

***CROTON BONPLANDIANUS* BAILL. (EUPHORBIACEAE)
NEWLY RECORDED FOR THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

Croton bonplandianus Baill. is reported for the first time in Thailand with a full description and illustrations.

The genus *Croton* comprises more than 600 species, of which more than two-thirds are American (WEBSTER, 1967). AIRY SHAW (1972) listed 29 species from Thailand and later an additional new species in 1980.

This paper records for the first time the occurrence of *Croton bonplandianus* Baill., originally a native of tropical South America.

Croton bonplandianus Baill., Adansonia 4: 339 (1863-4); RADCLIFFE-SMITH, Fl. Trop. E. Africa. 159-160 (1987). Type: Argentina.

Syn. *C. sparsiflorus* Morong in Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 7: 221 (1893). Type: Paraguay.

A monoecious woody herb or shrub up to 1 m high; branches whorled at the base of the inflorescences. Young shoots evenly stellate-lepidote, older ones more sparingly so. *Leaves* alternate, pseudo-verticillate; leaf-blade lanceolate, 3-6 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, acute, rounded-cuneate, with a pair of basal glands on the midrib beneath, crenate-serrate, glabrescent above, sparingly stellate-lepidote beneath. *Stipule* filiform. *Petiole* up to 1 cm long, with stellate-lepidote. *Racemes* terminal, up to 10 cm long, axis stellate-lepidote to subglabrous; female flowers at the lower part with yellowish glands at base of flower, male flowers at the upper; bracts minute triangular. *Male flowers*: pedicels about 1 mm long; calyx 5-lobed, ovate, 1-1.5 mm long, about 1 mm wide, acute; petals 5, white, oblong, about 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, with tufts of hairs on the margins towards the base; disc-glands 5, opposite the calyx-lobe, reddish, oppressedly globose; stamens 13-16, filaments 2 mm long, glabrous, inflexed in bud, later erect; anthers longitudinally dehiscent. *Female flowers*: subsessile; calyx-lobes 5, triangular-ovate, about 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, disc-glands 5 or annular, reddish; ovary ellipsoid-subtrilobate, 1-2 mm long, about 1 mm diameter, densely stellate-lepidote; styles 3, about 1 mm long, bifid to about half way. *Fruit* ellipsoid-trigonous, 5-8 mm long, 3-5 mm wide, septicial dehiscent, stellate-lepidote. *Seeds* ellipsoid 3-5 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, with a small caruncle.

