

A new combination in *Persicaria* (Polygonaceae) and a new record for Thailand

PRANOM CHANTARANOTHAI* & PRAPAPON TUBTIMTONG*

ABSTRACT. *Polygonum lanigerum* R.Br. is given varietal status as *Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) S.F. Gray var. *lanigera* (R.Br.) Chantar. & P. Tubtimtong. The taxon is newly recorded for Thailand and is described and illustrated.

The following new combination has arisen from work being carried out on Polygonaceae for the Flora of Thailand.

***Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) S.F. Gray var. *lanigera* (R.Br.) Chantar. & P. Tubtimtong, comb. et stat. nov.**— *Polygonum lanigerum* R.Br., Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl.: 419. 1810. Type: Australia, Port Jackson, *Brown* 3003 (lectotype BM!).— *P. lanatum* Roxb., Hort. Beng.: 29. 1814, nom. nud.; Fl. Ind. 2: 285. 1832. Type: India, *Roxburgh* s.n. (isotype BM!).— *P. lapathifolium* L. var. *lanatum* (Roxb.) Steward in Contrib. Gray Herb. 88: 71. 1930.— *P. lanigera* (R.Br.) Soják in Preslia 46: 153. 1974.— *P. lapathifolia* (L.) S.F. Gray subsp. *lanata* (Roxb.) Soják in Preslia 46: 154. 1974. Fig. 1.

Erect to scandent annual herb, 0.5–1 m tall; stem branched, moderately to densely woolly pubescent. *Leaves* lanceolate, 3–10 by 1–4 cm, apex acute to acuminate, base attenuate, margin ciliate, upper surfaces moderately woolly pubescent, lower surfaces moderately to densely woolly pubescent; petiole sessile or up to 1 cm long, densely woolly pubescent. *Ocreae* cylindrical, 1–2.5 cm long, glabrous or sparsely woolly pubescent, truncate or slightly oblique at the apex, glabrous or ciliate. *Inflorescences* terminal or in the axils of upper leaves, spiciform racemes, 1–5 cm long, often branches 1–3 times; inflorescence bracts cup-shaped, acuminate at apex, with a green ridges along the midvein; inflorescence bractlets cup-shaped, 2–2.5 cm long, densely pubescent, oblique at apex, with short hairs at margin; peduncle 0.5–5 cm long. *Flowers* in 5–6-flowered fascicles; bracts membranous, cylindrical, 1–2 mm long, truncate; pedicels 1.5–2 mm long; perianth 4-parted, pale yellow, 2–3.5 mm long, apex obtuse, with densely glandular dots at the centre of the tepals; stamens 6; filaments 0.8–1.5 mm long; anthers discoid, ca. 0.2 mm long; style one, deeply 2-cleft, 1.5–2 mm long, included; stigmas 2. *Achenes* slightly biconcave, broadly ovoid in outline, 2–2.5 mm long, brown, smooth.

*Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen 40002, Thailand.



Figure 1. *Persicaria lapathifolia* (L.) S.F. Gray var. *lanigera* (R.Br.) Chantar. & P. Tubtimtong: A. habit; B. portion of inflorescence; C. dissected flower; D. flower in fruit; E. achene; F. achene in T.S. All from Chantaranothai & Tubtimtong 42-08.

Thailand.— NORTH-EASTERN: Nong Khai [Tha Bo, 11 April 1998, *Chantaranothai & Tubtimtong* 41-08 (Khon Kaen University Herbarium)], Udon Thani [Kumphawapi, 10 Nov. 1999, *Chantaranothai & Tubtimtong* 42-08 (Khon Kaen University Herbarium)].

Distribution.— India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Japan (Kyushu), China (Hainan), Malaysia, Indonesia (Java), Australia.

Ecology.— In open, sunny places, occurring naturally along ditches in rice paddies, abandoned fields and roadsides. Flowering October–February.

Notes.— *Persicaria lapathifolia* var. *lanigera* differs from the typical variety in having woolly hairs on both surfaces of the leaves.

The earliest name applied to this taxon was *Polygonum lanigerum* R.Br. based on material from Australia. Roxburgh (1832) described *P. lanatum* which Hooker (1886) treated as a synonym of *P. lanigerum*. Danser (1927) and Steward (1930) argued that Asian material which had been named *P. lanigerum* was actually *P. lapathifolium*, and that African and Australian material to which Brown's description applied was *P. lanigerum*. However, they did not highlight the characters separating the two species. In fact, the African specimens are *Persicaria senegalense* (Meissn.) Soják f. *albotomentosa* (Graham) K.L. Wilson (syn. *Polygonum senegalensis* f. *albotomentosum*) while the specimens from Asia and Australia are *Polygonum lanigerum*.

Danser (1927) also placed *Polygonum lanatum* into the synonymy of *Polygonum lapathifolium*, although Steward (1930) recognised it as *P. lapathifolium* var. *lanatum*. Soják (1970) made combinations of both *P. lanigerum* and *P. lapathifolium* var. *lanatum* under *Persicaria*, namely *P. lanigera* and *P. lapathifolia* subsp. *lanata*. Our examination of type material shows that *P. lanigera* falls within the broad circumscription of *P. lapathifolia* with the minor differences indicated above. Therefore, we recognise *P. lanigera* as a variety of *P. lapathifolia*.

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