

Two new records and lectotypified taxa of the genus *Millettia* (Fabaceae: Millettieae) for Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Two species, *Millettia penicillata* and *M. pierrei*, are recorded as new for Thailand. The latter is lectotypified and its characteristics are discussed with the close genera. Illustrations, descriptions, taxonomic notes and distribution map are provided.

KEYWORDS: Flora of Thailand, Indo-China, lectotypification, taxonomy.

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INTRODUCTION

Millettia Wight & Arn. was first described by Wight & Arnott (1834), based on two species; *M. rubiginosa* Wight & Arn. and *M. splendens* Wight & Arn. It was supposed that there were approximately 150 species in total, with about 60 species in Africa and Madagascar, and 40–50 in Asia (Schrire, 2005), but current molecular evidence has shown that the genus *Millettia* is not a monophyletic taxon (Hu, 2000; Hu *et al.*, 2000; Kajita *et al.*, 2001; Hu *et al.*, 2002). To date, the generic concept of the genus *Millettia* remains unresolved with its closely related genera nested within the *Millettia*-*Fordia* group in the core Millettieae *sensu* Schrire (2005).

We disclose two new records of the genus *Millettia*, namely *M. penicillata* Gagnep. and *M. pierrei* Gagnep., during the preparing of the account for the Flora of Thailand. The first species was previously recorded in Laos and Vietnam (Lock & Heald, 1994; Lôc & Vidal, 2001) and is reported here to occur along the Mekong river in between Loei and Nong Khai provinces. The second species was previously only found in Cambodia and Vietnam

(Lôc & Vidal, 2001), and is reported here in Trat province, near the mountainous range of the Cambodian-Thai border as a newly recorded species for Thailand. The morphological characters of *M. pierrei* are similar to some species of the genus *Fordia* Hemsl., including *F. albiflora* (Prain) U.A.Dasuki & Schot, *F. bracteolata* U.A.Dasuki & Schot, *F. leptobotrys* (Dunn) U.A.Dasuki & Schot, *F. ngii* Whitmore and *F. nivea* (Dunn) U.A.Dasuki & Schot by sharing the calyx lobes which are imbricate in bud and spindle-shaped floral buds (Dasuki & Schot, 1991). Some of these species were previously reduced within the genus *Imbralyx* R.Geesink, in a narrow sense, by Geesink (1984). Therefore, based on these characters, *M. pierrei* may be placed in either *Fordia* or *Imbralyx*, rather than in the broad circumscription of the polyphyletic genus *Millettia*. However, in this present paper, *M. pierrei* remains in *Millettia* and further investigations, using morphological and molecular data, of the species and its relatives are necessary. In addition, *M. foliolosa* Gagnep., a synonym of *M. penicillata*, and *M. pierrei* are lectotypified here.

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1. *Millettia penicillata* Gagnep., Notul. Syst. (Paris) 2: 362. 1913 & Fl. Indo-Chine 2: 390. 1916; Hô, Fl. Vietnam 1(2): 1129. 1991; Lock & Heald, Leg. Indoch.: 94. 1994; Lôc & Vidal, Fl. Cambodge, Laos & Vietnam 30: 127. 2001. Type: Vietnam, Nam Hà, Nam Dinh, *Mouret* 43 (lectotype P! [P02141848], designated by Lôc & Vidal, 2001).

— *Millettia foliolosa* Gagnep., Notul. Syst. (Paris) 2: 356. 1913 & Fl. Indo-Chine 2: 381. 1916; Lock & Heald, Leg. Indoch.: 92. 1994. Type: Laos, Paklay, *Thorel* s.n. (lectotype P! [P02754348], designated here; islectotype P! [P02754347]). Fig. 1.

