

## ***Trachelospermum axillare* Hook.f. (Apocynaceae), a new record for Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. *Trachelospermum axillare* Hook.f. is newly recorded for Thailand from Huai Nam Dang in Chiang Mai Province. A key to the species of *Trachelospermum* in Thailand is given

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the account of the Apocynaceae for the Flora of Thailand (Middleton, 1999) two species of *Trachelospermum* were described, *T. lucidum* (D.Don) K.Schum. and *T. asiaticum* (Sieb. & Zucc.) Nakai. On a collecting trip to Huai Nam Dang, Chiang Mai Province in September 1999 the author and a team from Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden collected a specimen of *Trachelospermum axillare* Hook.f., a species previously unknown from Thailand.

Schumann (1895) erected sections for *Trachelospermum*. These were later taken up as subgenera and expanded by Schneider (1916). Under this scheme *Trachelospermum asiaticum* and *T. lucidum* would be in subgenus *Trachelospermum* and *T. axillare* in subgenus *Axillanthus*. Woodson (1936) suggested that subgenus *Axillanthus*, with the single species *T. axillare*, may well merit generic distinction but until a more comprehensive investigation of the relationships within this group is made new combinations are not warranted. Any investigation should also clarify the relationships with other closely related genera, particularly *Cleghornia*.

***Trachelospermum axillare* Hook.f.**, Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 668. 1882; Lév., Fl. Kouy-Tcheou 31. 1914; Schneider in Sargent, Pl. Wilson. 3: 335. 1916; Tsiang, Sunyatsenia 2: 148. 1934; Woodson, Sunyatsenia 3: 99. 1936; Tsiang & P.T.Li, Fl. Reip. Sin. 63: 219. 1977; Ly, Fedd. Rep. 97: 638. 1986; P.T. Li, Fl. China 16: 168. 1995. Fig. 1.

Woody climber. Branchlets glabrous; lenticellate. *Leaves*: petiole 0.3–1 cm long; blade subcoriaceous to coriaceous, obovate or, more rarely, elliptic, 4–17.5 x 1–5.7 cm, apex acuminate to caudate, base cuneate; 7–14 pairs of secondary veins; glabrous. *Inflorescence* 1.5–4 cm long; glabrous. *Sepals* ovate to orbicular, 1.5–4 x 1–2.1 mm, apex obtuse to rounded, colleters inside. *Corolla* red; tube 4.5–6.8 mm long; lobes 4–9.5 x 2–4.5 mm; outside glabrous, inside pubescent. *Stamens* inserted in the lower half of the corolla tube; anthers connate to the pistil head, 2.5–3.5 x 0.6–1.1 mm, completely included in

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corolla tube. *Disk* shorter than the ovary, of 5 separate squarish lobes, sometimes somewhat notched on top. *Ovary* of two separate carpels united into a common style, 0.7–1.5 mm long; glabrous; style + pistil head 1–2 mm long. *Fruit* of 2 follicles united at the base and at the apex, 7.5–14.5 cm long, 1.2–1.6 cm wide. *Seeds* ellipsoid, 13–16 mm long, 6–7 mm wide; coma 2.5–3.5 cm long.

Thailand.—NORTHERN: Chiang Mai (Huai Nam Dang).

Distribution.—Nepal, Bhutan, northern India, southern China, Vietnam.

Ecology.—In forest to 1300 m altitude (2800 m outside Thailand).

Note.—The description given above is based on plants of this species found throughout its range.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF TRACHELOSPERMUM IN THAILAND

1. Corolla red; stamens inserted in lower half of corolla tube; follicles joined at base and apex	<b>T. axillare</b>
1. Corolla white or greenish; stamens inserted in upper half of corolla tube; follicles joined only at base	
2. Stamens slightly exserted from corolla mouth which is pubescent in 5 patches	<b>T. asiaticum</b>
2. Stamens not exserted from corolla mouth which is continuously pubescent	<b>T. lucidum</b>

