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Notes on *Polyalthia* (Annonaceae)

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ABSTRACT. *Polyalthia corticosa* (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep., newly recorded from Thailand, is described. Two lectotypes are selected here.

During the preparation of a revision of the genus *Polyalthia* for the Flora of Thailand we came across specimens from the North of Thailand which were not assignable to any species known to occur in the country. After careful examination, we found that these specimens belonged to *P. corticosa* (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep. which, therefore, is newly recorded for Thailand. Two species were found to be in need of lectotypification and that is undertaken herein.

Polyalthia corticosa (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep. in Bull. Soc. Bot. Fr. 53 96. 1907 & in H. Lecomte, Fl. Indo-Chine. 1: 75. 1907; Ast, Suppl. Fl. Indo-Chine. 1: 79. 1938; Ban, Fl. Vietn. 1: 104. 2000. Type: Vietnam, Bien Hoa, Song Be, *Pierre* 1752 (lectotype **P**; isolectotypes **A**, **K**!). Fig. 1.

Tree 10–20 m high. *Young twigs* rusty-brown pubescent, glabrescent, with numerous lenticels. *Leaves* chartaceous, narrowly elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 8–22 by 2–5.5 cm, apex acute, base cuneate or rounded, margin entire; glabrous on both surfaces except on the midrib and secondary veins below, midrib and secondary veins slightly prominent above, prominent below, secondary veins in 12–14 pairs, interarching 15–30 mm; tertiary veins reticulate; petioles 1–2 mm long (i.e. leaves subsessile). Flowers 1–2(–3) from the axils of fallen leaves; peduncles 1–1.5 cm long, pubescent, with small bract at base, ovate, 2–2.5 by 1–1.5 mm. *Sepals* chartaceous, ovate, 4–5 by 3–4 mm, apex acute, slightly puberulous outside, glabrous inside. *Petals* thinly coriaceous, yellowish, outer petal slightly shorter and narrower than the inner one, weakly pubescent outside, glabrous inside; outer petal ovate, 6–8 by 3–4 mm, apex acute, inner petal elliptic, 6–8 by 3–4 mm, apex acute. *Torus* cushion-shaped, 0.8–1 mm. thick, glabrous. *Stamens* cuneate, 0.8–1.2 mm; anthers 1–1.3 mm long; connective truncate, hiding the anther cell. *Carpels* numerous, elliptic, 0.8–1.1 mm long, pubescent; style subsessile; stigma ± rounded, above connective, pubescent; ovules 2 per carpel, placentation marginal. *Fruit* a cluster of separate, stipitate, dehiscent monocarps, the stipe 1–1.4 cm long, the monocarp oblong, 1–1.6 by 1.2–1.4 cm, glabrous; fruit stalks 1.5–2.5 cm long.

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Thailand.— NORTHERN: Phrae (Huai Hom, Ban Nam Krai, Huai Yuak), Uttaradit.

Distribution.— Laos, Vietnam.

Ecology.— Along streams in dry evergreen forest, 500–800 m. Flowering Feb.–May, fruiting March–July.

Vernacular.— Sa ban nga pa (สบันงาป่า).

Specimens examined.— *A. Chanthamuk* 43 (**BKF**); *C. Phengklai* 50 (**BKF**); *T. Smitinand* & *A. Cheke* 10805 (**BKF**).

Notes.— *Polyalthia corticosa* differs from *P. evecta* (Pierre) Phamh. (characters in brackets) in being a medium-sized (shrubby tree) tree, with rough (smooth) twigs, with the outer and inner petals more or less the same size (inner petals larger) and with two (one) ovules per carpel The Thai specimens extend the range of *P. corticosa* from Vietnam and Laos westward to northern Thailand.

Figure 1. *Polyalthia corticosa* (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep. Photo from *T. Smitinand* & *A. Cheke* 10805 (BKF). A. habit; B. flower.

Polyalthia angustissima Ridl., J. Straits Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc.. 54: 11. 1910. Type: Singapore, Bukit Timah, *Ridley* 8050 (lectotype **SING**!; isolectotype **K**!, selected here).

The original description mentioned unnumbered collections of Ridley and Lake & Kesall. The former was collected by Ridley at the Garden Jungle, Bukit Timah, Singapore. The latter was collected by Lake & Kesall from Kwala Sembrong, Johore. We have examined these specimens and found that they are *Ridley* 8050 (**SING**!, **K**!) and *Lake & Kesall* 4047 (**SING**!). The *Ridley* material is well preserved with duplicates in two institutes. Therefore, we have chosen the specimen at SING as the lectotype and the one at K as the isolectotype.

Polyalthia dumosa King in Mat. Fl. Malay Penins. 1: 52. 1892. Type: Malaysia, Perak, Maxwell's Hill, *Wray* 2628 (lectotype **SING**!; isolectotype **CAL**!).

In the protologue, King mentioned unnumbered and unknown locality collections of Wray and Scortechini. When Sinclair (1955) revised the Annonaceae for the Malay Peninsula, he cited three syntypes, *Wray* 2628 (**CAL**, **SING**) and 2978 (**SING**, **K**) and *Scortechini* 601 (**CAL**, **SING**). *Wray* 2628 was collected from "Maxwell's hill, Perak" in September 1888. The specimen deposited at SING is the best preserved specimen. Hence, it is chosen as the lectotype and specimen at CAL as the isolectotype.

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