

***Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Capparaceae),  
a new record for Thailand**

**PRACHAYA SRISANGA\*, CHUSIE TRISONTHI\*\* & KONGKANDA CHAYAMARIT\*\*\***

ABSTRACT. *Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs is newly recorded for Thailand from Doi Phu Kha National Park in Nan province. A description and illustration of the taxon are provided.

In the account of Capparaceae for the Flora of Thailand (Chayamarit, 1991), 25 indigenous and one introduced species of *Capparis* L. were recorded. During an expedition by the first author to Doi Phu Kha National Park, Nan province in March 2000, specimens belonging to this genus were collected. They were later identified as *C. sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs, a new record for Thailand. The description below is based on the Thai material.

***Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs**, *Blumea* 12 (3): 496. 1965.— *C. yunnanensis* Craib & W.W. Sm., *Notes Bot. Gard. Edin.* 9: 91. 1916; Merr., *J. Arn. Arb.* 23: 167. 1942. Type: China, Yunnan, A. Henry 12986 (holotype E; isotype A, K, US).— *C. roxburghii* (non DC.) Dunn, *J. Linn. Soc. Lond. Bot.* 39: 426. 1911.— *C. bhamoensis* Raizada, *Ind. For. Rec. n.s.* 3: 127, fig. 4. 1941.— *C. fohaiensis* B.S. Sun, *Acta Phytotax. Sin.* 9: 114. 1964. Figs. 1–2.

Scandent shrub or large climber, 4–6 m high; branches terete, shallowly furrowed, straight, brown pubescent, later glabrescent; young shoots and inflorescences not surrounded by cataphylls; thorns slightly recurved, in pairs, 3–4 mm long. *Leaves* chartaceous, elliptic or ovate, (4.5–)11–13 by (3–)5–6.5 cm; apex acute or cuspidate; base rounded or broadly cuneate; margin entire; pubescent on both surfaces, later glabrescent; midrib impressed above, raised and prominent below; secondary veins in 6–8 pairs, prominent on lower surface; petioles 7–10 mm long, brown-pubescent. *Inflorescences* solitary in leaf axils or a lax corymb (2–4-flowered) axillary or on the terminal part of the twig; peduncle 2–4.5 cm long, brown-pubescent. *Flowers* fragrant; pedicels up to 4.5 cm long, brown pubescent. *Sepals* 4, biseriate, free, orbicular concave or shallowly saccate, shortly clawed, 13–19 by 11–18 mm, inner pair slightly smaller, brown pubescent on both sides. *Petals* 4, yellow, free, obovate, 20–25 by 8–12 mm, densely tomentose inside, glabrous except for tomentose basal parts outside. *Torus* 4–5 mm wide, pubescent. *Stamens* 60–80; filaments ca. 3.5 cm long, hairy at base; anthers ca. 2 mm long, glabrous, dehiscing by lateral slits. *Gynophore* 2.5–4 cm long, hairy at base. *Ovary* ellipsoid, 3–4 by 2–3 mm, glabrous; placentas 4. *Fruits* ellipsoid, 4–5 by 2.5–3 cm; pericarp 2–5 mm thick; stipe 7–8.5 cm long. *Seeds* 3–4, 15–20 by 10–15 mm.

---

\*Herbarium, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, P.O. Box 7, Mae Rim, Chiang Mai 50180, Thailand.

\*\*Biology Department, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand.

\*\*\*The Forest Herbarium, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

Thailand.— NORTHERN: Nan [Doi Phu Kha National Park 19° 13' N 101° 06' E, *Srisanga* 1359 (BKF, QBG); *Srisanga* 1692 (QBG); *Srisanga* 2337 (QBG)].

Distribution.— China, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Ecology.— Lower montane forest, 1500–1600 m altitude. Flowering: March–April. Fruiting: September–January.

Note.— *C. sikkimensis* subsp. *yunnanensis* was originally described as *C. yunnanensis* Craib & W.W. Sm. (1916), and later reduced to subspecific rank under *C. sikkimensis* Kurz by Jacobs (1965). *C. sikkimensis* is divided into four subspecies: *C. sikkimensis* subsp. *sikkimensis* distributed in north-eastern India and western Myanmar; *C. sikkimensis* subsp. *yunnanensis* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs in northern Myanmar, China (Yunnan) and Vietnam (Tonkin); *C. sikkimensis* subsp. *masaikai* (Lévl.) Jacobs in southern and south-eastern China; and *C. sikkimensis* subsp. *formosana* (Hemsl.) Jacobs distributed in Riu Kiu Islands, Taiwan and Hainan. As noted by Jacobs, *C. sikkimensis* is highly polymorphic, and for his division into subspecies, no more than 30 collections were available. More material, especially from Myanmar-Yunnan, is needed to re-examine the status of the subspecies. For now we have followed Jacobs's treatment.

