

***Polyalthia lateritia* J. Sinclair (Annonaceae), a new record for Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. *Polyalthia lateritia* J. Sinclair, a new record for Thailand, is described and illustrated.

Polyalthia lateritia was first described by Sinclair (1955) as widespread in Malaysia. In preparing the treatment of the genus *Polyalthia* Blume for the Flora of Thailand, we found a specimen of *P. laterita* from Yala province, that is a new record for the country.

Polyalthia lateritia J. Sinclair, Gard. Bull. Singapore 14(2): 290. 1955; Chin., Lim., Fl. Mal. 1: 107. 1973. Type: Malaysia, Perak, Curtis 2704 (holotype S). Mal. 1: 107. 1973. Fig. 1.

Shrub 3–6 m tall. Young twigs glabrous. Leaves coriaceous, oblong, elliptic or elliptic-oblong, 22–28 by 5.5–7 cm, glaucous above, glabrous below, apex acute, base oblique, margin entire; secondary veins in 13–16 pairs, interarching 3–4 mm from margin, conspicuous above, raised and prominent below; tertiary veins reticulate, conspicuous below; petiole subsessile, 2–3 mm long. Flowers solitary, axillary; pedicels 8–10 mm long; bracts adnate with pedicel at base. Sepals ovate, 3–4 by 2–3 mm, apex obtuse, puberulose outside, glabrous inside. Petals thick and fleshy, reddish, valvate, puberulose outside, glabrous inside, outer petals elliptic-oblong, 4.3–4.8 by 1–1.2 cm, apex acute; inner petals oblanceolate or obovate, 4–4.5 by 0.8–1 cm, with claw 8–12 mm long, slightly longer and narrower than the outer ones. Torus cushion-shaped, 1.5–1.8 mm thick. Stamens cuneate, 2–2.5 mm long; anthers 1.8–2.3 mm long; connective slightly convex, hiding the anther cell. Carpels oblong, 2.5–3 mm long, pubescent; style almost sessile; stigma clavate, pubescent; ovules 2, having both basal and sub-basal placentation.

Thailand.— PENINSULAR: Yala [Betong, Aug. 1997, Bunchalee 139 (Khon Kaen University Herbarium)].

Distribution. — Malaysia.

Ecology. — Evergreen forest, 150–500 m. Flowering January–March.

Vernacular. — Champa-yala (จำปายะลา).

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Note. — *Polyalthia lateritia* is distinguishable from *P. motleyana* (Hook.f.) Airy Shaw var. *glabrescens* Airy Shaw by its glabrous young twigs, coriaceous leaves which are glaucous on upper surface and glabrous on lower surface, outer petals elliptic-oblong and inner petals oblanceolate or obovate.

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REFERENCE

Sinclair, J. 1955. A revision of the Malayan Annonaceae. Gard. Bull. Singapore. 14(2): 149–516.



Figure 1. *Polyalthia lateritia*: A. habit; B. outer petal; C. inner petal; D. carpel; E. stamen.