

***Calanthe puberula* Lindl. (Orchidaceae)—New Record for Thailand**

During one of the botanical survey trips for the Western Forest Ecosystem Management Project (WEFCOM Project), I collected an unknown species of *Calanthe* in the Doi Kajela mountain range, Umpang Wildlife Sanctuary, Tak Province, north-west Thailand on 24 April 2001 (van de Bult 412). It was found in shady understory of open, primary, evergreen, seasonal, hardwood forest with low stature near a gap at an elevation of 2100 m, where it was rare. It remained unknown for several years until Dr. Somran Suddee (BKF) suggested it to be *Calanthe puberula* Lindl., which is a new record for Thailand.

SEIDENFADEN (1975) lists 15 species of *Calanthe* for Thailand. Another species was added to the list in 1995 (SEIDENFADEN, 1995). My collection is the 17<sup>th</sup> species of *Calanthe* for Thailand. This species is an evergreen, terrestrial herb up to 45 cm tall. It is distinguished from other species by having a combination of a short stem (*i.e.* less than the length of the petioles) without fleshy pseudobulbs, unjointed leaves, persistent floral bracts, absence of a spur, lip with conspicuous side lobes, and a rhombic midlobe with two keels at the base and crenulate margins. It is in subgenus *Calanthe* sect. *Calanthe* (SEIDENFADEN, 1992).

Identification has been confirmed by J. F. Maxwell (CMU) by using SEIDENFADEN's (1992) revision of Indo-Chinese *Calanthe*, which has also 17 species. The accompanying drawing (p. 95) depicts a distinct pseudobulb which according to his key and my specimen, are absent. PRADHAN (1979) also mentions a pseudobulb, but the drawing (p. 254) is similar to that of Seidenfaden's. The other aspects of these drawings, especially the lip, conform with my material. The specific epithet of this species refers to the finely and sparsely puberulous pedicels, sepals, and petals. According to PRADHAN (1979) and SEIDENFADEN (1992) the "flowers" are lavender, but my material the pedicel was reddish-purple, the lip was light purple, the sepals and petals were white-light purple, and the column was bright orange-yellow. PRADHAN (1979) noted a flowering time of July-August, which is different from my collection.

*Calanthe puberula* Lindl. was described by the British botanist John Lindley (1799–1865), a prominent orchidologist of his time, in 1833 from material collected in subtropical NW Himalayas (HOOKER, 1890). The distribution given by PRADHAN (1979) is from Simla through Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan, to Khasia and Naga Hills at elevations of 1700–2500 m. SEIDENFADEN (1992) notes that this species is known from Langbian, Vietnam at 2000 m elevation with further distribution in China and Japan. This species can be added to Seidenfaden's key to Thai species (SEIDENFADEN, 1975) with the following amendments on page 10:

- A. Pseudobulbs absent, leaves evergreen and not jointed at the base
  - B. Inflorescence lax; bracts well-spaced, persistent
    - C. Spur absent.....*Calanthe puberula* Lindl.
    - C. Spur present
  - B. Inflorescence compact, bracts deciduous
- A. Pseudobulbs present, leaves jointed at the base and deciduous

Specimens are deposited in the Forest Herbarium (BKF) in Bangkok and Chiang Mai University Herbarium (CMU) in Chiang Mai.

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