

Epiphyllly in *Chukrasia* - Meliaceae

MAX M.J. VAN BALGOOY* & THAWATCHAI WONGPRASERT**

ABSTRACT. A new case of epiphyllly is recorded for Thailand.

KEY WORDS: Epiphyllly, *Chukrasia*, Thailand.

Epiphyllly, the presence of flowers on the petiole or lamina is a rare phenomenon. In Spot-characters (van Balgooy 1997, p. 102) only nine genera belonging to as many families are mentioned for the Flora Malesiana area, of which one (*Helwingia*) is not actually native. Since the publication of this book a few more cases have become known, but it is still an unusual feature in the plant world.

During routine identification of newly received herbarium material from Thailand at the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Leiden branch, it was noted that a specimen of *Chukrasia tabularis* A.Juss. (T. Wongprasert 078-8, BKF 156454) bore flowers on the leaf rachis, a peculiarity already noted by the collector. According to Mabberley et al. (1995, 354–358) *Chukrasia tabularis*, the only species in the genus, is a variable species of tree up to 40 m tall, distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Borneo in rain forest and semi-deciduous forest. It normally bears thyrses of sweet scented flowers in

the axes of the uppermost paripinnate leaves.

In Thailand two localities have been recorded for epiphyllous *Chukrasia*: Tiger Temple in Kanchanaburi Province in the southwest as mentioned above, and Thali District in Loei Province, northeastern Thailand (T. Wongprasert 077-39, BKF 157579). Fig. 1.

Epiphyllly in Meliaceae has been recorded before in *Chisocheton pohlianus* Harms (Mabberley et al. p. 152) and *Chisocheton tenuis* P.F. Stevens (Mabberley et al. p. 149), both species endemic to Papua New Guinea.

REFERENCES

M.M.J. Van Balgooy, 1997, Malesian Seed Plants, vol. 1, Spot-characters, Rijksherbarium/ Hortus Botanicus Leiden, 154 pp.
D.J. Mabberley, C.M. Pannell & A.M. Sing, 1995, Meliaceae in Flora Malesiana I, 12, 1–407



Figure 1. *Chukrasia tabularis* A.Juss.: Flowers born on leaf rachis; A. from Thali, Loei; B from Tiger Temple, Kanchanaburi. Photographed by Th. Wongprasert.

* Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis (section NHN), Leiden University, P.O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands.

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