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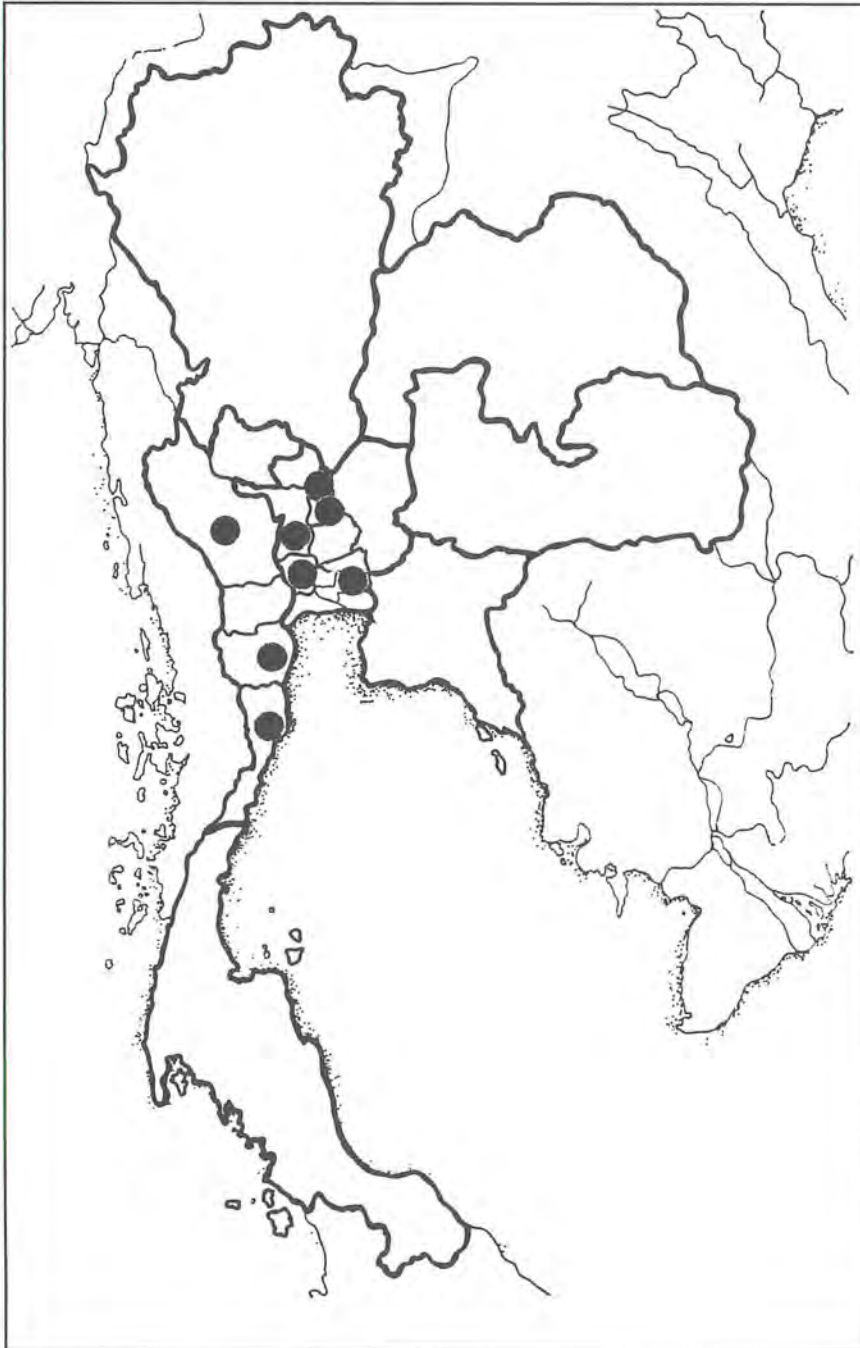


Figure 1. The distribution of *Croton bonplandianus* Baill. (●) in central and southwestern Thailand.

Thailand. —CENTRAL: Ang Thong (Chai-yo), Krung Thep (Bang Khen), Nakhorn Pathom (Khampaeng Saen), Sing Buri.
 —SOUTH WESTERN : Kanchanaburi (Lao Khwan), Suphanburi (U-thong), Phetchaburi (Cha-am), Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin, Mueang).

Ecology.—Weeds on waste places, by roadsides, on paddy or sugar-cane field, nearly sea level to low altitude.

Distribution.—Native to tropical South America, introduced into India and Africa.

Vernacular.—Plao thung (แปล้าทุ่ง) by author.

Notice.—The plant seems to be widespread on open areas and is highly competitive with other weeds in Thailand. Flowers and fruits throughout the year. It is the host of some insects.

Material studied.—Bansiddhi 93-421, 93-423, 93-711, 93-722, 94-262, 94-265, 94-268 (DMS), 94-287, 94-289 (BKF, DMS)

