

Cephalantheropsis longipes (Orchidaceae), a New Record for Peninsular Thailand

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ABSTRACT. *Cephalantheropsis longipes* (Hook.f.) Ormerod is newly recorded from Peninsular Thailand. Notes are supplied on the phytogeographic significance of this discovery, variation of the species and its synonymy.

KEY WORDS: Thailand, *Cephalantheropsis longipes*, new distribution record

INTRODUCTION

Cephalantheropsis Guillaumin is an orchid genus of about four Southeast Asian terrestrial, caulescent, *Calanthe*-like species. It differs from *Calanthe* R.Br. in having a caulescent habit combined with axillary and pseudoterminal inflorescences, and flowers with a spurless labellum that is free from the column. In 1998 the first author reviewed the genus, accepting five species (including one new taxon from Peninsular Malaysia). Since then Averyanov (2001) has reduced the type species *Ceph. lateriscapa* Guillaumin to a synonym of the widespread *Ceph. longipes* (Hook.f.) Ormerod, a view that is accepted here.

A specimen found by the second author during fieldwork in Peninsular Thailand was identified as *Cephalantheropsis longipes* which was not known before to occur in the country. This new distribution record is presented below.

DESCRIPTION

Cephalantheropsis longipes (Hook.f.) Ormerod, Orch. Digest 62: 156. 1998.—*Calanthe longipes* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 195. 1890.—*Alismorkis longipes* (Hook.f.) Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 650. 1891.—*Phaius longipes* (Hook.f.) Holttum, Gard.

Bull. Singapore 11: 286. 1947. Type: India, Sikkim, *G. King s.n.* (holotype **CAL?**).—*P. mindorensis* Ames, Philipp. J. Sci., Bot. 2: 324. 1907. Type: Philippines, Mindoro, Mt Halcon, 1310 m, 13 Nov. 1906, *E.D. Merrill 5612* (holotype **AMES!**).—*Calanthe dolichopoda* Fukuy., Bot. Mag. Tokyo 49: 296. 1935. Type: Taiwan, Daitun, near Shinten, 10 Nov. 1933, *N. Fukuyama 4536* (holotype **TAI?**).—*Cephalantheropsis lateriscapa* Guillaumin, Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., II, 32: 189. 1960.—*Gastrorchis lateriscapa* (Guillaumin) Averyanov, Prelim. List Vietnam Orch. 1: 204. 1988. Type: Vietnam, Lam Dong Province, Dalat, Manline, *P. Tixier 12/59* (holotype **P**).—*Calanthe gracilis* Lindl. var. *sumatrana* J.J. Sm., Blumea 5: 704. 1945. Type: Indonesia, Sumatra, Aceh Province, above Takengon, 1290 m, Aug. 1934, *C.G.G.J. van Steenis 6041* (holotype **BO**; floral sketch **L**, copy **K**).

Terrestrial herb; stem terete, many-noded, laxly 5-leaved in upper half, 30–40 cm long, 0.4–0.8 cm thick; sheaths in basal half 4, tubular, upper sheath sometimes with a small foliose blade. Leaves elliptic-lanceolate, subacuminate, glabrous, 7.5–15.0 by 2.5–4.5 cm; leaf sheaths 4–6 cm long. Inflorescences up to 3 per stem, pseudoterminal (this one longest) or axillary (these two shorter), laxly many-flowered, to 15 cm long; floral bracts narrowly lanceolate, long-acuminate, caducous,

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3-veined, 1.5–1.7 by 0.5–0.7 cm. *Flowers* not widely opening, shortly and laxly pubescent externally, yellow or orange-yellow. *Sepals*: dorsal sepal oblong-lanceolate, acute, 5-veined, ca. 10 by 3.5 mm; lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate, subacuminate, 5-veined, ca. 10 by 3.75 mm. *Petals* oblong-lanceolate from a broadly clawed base, acute, 3-veined with branched lateral veins, ca. 9 by 3.3 mm. *Labellum* trilobed, medially with 2 lamellate keels extending from above the base of the lip onto the middle of the epichile, ca. 8.5 by 7.3 mm; hypochile flabellate with irregularly erose side lobes, concave medially, ca. 6.2 by 7.3 mm; claw ca. 0.5 mm long; epichile reniform, ca. 1 by 2 mm. *Column* short, stout, semiterete, shortly pubescent (especially dorsally), base tumid, ca. 3.4 mm long (including anther cap). *Ovary* pedicellate ovary narrowly clavate, densely shortly pubescent, 18–23 mm long. [Description after the Thai specimen].