*C. sikkimensis* subsp. *yunnanensis* is distinguished by its brownish pubescent sepals on both sides, large petals (20–25 by 8–12 mm), long filaments (ca. 3.5 cm) and long gynophore (2.5–4 cm).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much appreciation is due to the curators and staff of BKF, CMU, KUN, P and QBG for their kind permission to study specimens, and to the staff of Doi Phu Kha National Park for assistance in the field. We are grateful to Ms Soraya Klankoom for the line drawing and Mr Pasakorn Kaewket for technical assistance. This work was supported by a grant from the Thailand Research Fund.

#### REFERENCES

- Chayamarit, K. 1991. Capparaceae. In: Smitinand, T. & Larsen, K. (eds), Flora of Thailand 5(3): 241–271.
- Craib, W. G. & Smith, W. W. 1916. Diagnoses Specierum Novarum. Notes Bot. Gard. Edinb. 9: 91–92.
- Jacobs, M. 1965. The genus *Capparis* (Capparaceae) from the Indus to the Pacific. Blumea 12 (3): 385–541.

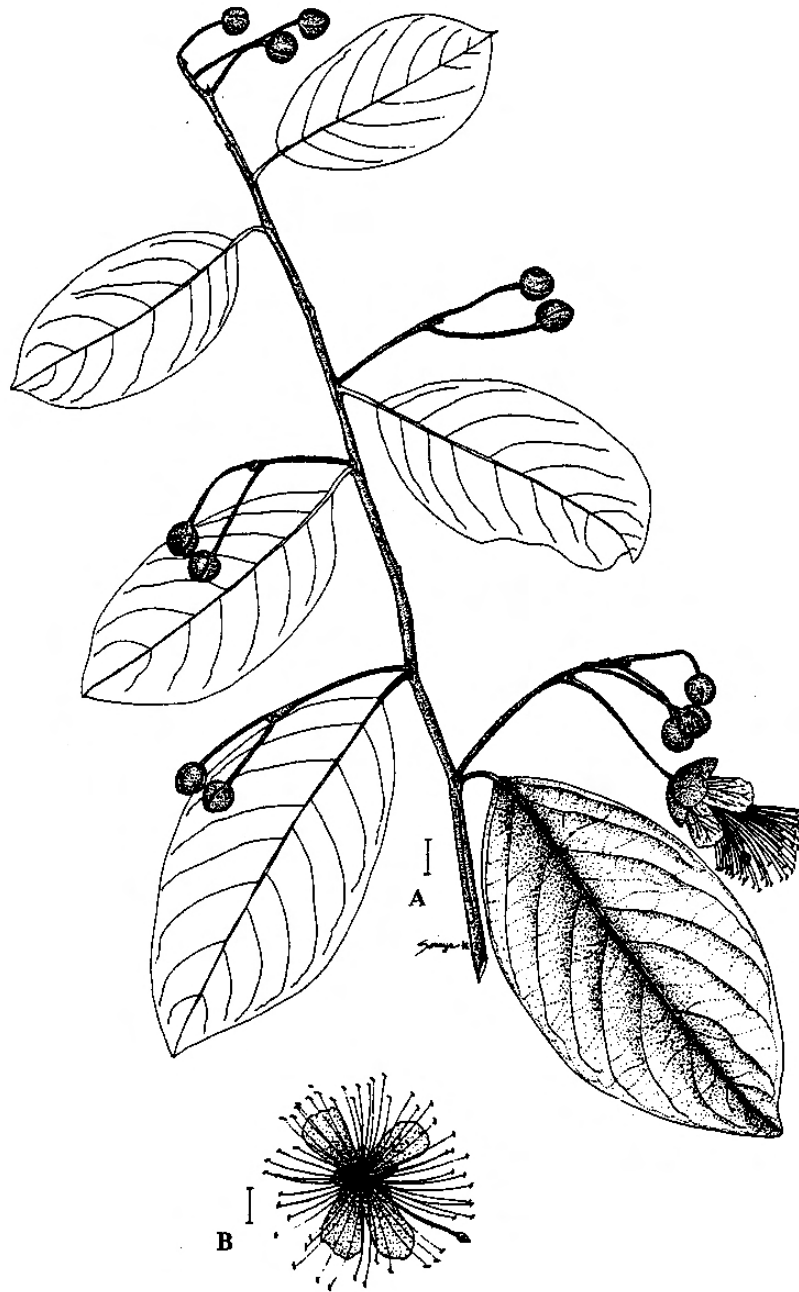


Figure 1. *Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Criab & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs: A. flowering branch; B. flower. Scale bars = 1 cm. Drawn from *Srisanga* 1359 (QBG). Drawn by S. Klankoom.



*Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Capparaceae), a new record for Thailand



Figure 2. *Capparis sikkimensis* Kurz subsp. *yunnanensis* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Jacobs: A. flowers; B. fruit.

*Radermachera eberhardtii* (Bignoniaceae), a new record for Thailand



Figure 2. *Radermachera eberhardtii* Dop: A. inflorescence; B. infructescences.