

Staurogyne beddomei (Acanthaceae), a new record for Thailand

THIAMHATHAI CHOOPAN^{1*}, SARAWOOD SUNGKAEW², NOPPARUT TOOLMAN³ & SOMRAN SUDDEE⁴

ABSTRACT

Staurogyne beddomei, a species known previously only from Myanmar, is newly recorded for Thailand. A description, photographs and conservation status are provided - the species is considered to be of Least Concern.

KEYWORDS: Conservation status, Flora of Thailand, Nelsonioideae.

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INTRODUCTION

Staurogyne Wall. is a species-rich genus in the Acanthaceae, subfamily Nelsonioideae (Scotland & Vollesen, 2000), consisting of around 145 recognized species distributed in tropical regions of America, Africa and Asia (Daniel & McDade, 2014). Members of the genus are distinguished by cystoliths being absent, having four didynamous stamens, many minute seeds, capsule lacking retinacula, descending-cochlear aestivation, and the flowers often spirally arranged (Lindau, 1895; Benoist, 1933; Bremekamp, 1965; Hansen, 1985; Scotland *et al.*, 1994; Scotland & Vollesen, 2000).

In Thailand, 28 species of *Staurogyne* have been reported as native i.e., *S. argentea* Wall., *S. aristata* E.Hossain., *S. concinnula* (Hance) Kuntze, *S. cuneata* J.B.Imlay, *S. densifolia* Bremek., *S. dispar* J.B.Imlay, *S. filipes* E.Hossain., *S. glauca* (Nees) Kuntze, *S. griffithiana* (Nees) Kuntze, *S. helferi* (T.Anderson) Kuntze, *S. incana* (Blume) Kuntze, *S. kaengkrachanense* T.Choopan, *S. kingiana* C.B.Clark, *S. lanceolata* (Blume) Kuntze, *S. lasiobotrys* (Nees) Kuntze, *S. longeciliata* Bremek., *S. macrobotrya* (Kurz) T.F.Daniel & McDade, *S. major* Benoist, *S. merguensis* (T.Anderson) Kuntze, *S. obtusa* (Nees) Kuntze,

S. parvicaulis B.Hansen, *S. punctata* J.B.Imlay, *S. racemosa* (Roxb.) Kuntze, *S. setigera* (Nees) Kuntze, *S. singularis* Bremek., *S. spatulata* (Blume) Koord., *S. subglabra* C.B.Clark, and *S. tenuispica* Bremek. (Choopan *et al.*, 2019). During fieldwork by the second, third and the fourth authors, a member of *Staurogyne* was founded in Kanchanaburi, the south-western part of Thailand. Based on literature (Clarke, 1884; Kuntze, 1891), it was identified as *S. beddomei* (C.B.Clark) Kuntze, which is a new record for the country. The species was previously known only from Myanmar (Daniel & McDade, 2014), and reported for the states of Kayin, Mandalay, and Taninthayi (Kress *et al.*, 2003). A description and photographs are presented based on the collections and observations made in Thailand.

DESCRIPTION

Staurogyne beddomei (C.B.Clark) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 497. 1891.— *Ebermaiera beddomei* C.B.Clark, Fl. Brit. India 4(11): 402. 1884. Type: Myanmar, Tenasserim, Mooleeyit, *Beddome s.n.* (holotype BM [BM000950004, photo seen]). Fig. 1.

Herbs 25–50 cm long, erect or ascending. *Stems* rounded, sometimes branched, at first pubescent but

¹ Faculty of Science and Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand.

² Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

³ Thai Traditional Medicine Herbarium, Thai Traditional Medicine Research Institute, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Bangkok 10100, Thailand.

⁴ Forest Herbarium, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

* Corresponding author: thiamhathai@yahoo.com

soon becoming glabrous. *Leaves* chartaceous, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-oblong, 4–14 × 4–7 cm, apex acute to acuminate, base cuneate to attenuate, margin entire, glabrous above, puberulous on veins below; midrib raised on both sides, conspicuous below; lateral veins 7–10 on each side of midrib, conspicuous below; petiole 0.8–3 cm long, pubescent. *Inflorescences* terminal, raceme or panicle, 10–25 cm long; peduncle 1–3 cm long, pubescent; bracts ovate to lanceolate, 0.5–2 cm long, acute, glabrous above, puberulous on veins below; bracteoles 2, attached on pedicel, one

attached below the middle and the other attached below calyx, lanceolate, 3–4 mm long, acute, glabrous above, puberulous below; pedicels 2–2.5 mm long, glabrescent. *Calyx* white with reddish-brown tip, 5-lobed, unequal; the posterior lobe obovate-oblong, 3.5–4 × 1–1.5 mm; the 2 anterior lobes oblong-linear, 3.5–3.8 × 0.5 mm; the 2 lateral lobes linear, 3–3.2 × 0.5 mm; all obscurely to distinctly 3-nerved, puberulous outside, glabrous inside, margin ciliate. *Corolla* light pink, 7–8 cm long, puberulous outside, glabrous inside; tube basally cylindric for 4–4.2 mm long then



Figure 1. *Staurogyne beddomei* (C.B.Clarke) Kuntze: A. plants in natural habitat; B. & C. flowers; D. immature fruits; E. inflorescence and abaxial leaf surface. (Photos by N. Toolman).

abruptly widening into a campanulate throat; lobes 5, the 2 posterior lobes rounded, the 2 lateral lobes ovate, the anterior one oblong. *Stamens* didynamous, exerted, ca 5 mm long; filaments glabrous, ca 4 mm long; anthers 2-theous, 0.8–1 mm wide. *Ovary* subcylindric, 1.5 mm long, glabrous; style 5 mm long, curved upward, glabrous; stigma obscurely 2-lobed. *Capsules* ovoid-oblong, 5–5.2 × 2–2.2 mm, glabrous, with median longitudinal furrow on each side. *Seeds* black, oblong, minute.

Thailand.— SOUTH-WESTERN: Kanchanaburi [Sangkhla Buri Distr., Thung Yai Naresuan WS West side (Near the summit of Tai-Pa mountain), 25 Dec. 2014, *Sungkaew & Teerawatananon 1552B (BKF)*; Sangkhla Buri Distr., Khao Laem NP (San Nok Wua), 1,650 m, 9 Dec. 2018, *Suddee & Toolman 5434 (BKF)*].

Distribution.— Myanmar.

Ecology.— Lower montane forest, 1,000–1,700 m alt. Flowering & fruiting: October–December.

Vernacular.— Krap cho chomphu (กราบช่อชมพู).

Conservation status.— Least Concern (LC). In Thailand, this species occurs in protected areas where it is well protected and where there are no known or plausible threats. This species also occurs in Myanmar (Kayin, Mandalay, and Taninthayi), the states close to the Thai border. Therefore, it should be considered as Least Concern according to the IUCN (2012) criteria.

Note.— This species is characterised by its white calyx with reddish-brown tip (versus green in other Thai species), light pink corolla, and the exerted didynamous stamens.

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