Shrub ca 1 m high; young twigs densely hairy with ferruginous hairs. Leaves imparipinnate, spiral; petioles 6–15 cm long; stipules lanceolate, 10–15 mm long, outside hairy, inside glabrous, relatively persistent, particularly on terminal shoots; rachis 15–35 cm long, shallowly grooved above; ultrajugal part 2–3 cm long. Leaflets 9–17, opposite to sub opposite; petiolules 5–8 mm long, glabrous when mature; lamina oblong to narrowly ovate, sometimes elliptic, terminal leaflet slightly larger than lateral ones, narrowly obovate, vary in length, 5–15 × 2.5–6.5 cm, apex acuminate to caudate or cuspidate, base cuneate, margin entire, upper surface glabrescent, sparsely hairy along veins, lower surface hirsute, especially along veins, coriaceous; secondary veins 7–13-paired, distinct; stipels setaceous, ca 3 mm long. Inflorescence pseudoracemose, axillary, densely hairy, 8–28 cm long. Brachylasts wart-like or claviform, up to 15 mm long, each bearing 7–10 (–15) flowers; bracts and bracteoles ovate to lanceolate, 5–7 mm long, light red, caducous. Pedicels 1.5–2 mm long, densely hairy. Calyx cup-shaped, ca 3 mm long; lower lobes 3, upper lobes 2, separate at apex, lobes minute, ca 1 mm long, margin hairy, outside densely hairy, inside glabrous. Corolla purple to light pink; standard orbicular, 8–9 × 9–10 mm, claw ca 1 mm long, apex acute to retuse, base cuneate with basal callosities adnate on the claw, basal callosities acute, margin entire, distinct red lines and pubescent on outer surface, glabrous on inner surface; wings oblong, 7–8 × 3–3.5 mm, claw ca 3 mm long, base rounded, apex acute, margin entire, glabrous on both sides; keel falcate, 7–8 × 3.5–4 mm, claw ca 3 mm long, apex rounded, margin entire, glabrous on both sides. Stamens diadelphous; staminal tube 7–8 mm long, glabrous; filaments 1.5–2 mm long;

anthers 0.5 × 0.5 mm. Ovary 7–8 mm long, densely hairy, 1–4-ovuled; style 3–4 mm long, hairy. Pods dehiscent, strap-like, obovate, more or less flattened, 7–10 × 1.8–2 cm, exocarp surface glabrescent, apex acute to acuminate, lower suture abruptly curved to upper suture. Seeds 1–4, orbicular, ca 10 × 5 mm, transversely oriented to the length of fruit.

Thailand.—NORTH-EASTERN: Loei [Pakchom, in rubber plantations and orchards near the Mekong river, alt. ca 190 m, 29 May 2018, *Mattapha* 1179 (BK, BKF, KKU, QBG)], Nong Khai [Sangkhom, Ban Nong village near rubber plantations and the paddy field, alt. ca 200 m, 18°6'19"N 102°30'6"E, 4 Jan. 2018, *Mattapha* & *Pathum* 1172 (BK, BKF, KKU, QBG)]. Fig. 3.

Distribution.—Laos, Vietnam (type).

Ecology.—Dry evergreen forest, disturbed forest in the rubber plantations and near the paddy field, ca 300 m alt. Flowering mostly in November–February, sometimes up to May; fruiting December–February.

Vernacular.—Muang lam khong (ມູງລຳໂຈງ).

Notes.—*Millettia penicillata* is recognised in having relatively persistent stipules, particularly on the terminal shoots, distinct red lines on outer surface of the standard petals and basal callosities which are acute. The leaflets vary in length which up to 15 cm long. After we surveyed its distribution, the species appeared to grow in dry evergreen and disturbed habitats such as orchards, rubber plantations and paddy-fields, with many individuals observed in the recorded areas cited above.

The original description of *M. foliolosa* (a heterotypic synonym of *M. penicillata*) is based on only two sheets of *Thorel* s.n., P02754348 and P02754347 housed at Paris. Therefore, the first sheet is selected here as the lectotype because it is the most complete specimen, bearing leaves, flowers and fruits, while the latter bears only leaves and flowers.

2. *Millettia pierrei* Gagnep., Notul. Syst. (Paris) 2: 362. 1913 & Fl. Indo-Chine 2: 374. 1916; Lock & Heald, Leg. Indoch.: 94. 1994; Lôc & Vidal, Fl. Cambodge, Laos & Vietnam 30: 121. 2001. Type: Cambodia, Kampong Speu province, Mt Srâl, *Pierre* 1032 (lectotype P! [P02141851], designated here; islectotypes P! [P02141852, P02141853]). Fig. 2.

