

SHORT NOTES

1. A new record of *Schisandra* in Thailand

In late November, 1972, after my manuscript on the Schisandraceae for the Flora of Thailand had gone to the press, I received a small parcel of specimens of Thailand plants from Professor K. Iwatsuki of Kyoto University. It contains, among others, the following specimen: No. T 11625, collected by Shimizu, Iwatsuki and others on October 4, 1967. This is identified to be a fruiting specimen of *Schisandra*.

Schisandra together with *Kadsura*, constitutes a small family Schisandraceae which was formerly considered as a tribe of the Magnoliaceae. These two genera are characterized by the climbing habit, estipulate leaves and unisexual, dioecious flowers. They can be easily distinguished from each other by their fruit characters, namely, the fruiting carpels crowded on a subellipsoid axis (torus) and forming a globose head in *Kadsura*, while in *Schisandra*, they are spreading on a much elongated axis and forming a slender spike.

Geographically, *Schisandra* occurs in eastern and southeastern Asia and the southeastern United States, a classical example of the numerous genera with a North Pacific disjunctive distribution pattern. In southeastern Asia, it is recorded from E. India, Bangladesh through Burma to Vietnam and southwards to Malaysia (Malay Peninsula) and Indonesia (Sumatra and Java).

W.G. Craib in his *Florae Siamensis Enumeratio* (1:27, 1925) cited without certainty, two specimens, *Kerr* 3296 & 6678, both from Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai as representing *Schisandra crassifolia* Pierre ex Finet et Gagnep. These two specimens, however, were later examined by A.C. Smith, who in his excellent monograph of the family, correctly pointed out (in *Sargentia* 7:191, 1974) that they actually belong to *Kadsura heteroclita* Craib.

Therefore, to the best of my knowledge, the recent collection made by Drs. Shimizu, Iwatsuki and others in Northern Region is in fact the first true record of *Schisandra* in Thailand. It matches well the widely distributed southern Chinese species, *Schisandra henryi* Clarke. And judging from its concolourous leaf-blades and rugose to tuberculate seeds,

it is better to be referred as its variety, viz, var. *yunnanensis* A.C. Smith. Further confirmation may be obtained, should flowering materials become available.

A brief treatment, following the format in the Flora of Thailand, is presented below :

SCHISANDRA

Michx. Fl. Bor.—Am. 2 : 218. 1805; A.C. Sm., Sargentia 7 : 86. 1947.

Characters of the family; differs from *Kadsura* in the fruiting carpels spreading on a much elongated axis (torus).

1. *Schisandra henryi* Clarke var. *yunnanensis* A.C. Sm., Sargentia 7 : 116. 1947.

Woody climber, glabrous. Young branchlets angulate. Leaves lanceolate-ovate to ovate, 6-8 by 3-5 cm; apex obtuse or shortly acute; base rounded, slightly oblique; margin nearly entire; petiole 2-3.5 cm long. Fruiting torus slender, 6-7 cm long; fruiting carpels subglobose, 5-6 × 3.5-4 mm; fruiting pedicels 4-5 cm long. Seeds flattened, 3-3.5 × 1.5-2 mm; testa rugose to almost tuberculate.

Thailand.— NORTHERN : Phitsanulok.

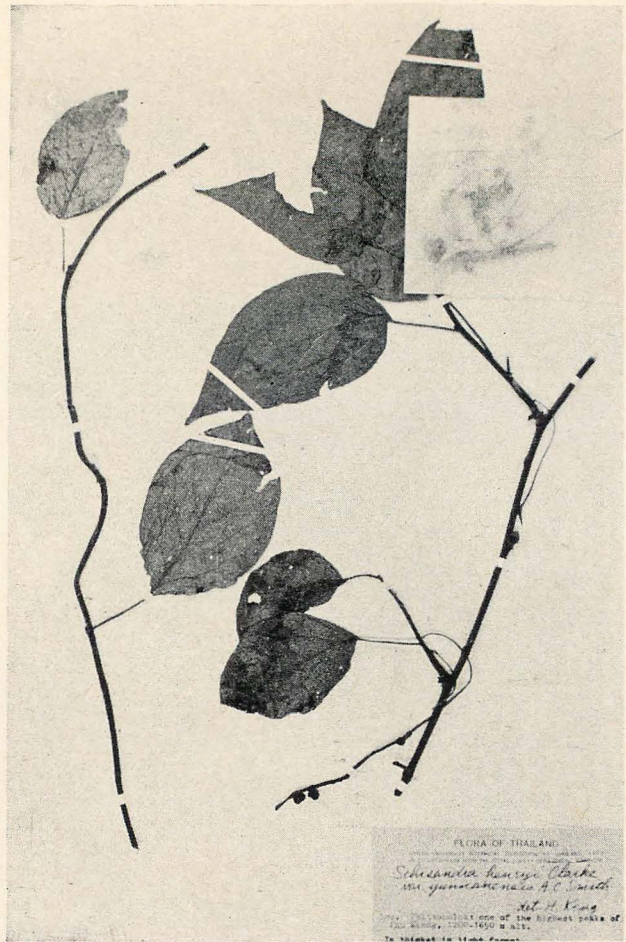
Distribution.— S. Yunnan, China (Type)

Ecology.— In light forest, alt. 1200-1500 m.

Note.— Craib (Fl. Siam. En. 1 : 27. 1925) cited, without certainty, two specimens, viz. *Kerr* 3296 & 6678, both from Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai as representing *Schisandra crassifolia* Pierre ex Finet & Gagnep. These two specimens, as A.C. Smith (Sargentia 7 : 191. 1947) correctly pointed out, actually belong to *Kadsura heteroclita* Craib. Furthermore, Smith also suggested that the type material of *S. crassifolia* from Indo-China is probably a mixture of *K. heteroclita* (♂) and *K. coccinea* (♀).

The present record is based on a recent collection (*Shimizu, Iwatsuki, Fukuoka, Hutoh & Chaiglom T11623*, October 4, 1967). The vegetative, fruit and seed characters agree well with the description given by Smith. No flowering materials are available, further confirmation is needed.

Hsuan Keng
University of Singapore



Schisandra henryi Clarke var. *yunnanensis* A.C. Sm.

