

***Ceropegia hirsuta* (Asclepiadaceae), a new record for Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. *Ceropegia hirsuta*, a new record for Thailand, is described and illustrated.

There are approximately 170 species of the genus *Ceropegia* distributed in Southeast Asia, India, Madagascar, Tropical Arabia, the Canary Islands, Africa, New Guinea and Northern Australia. Four species were previously reported in Thailand (Kerr, 1951), namely *C. arnottiana* Wight, *C. jucunda* Kerr (= *C. lucida* Wall.), *C. siamensis* Kerr (= *C. monticola* W.W. Sm.) and *C. sootepensis* Craib. As there are no further reports of this genus in Thailand, the discovery of *Ceropegia hirsuta* Wight & Arn. at Pha Taem National Park in June 2001 represents a new record.

***Ceropegia hirsuta*** Wight & Arn., in Wight, Contrib. 30. 1834; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 71. 1883; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 5: 859. 1923; H. Huber, Mem. Soc. Broter. 12: 63. 1957; Stevens in Saldanha & Nicolson, Fl. Hassan Distr.: 444. 1976; Ansari, Fasc. Fl. India 16: 16. 1984. Type: India, Wight Cat. no. 1510 (holotype K). Fig. 1, 2.

Herbs or twining herbs; subterranean tuber not seen. *Stem* ca. 3 mm in diam., pubescent. *Leaves* opposite, decussate, elliptic to ovate ca. 6.5 by 3 cm, pubescent on both sides, apex acute, base rounded, margin entire, ciliate; petiole ca. 2 cm long, pubescent. *Cymes* axillary, few-flowered; peduncle up to 1 cm long, pubescent. *Flowers* large, pedicel ca. 1 cm long, pubescent. *Sepals* 5, free, linear, 5–6 mm long with gland at base, glabrous inside, pubescent outside. *Corolla* urceolate, 4–5 cm long, corolla tube ca. 3 cm long, curved, inflated at base, funnel-shaped above, sparsely hairy inside, puberulent outside, creamy yellow with purplish red spots; corolla lobes, broadly ovate, 7–8 by 4–4.5 mm, hairy inside, margin hairy, folded back, forming plate-like hairy keels inside; apex fused, forming an almost globose dome. *Corona* in 2 rows; outer corona 5, bifid, deltoid, hairy, inner corona 5, linear, erect, tip hooked, sparsely hairy. *Pollinaria* 5, pollinium ascending 0.4 mm long, yellow with deltoid pellucid tip, corpusculum spatulate, reddish-brown. *Ovaries* 2, ca. 2 mm long, marginal placentation, ovules numerous, style very short. *Fruits and seeds* not seen.

Thailand.— EASTERN: Ubon Ratchathani [Pha Taem National Park, *T. Boonjaras* 10 (BCU)].

Distribution.— India.

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Ecology.— On sandy soil in deciduous dipterocarp forest, 250–300 m alt.  
Flowering June–August.

Vernacular.— Khreua I Thao (เขรืออีเต้า) (Ubon Ratchathani).

Uses.— The whole plant is used as an analgesic.

Note.— *Ceropegia hirsuta* is distinguished by the hooked tip of the inner corona, and is the only Asian species with this character.

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#### REFERENCE

Kerr, A.F.G. 1951. Asclepiadaceae. In: Pendleton, R.L. (ed.), Fl. Siam. Enum. 3(1): 1–51.

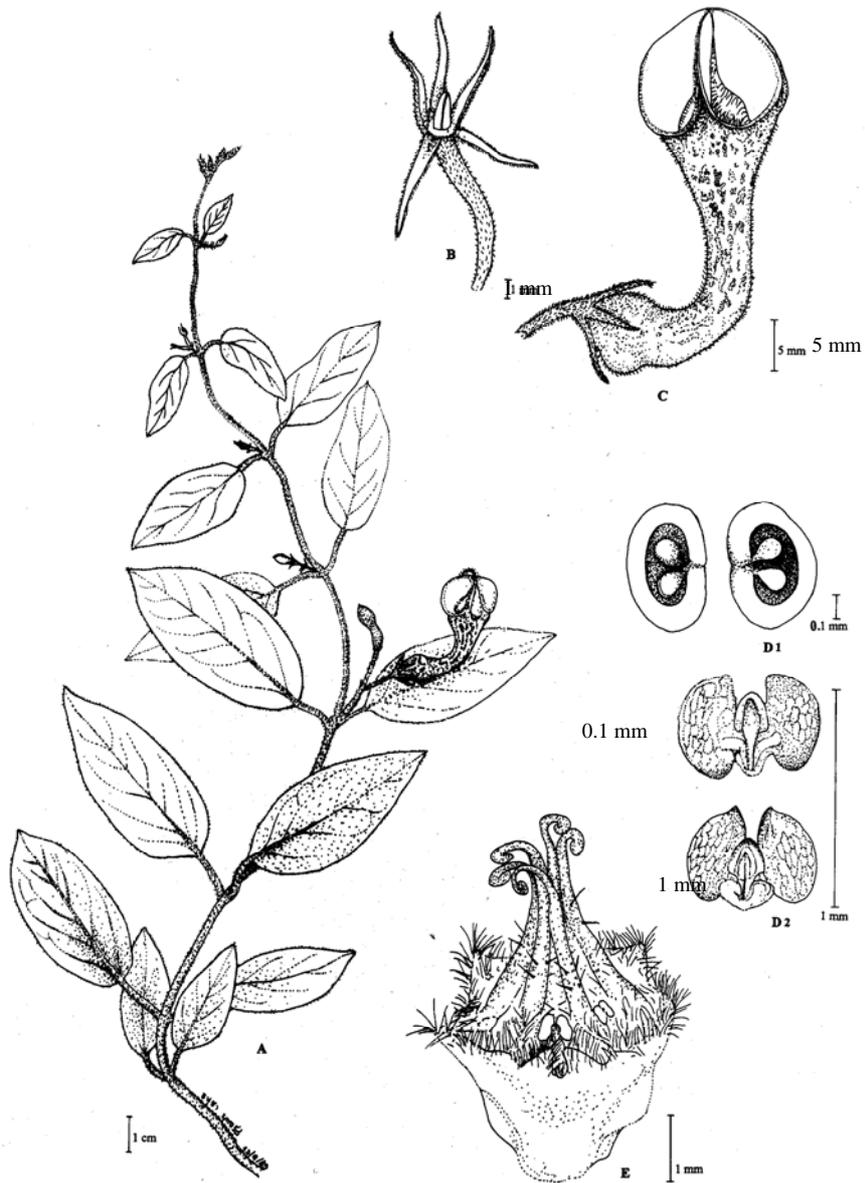


Figure 1. *Ceropogia hirsuta* Wight & Arn. A. habit; B. calyx and ovary; C. flower; D. pollinaria, 1. proximal view, 2. distal view; E. corona. All from T. Boonjaras 10 (BCU). Drawn by T. Boonjaras. 1 mm





Figure 2. *Ceropegia hirsuta* Wight & Arn. A. habit; B. flower.