

Fimbristylis alata E.-G. Camus (Cyperaceae)
—A New Record for Thailand

Edmond-Gustave Camus, a French botanist, described this species in 1910 based on material collected by Thorel in the 1860s at Bassac in Champasak Province, along the Mekong River in southern Laos (CAMUS, 1912). It is an annual, tufted herb with solitary, terminal spikelets 20–30 mm long and c. 2 mm wide. The nutlets are quite distinct in being flattened, i.e. 2-angled, prominently winged on both sides and at the top which is emarginate, the total size is 2 x 1.25 mm (Figure 1). There are two filiform stigmas and a flattened style which is fimbriate at the summit. The base is rounded and conforms to the emarginate top of the nut wing.

The specimen (Maxwell 01-469) was found on a sandbar in the stream just below Tahm Pahn In Falls near Bahai village, Huay Yang Subdistrict, Khong Chiam District, Ubon Ratchathani Province at c. 150 m elevation on 17 September 2001. The habitat is degraded, fire-damaged, deciduous dipterocarp savanna forest on sandstone bedrock, which is exposed in places where patches of seasonal, herbaceous vegetation grow. The stream is quite dry from about December to June.

Morphologically related and with a similar habitat is *Fimbristylis subalata* Kern (KERN, 1955 AND 1974) from southern Thailand, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea. This is a perennial, rhizomatus herb also with stipitate nuts having an emarginate apex, but lacking wings and being smooth, i.e. lacking the fine longitudinal rows of epidermal cells on the sides of the nut.

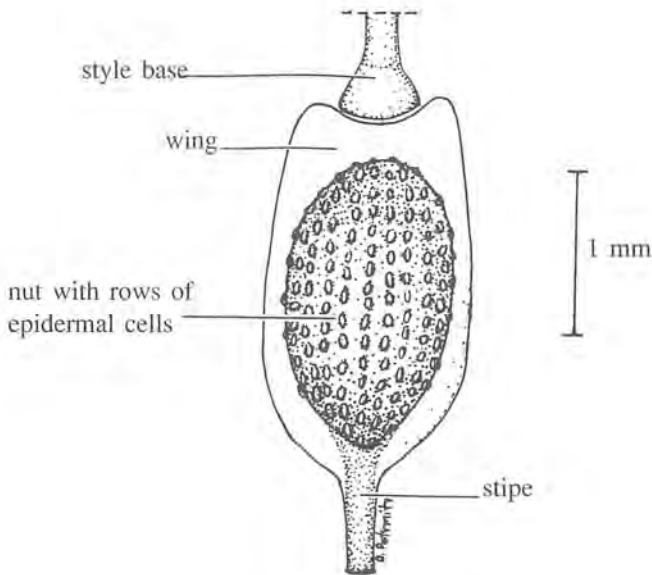


Figure 1. Nut of *Fimbristylis alata* E.-G. Camus. (Drawing by Onuma Petmitr of Maxwell 01-469.)

Fimbristylis alata can be added to the key for Thai *Fimbristylis* (SIMPSON & KOYOMA, 1998) with the following couplet:

- 42 a. Nut surface smooth, margin not winged, peninsular.....*F. subalata*
 42 b. Nut surface with fine, longitudinal rows of epidermal cells, margin distinctly winged, eastern.....*F. alata*

REFERENCES

- CAMUS, E.-G. 1912. Cypéracées *Flora Générale L' Indo-Chine* 7: 94 and fig. 14, 1-2 (p. 94).
 KERN, J. H. 1955. *Florae Malesianae Praecursores*, X. Notes on Malaysian and some S. E. Asian Cyperaceae III. *Blumea* VIII:1, 133-134 and fig. 2 (p. 114).
 KERN, J. H. 1974. Cyperaceae. *Flora Malesiana* 7(3): 575.
 SIMPSON, D. A., AND T. KOYAMA. 1998. Cyperaceae. *Flora of Thailand* 6 (4): 320-321.

J. F. Maxwell
 CMU Herbarium
 Department of Biology
 Chiang Mai University
 Chiang Mai 50200
 Thailand