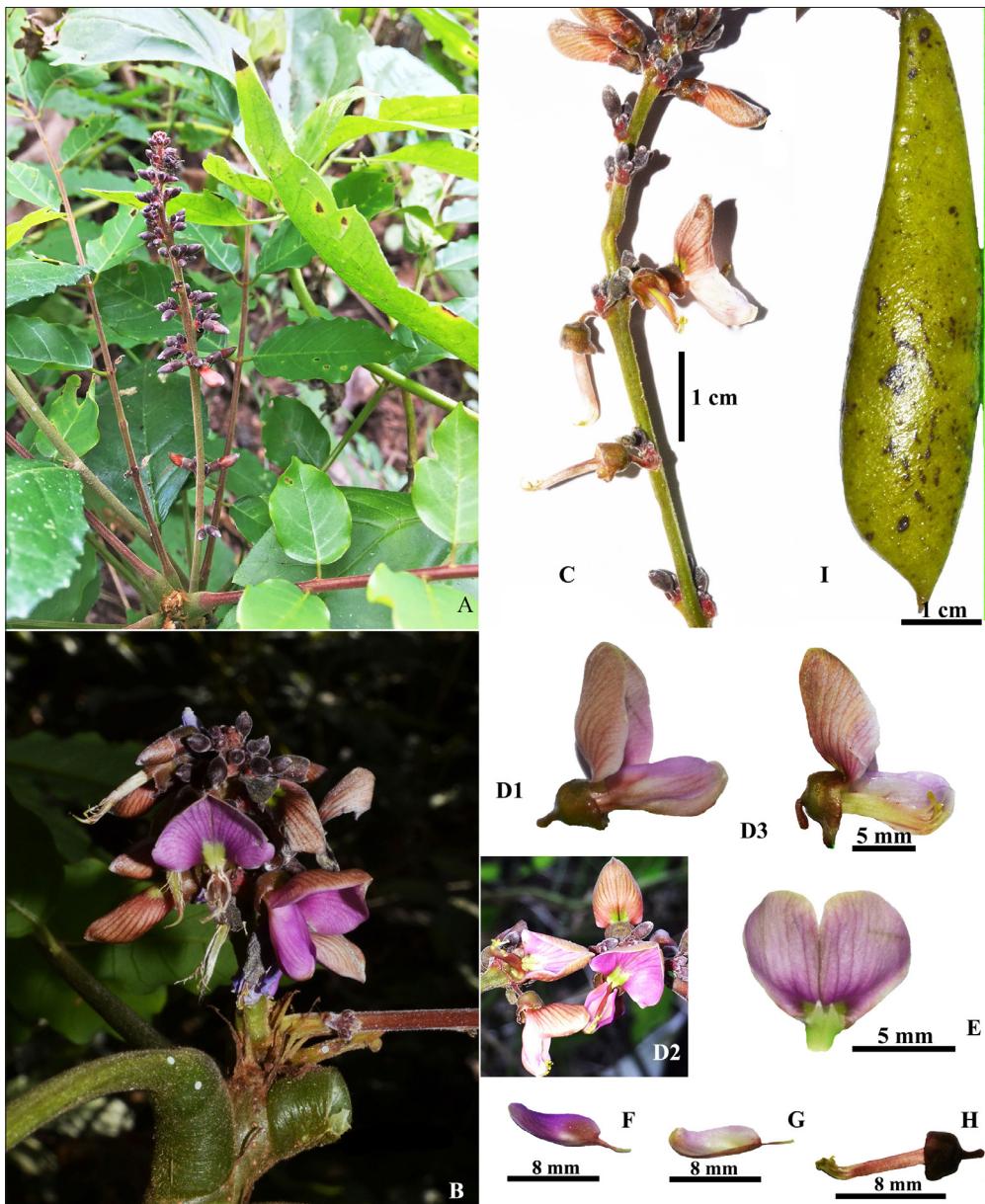


Figure 1. *Millettia penicillata* Gagnep.: A. & B. inflorescences; C. part of inflorescences showing flowers born on brachyblasts (nodes); D1–D3. flowers; E. standard showing acute apex callosities; F. wing; G. keel; H. stamens; I. fruit. Photos by S. Mattapha.



Figure 2. *Millettia pierrei* Gagnep.: A. leaves; B. inflorescences; C. infructescences; D. fruits and seeds. Photos by A. Veesommai.

