larsen & Hansen, ibid. among limestone rocks, alt. 1300 m, 17. 7. 1958; 9952 Tagawa, Shimizu, Hutoh, Koyama & Nalampoon, ibid., on shady limestone, alt. 1100-1800 m, 13.9.1967; 10072 Shimizu, Koyama & Nalampoon, ibid. on limestone crevices in thicket at ridge, alt. 1900-2175 m, 14.9.1967.

LITERATURE

- KING, G. & D. PRAIN, 1896 : On *Croftia*, a new Indo-Chinese genus of *Scitamineae*.—*J. As. Soc. Beng*, **65**, II : 297-299.
- WITTMARCK, L., 1895 : *Pommereschea lackneri* Wittmarck n.g. et n. sp.—*Gartenflora* **4** : 131-133.

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