Thailand.— PENINSULAR: Nakhon Si Thammarat [Khao Nan National Park, Sanyen Mt, montane forest, 1200 m, 25 July 2010, S. Chantanaorrapint SC2228 (PSU).]

Distribution.— India (type), Myanmar, China, Vietnam, Peninsular Malaysia, Indonesia (Sumatra), Taiwan, Philippines.

Other specimens examined:

India.— Sikkim [without locality, *G. King* s.n. (BM); 1876, ex *Major Mant* s.n., icon *G. King* s.n. (K); 1879, *G. King* s.n. (BM); *T. Anderson* s.n. (MEL); Darjeeling area, 1220 m, cult. RBG Glasnevin, ex *R. Pantling* s.n. (K); Rungbee, 1830 m, Oct. 1893, *R. Pantling* 2 (AMES, BM, K)]; Assam [Mawryngkneng, 1220 m, 1 Oct. 1951, *Chand* 4934 (K)].

Myanmar.— Kachin [Kachin Hills, 1898, *S. Mokim* s.n. (BM, K); Nam Tamai Valley, 1220–1525 m, 7 Nov. 1937, *F. Kingdon-Ward* 13443 (AMES, BM)].

China.— Yunnan [Mengtze, 1220 m, *A. Henry* 11819 (K)]; Guangxi [SE of Shangsze, Nam She Village, 15 Dec. 1934, *W.T. Tsang* 24792 (AMES)].

Vietnam.— Kon Tum Province [Dak Gley District, valley of Dak Poko River, 6–7 km to S of Dak Gley (near Dak Tung Village), 9 Dec. 1995, *L.V. Averyanov et al.* VH 2404 (GH)]; Lam Dong

Province [Dalat, ravine to the S of Langbian Palace, 14 Nov. 1924, *F. Everard* 1767 (AMES); Langbian, 1500 m, 8 Dec. 1903, *W. Micholitz* s.n. (K)].

Philippines.— Luzon, Laguna Province [*C.B. Robinson* BS 17115 (PNH, destroyed; AMES drawing); Mt Maquiling, 1000 m, 17 March 1906, *E.D. Merrill* 5131 (AMES)]; Bataan Province [Mt Cayapo, 1450 m, 16 Dec. 1947, *G.E. Edano* PNH 3199 (AMES)]. Panay, Capiz Province [Mt Madias, *M. Ramos* & *G.E. Edano* BS 30673 (AMES)].

Ecology.— In lower montane forest at 1200 m elevation.

Notes.— 1. Averyanov (2001) united *Cephalantheropsis lateriscapa* with the earlier *C. longipes*, pointing out that the plant is a polymorphic taxon in regard to the shape of the labellum. At first it seemed possible to recognise *C. lateriscapa* by its almost sessile (claw 0.5 mm long) labellum epichile but material of *C. longipes* varies in claw length (0.5–1.0 mm long). For example the Chinese collection *Henry* 11819 has a 0.5 mm long claw whilst a Philippine specimen (*Merrill* 5131) had an asymmetric labellum with the claw 0.5 mm wide on one side and 1 mm wide on the other. Some forms of *C. longipes* have a poorly developed labellum epichile and in this regard resemble *C. halconensis* (Ames) S.S. Ying. The latter taxon however is a smaller plant (to 30 cm tall) with narrower leaves (to 2.3 cm wide). These vegetative character states are given in the description of the Taiwanese *Calanthe kooshunensis* Fukuy. and for this reason the first author still maintains that it should be treated as a synonym of *C. halconensis* rather than *C. longipes*.

2. The distribution of *Cephalantheropsis longipes* is partly Transhimalayan in that the plant is recorded in an arc from Sikkim to Guangxi and Northern Vietnam, then across to Taiwan. It then spreads south into the Philippines. In Vietnam it is found in the north, middle and south (type locality for *C. lateriscapa*). The collection localities from southern Vietnam (Dalat/Langbian area), southern Thailand and northern Sumatra form an almost straight line when plotted on a map. Recently however *C. longipes* was found in Peninsular Malaysia, showing that it has spread south into the Peninsula (see Ong et al., 2011). Floral details (e.g. elliptic-lanceolate, acute petals) of the Sumatran and Thai

plants seem to agree quite well. The south Vietnamese plants however have more oblong, blunter petals as evidenced by the drawings of Seidenfaden (1992) and confirmed after study of *Everard 1767* (AMES). Further collecting is likely to uncover *C. longipes* in Bhutan, northern Thailand and Laos.

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