Shrub to small tree ca 5 m high; young twigs densely hairy with ferruginous hairs; hairs on both leaf surfaces when young, inflorescences and pods. *Leaves* imparipinnate, spiral, drooping when young; petioles 4–10 cm long; stipules triangular, ca 2 mm long, outside densely hairy, inside glabrescent, caducous; rachis 6–17 cm long, shallowly grooved above; ultrajugal part 1–2 cm long. *Leaflets* 11–15, opposite to subopposite; petiolules 5–6 mm long, glabrescent; lamina elliptic to oblanceolate, sometimes ovate, terminal leaflet slightly larger than lateral ones, 12–21 × 4–6 cm, apex acuminate to caudate, base cuneate, margin entire, both surfaces densely hairy, glabrescent when mature, coriaceous; secondary veins 6–10-paired; stipels absent. *Inflorescences* pseudoracemose, sometimes intermediate between pseudoracemose and pseudopaniculate, axillary or on old branches, densely hairy with ferruginous hairs, 10–15 cm long. *Brachyblasts* wart-like to claviform, up to 3 mm long, each bearing 15–20 flowers; bracts on inflorescence axes or on brachyblasts triangular, ca 3 × 1 mm, densely hairy; floral bracts broadly ovate, 0.5–1 × ca 0.5 mm, apex acute, margin hairy, outside densely hairy, inside glabrescent; bracteoles similar to floral bracts but smaller, inserted at base of calyx tube, caducous. *Pedicels* 2–3 mm long, densely hairy; floral buds spindle-shaped. *Calyx* cup-shaped, 3–3.5 mm long; lower lobes 3, upper lobes 2, separate at apex, margin hairy, outside densely hairy, inside glabrous. *Corolla* purple to light pink: standard suborbicular with a yellowish patch on ventral face, 10–11 × 9–10 mm, claw ca 3 mm long, apex emarginate, base auriculate without basal callosities, auricles inflexed, margin entire, glabrous on both sides; wings slightly falcate, 10–11 × ca 4 mm, claw ca 4 mm long, base auriculate, ca 2 mm long, apex obtuse, margin entire, glabrous on both sides; keel falcate, 10–10.5 × 4–4.5 mm, claw ca 4 mm long, apex rounded, margin entire, glabrous on both sides. *Stamens* monadelphous with basal fenestrae ca 1 mm long; staminal tube 10–12 mm long, glabrous; filaments 2.5–3 mm long; anthers ca 0.5 × 0.5 mm, glabrous. *Ovary* ca 5 mm long, densely hairy, 1–3-ovuled; style 8–9 mm long, hairy at base. *Pods* dehiscent, strap-like, obovate, flattened, 10–14 × 3–4 cm, exocarp surface densely hairy with ferruginous hairs, hairs caducous in mature pods, apex acuminate, lower suture gradually curved to upper suture. *Seeds* 1–3, orbicular, ca 15 × 15 mm, transversely oriented to the length of fruits.

Thailand.—SOUTH-EASTERN: Trat [Khao Lan, alt. ca 50 m, 14 Jan. 2017, *Veesommai & Mattapha K69* (BK, BKF, KKU, QBG)]. Fig. 3.

Distribution.—Cambodia (type), Vietnam.

Ecology.—Evergreen forest, ca 50 m alt. Flowering December–February; fruiting March–April.

Vernacular.—Muang ban that (ມູງບ້າທັດ).

Notes.—*Millettia pierrei* is distinguished by its imbricate calyx lobes, calyx tube longer than lobes, monadelphous stamens and spindle-shaped floral buds. Indumentum on branches, inflorescences and fruits, is distinctive in being relatively caducous. Leaves are drooping when young. The species was believed to be endemic to Cambodia and Vietnam (Lôc & Vidal, 2001) but a collection from Trat Province, Thailand, now confirmed as *M. pierrei*, was found in the mountain range of in Phnum Samkoh Wildlife Sanctuary adjacent to the border with Cambodia.

Three sheets of *Pierre 1032* are housed at Paris, and P02141851 is chosen here as the lectotype because it is a well-preserved and complete specimen bearing leaves, both flowers and fruit, whereas two other specimens, P02141852 & P02141853, exist fruits with few flowers.

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Figure 3. Distributions of *Millettia penicillata* Gagnep. (triangle) and *M. pierrei* Gagnep. (circle) in Thailand. The map was created using QGIS version 2.14.1-Essen (QGIS Development team, 2016).

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