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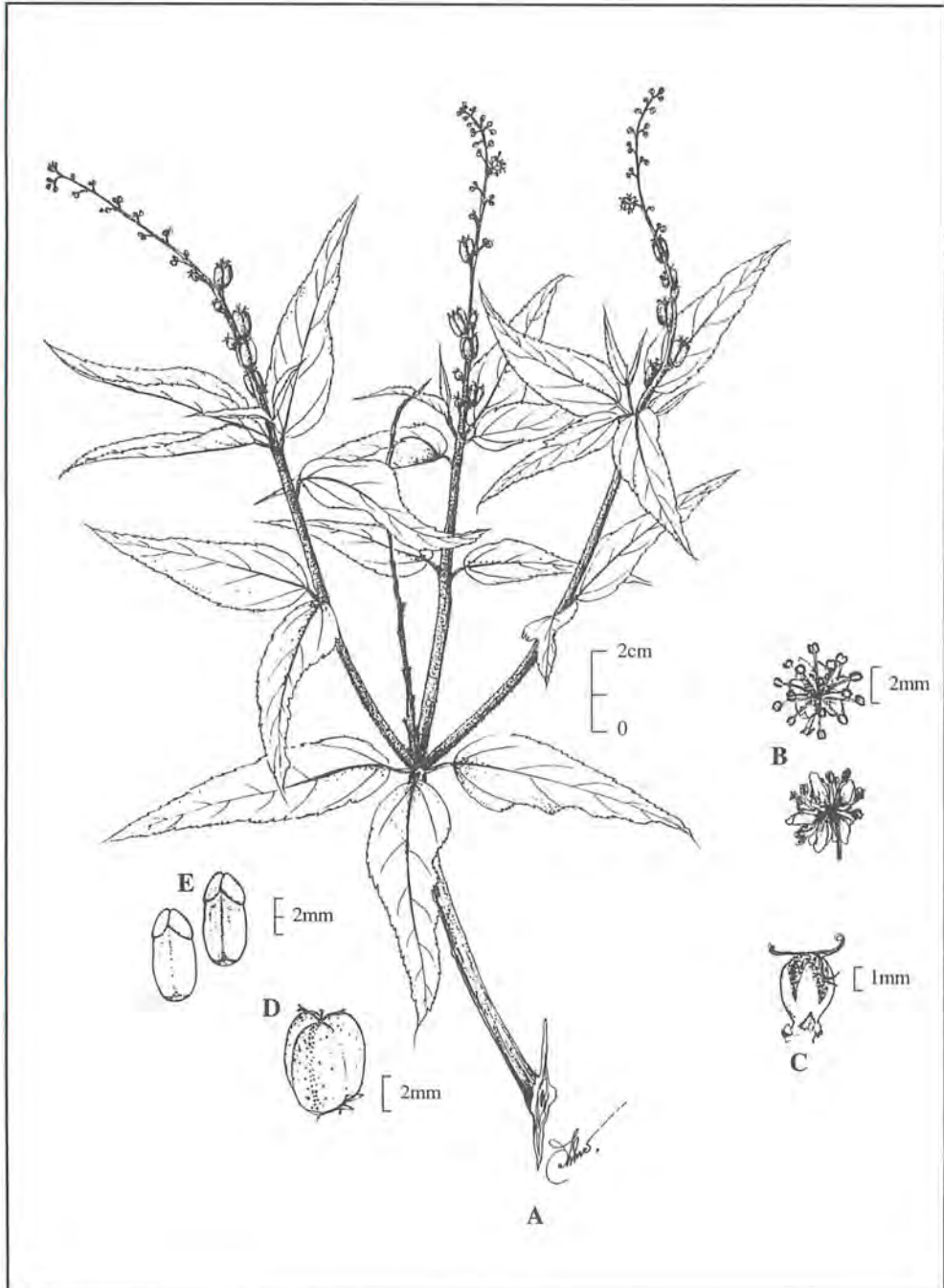


Figure 2. *Croton bonplandianus* Baill.: A. habit; B. male flower; C. female flower; D. capsule; E. seed.
(Drawn by Mr. Viti Nannoony.)



Figure 3. Grows well and is widespread on open areas or waste places.



Figure 4. *Croton bonplandianus* Baill.



Figure 5. Inflorescences



Figure 6. Male flower



Figure 8. Fruits



Figure 7. Female flower with yellow gland at the base of flower.



Figure 9. Seeds



Figure 10. Being host plant of pentatomid bug.

