

Checklist of Lao Plant Names by Mike Callaghan. Vientiane, Laos; privately produced, 2004. 214 pp. e-mail: Dayak@laotel.com

This is a welcome addition to my library. The first list was produced by Jules Vidal in 1959 and is now long out-of-print, rarely available, and botanically out-of-date. This new book, equally comprehensive and scholarly as Vidal's work, has five basic parts: botanical names, Lao names in Roman script, Lao names in Lao script, common and regional plant names (English, French, Lao, *etc.*) and a guide to phonetics and Lao transliteration. The part for botanical names includes carefully revised genus, species, author citations, family, Lao name in Roman script, Lao name in Lao script, translation of the vernacular name, plant type (habit, exotic, bamboo, palm, vegetable, *etc.*), and common name in other countries (Thailand, France, Vietnam, *etc.*). Synonymous names are also included with the current name given.

Aside from a few spelling errors, e.g. *Acacia megaladena* (not "*megalena*") Desv., *Cassia* instead of *Senna*, *Clerodendrum colebrookianum* Walp. = *C. glandulosum* Colebr. ex Lindl., and not listing many infraspecific names, e.g. *Prismatomeris tetrandra* (not "*tetandra*") (Roxb.) K. Sch. (ssp. *tetrandra*) and *Pueraria phaseoloides* (Roxb.) Bth. (var. *phaseoloides*), *etc.*, I have not found any major taxonomic outrages. Seidenfaden's marvelous *The Orchids of Indochina* (Opera Botanica 114 (1992)) was not consulted, so many listings in this family are incorrect, e.g. *Dendrobium margaritaceum* Fin. = *D. christyanthum* Rchb. f. and *Habenaria columbae* Ridl. = *H. lindleyana* Steud. A map of Laos should have been included since various provinces are often referred to.

As more family revisions for China, Indo-China, and Thailand become available, I hope that the author updates his magnificent opus.

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