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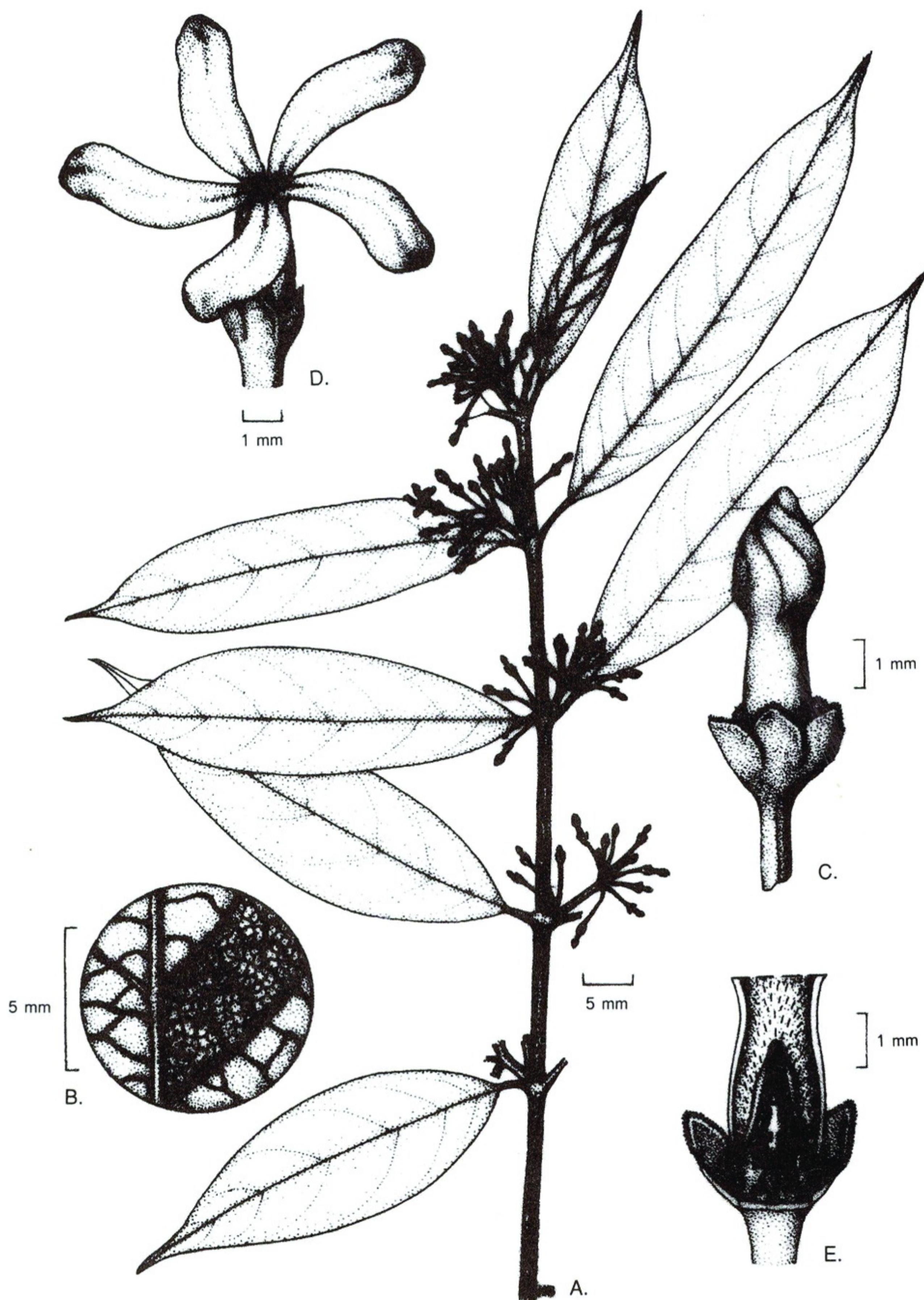


Figure 1. *Trachelospermum axillare* Hook.f.: A. Habit; B. close up of venation; C. flower bud; D. open flower; E. dissection.