

Hoya thomsonii Hk. f. (Asclepiadaceae)—New Record for Thailand

Hoya thomsonii Hk. f. (Asclepiadaceae), based on material from Doi Sutep–Pui National Park, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand; at 875–1075 m, is a new record for the Thai flora. The other four species of *Hoya* found on the mountain are briefly discussed.

J. D. HOOKER (1883) provides a brief protologue of this species which was collected by himself and T. Thomson in the Khasia mountains in NW Assam, India at c. 1000–1350 m. The most recent listing of *Hoya* for Thailand indicates that four species are found on Doi Sutep–Pui mountain, viz. *H. engleriana* Hoss., *H. kerrii* Craib, *H. siamica* Craib, and *H. parasitica* (Roxb.) Wall. ex Wight (= *H. verticillata* (Vahl) G. Don var. *verticillata*)—the first three being described from specimens collected on this mountain (KERR, 1951).

Hoya engleriana, originally noted from c. 1580 m, is probably no longer present on Doi Sutep–Pui mountain, however I have found it on Doi Intanon at c. 1700 m and the summit area of Doi Chang, c. 1975 m in primary, evergreen, seasonal, hardwood forest. *Hoya siamica*, a rare species, is still found at the type locality from c. 1500–1600 m also in primary, evergreen, seasonal, hardwood forest. *Hoya kerrii*, also rare, is found mostly in lowland deciduous dipterocarp-oak, seasonal hardwood forest, but has an overall elevation range of 450–1300 m. The most probable reason for the extirpation/rarity of these three species is due to over exploitation because of their ornamental value. *Hoya verticillata* var. *verticillata*, certainly the most common representative of this genus on the mountain, is found from 350–800 m elevation in deciduous dipterocarp-oak, bamboo + deciduous, and mixed evergreen + deciduous, seasonal, hardwood forests.

The fifth species of *Hoya* on this mountain is *H. thomsonii*, which is very rare and is only known from along Ru See-Pah Laht stream on the east side of Doi Sutep from 875–1075 m (MAXWELL 87–1159, 1075 m, 10 October 1987). The habitat of this species ranges from mixed evergreen + deciduous to primary evergreen, seasonal, hardwood forest on granite bedrock. The flowering period of *H. thomsonii* is during September–October, while follicles are produced in January–February. It is an evergreen, creeping species which is mostly epilithic, less often epiphytic. This species is readily distinguished by its relatively small, softly pilose, oblong blades. Hooker named this species in honour of his botanical associate Thomas Thomson (1817–1878).

REFERENCES

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