

## *Thismia alba* (Thismiaceae), a new record for Thailand

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ABSTRACT. *Thismia alba* Holttum ex Jonker, a species newly recorded for Thailand, is described and illustrated.

The genus *Thismia* Griff. consisting of more than thirty species of small mycotrophic herbs is distributed pantropically (Jonker, 1948; Stone, 1980; Jarvie, 1996; Saunder, 1996; Yang et al., 2002; Tsukaya & Okada, 2005). In Thailand, two species have been recorded namely *T. javanica* J.J.Sm. and *T. mirabilis* K.Larsen (Larsen, 1987). *Thismia alba* Holttum ex Jonker is a new record for Thailand and was found during a botanical trip to Ton Nga Chang Waterfall, Songkhla Province, in June 2006. *Thismia alba* had been previously reported only from Pahang in Peninsular Malaysia (Jonker, 1948). The description below is based on the Thai specimens.

***Thismia alba*** Holttum ex Jonker, in Fl. Males. ser. I, 4: 23. 1948. Fig. 1 & 2.

Plant terrestrial, achlorophyllous, mycotrophic. *Rhizome* creeping. *Stem* erect, simple, to 8 cm tall (including flowers), bearing 1–3-flowers. *Leaves* scale-like, lanceolate, 3–4 mm long, transparent, apex acute or acuminate. *Involucral bracts* 3, white, similar to upper leaves. *Perianth* tube campanulate, ca 10 mm long; white, with 6 thin yellowish-brown streaks continuous with each perianth lobe, alternating with 6 yellow lines; the basal part with transverse bar inside; perianth lobes ± triangular, 3–4 mm long, pale yellow at the base, terminated by white, thread-like appendages ca 15 mm long; annulus prominent, bright yellow; stamens 6, connate in a tube around the style, pendulous from the annulus, with 1 thick filiform appendage at the free apical margin (nearest to stigma), connective broad with a quadrangular wing; anthers oblong, adaxial on in the basal part of the stamen; nectariferous gland present towards apex on the line of fusion between each connective; stigma short, 3-lobed, papillose. *Fruit* fleshy, cup-shaped, ca 6 mm long.

Thailand.— PENINSULAR: Songkhla [Ton Nga Chang Waterfall, 6°99'N 100°22'E, *S. Chantanaorrapint* 1191 (PSU) June 24 2006; *Sridith* 760 (PSU)].

Distribution.— Malaysia (Pahang), Thailand (Peninsular).

Ecology.— Growing on humus, under shade of bamboo, 300 m altitude. Flowering in June.

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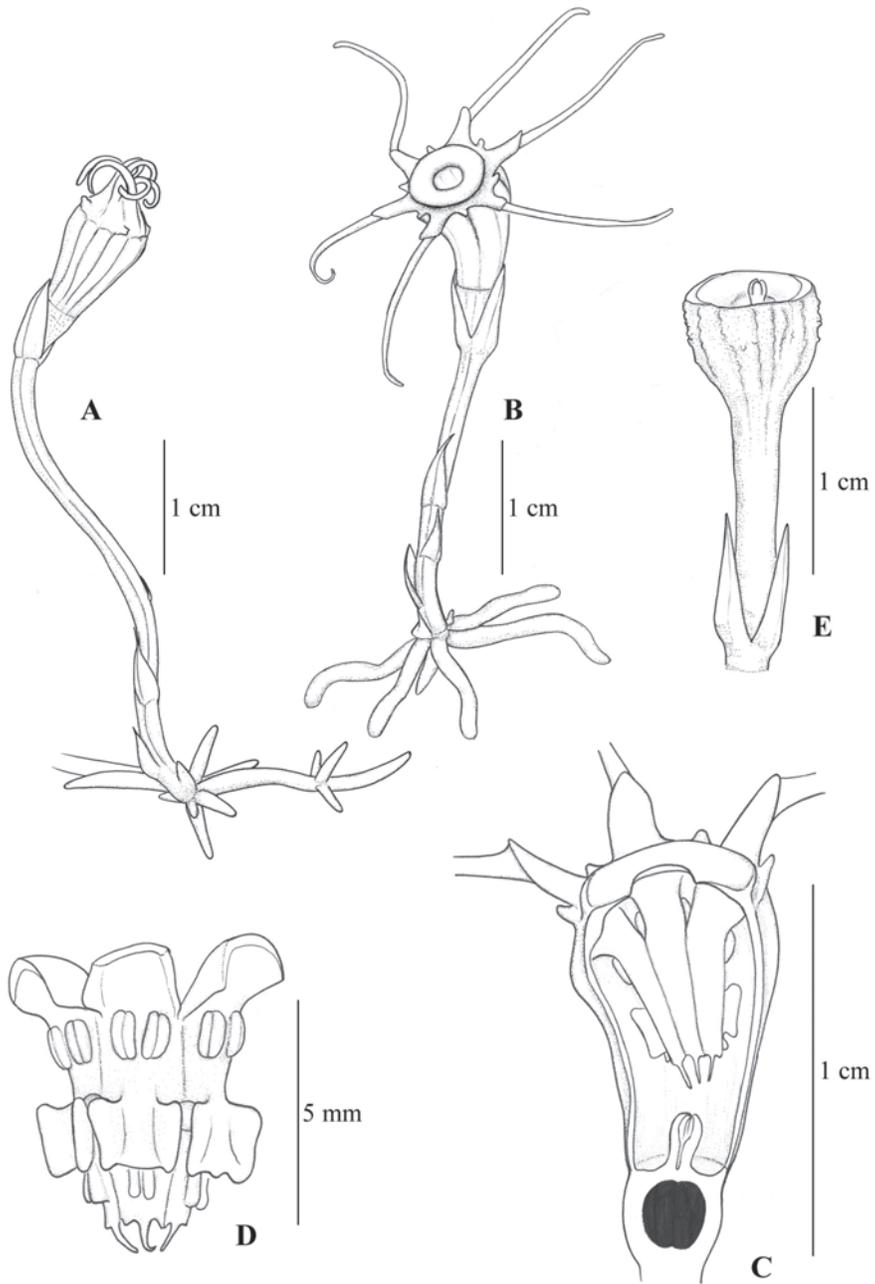


Figure 1. *Thismia alba* Holtum ex Jonker: A. plant habit with immature flower; B. plant habit at anthesis; C. longitudinal section of perianth; D. side view of pendulous stamens; E. fruit. All from *S. Chantanaorrapint* 1191.

Notes.— *Thismia alba* Holttum ex Jonker is closely related to *T. mullerensis* Tsukaya & H.Okada, a species described from Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, which it resembles in the size and shape of its perianth (Tsukaya & Okada, 2005). However, *T. alba* has only one thick filiform appendage at the free apical stamen margin, whilst *T. mullerensis* has two thick filiform appendages.



Figure 2. *Thismia alba* Holttum ex Jonker: A. habit; B. top view of perianth, an = annulus, ap = appendage; C. Fruits.

The following key to the species in Thailand (amended from Larsen, 1987) is suggested:

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES

1. Inner perianth lobes free, spreading or erect, at least inner perianth lobes with long thread-like appendages
  2. Perianth lobes all equal in size,  $\pm$  triangular, all 6 with long thread-like appendages **1. *T. alba***
  2. Three outer perianth lobes larger than inner, broadly ovate, only inner perianth lobes with long thread-like appendages **2. *T. javanica***
1. Inner perianth lobes connate at the apex with 3 holes; outer and inner perianth lobes without thread-like appendages **3. *T. mirabilis***

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