

***Decaschistia* (Malvaceae) in Thailand**

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ABSTRACT. An account of the genus *Decaschistia* in Thailand is presented.

The genus *Decaschistia* comprises ca. 16 species distributed from India through southeast Asia to Australia. The following account is presented as a precursor to a treatment for the Flora of Thailand.

## DECASCHISTIA

Wight &amp; Arn., Prod. 1: 52. 1834.

Small shrubs or herbs. *Leaves* simple, entire, serrate to shallowly lobed; stipules 1–3. *Flower* solitary, axillary or clustered at the end of the branches; epicalyx 8–10-lobed, persistent; calyx 5-lobed; petals 5, united at the base of the staminal tube. *Stamens* numerous, united in short column; anthers not sessile, ovary hairy; style with 8–10 branches, glandular; stigma capitate. *Fruit* capsular, globose; depressed, 8–10-locular, dehiscent. *Seeds* 1 per locule, reniform.

## KEY TO THE SPECIES

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| 1. Leaves glabrous, prominently reticulate on the upper surface, linear, margin revolute; flowers red            | <b>1. <i>D. intermedia</i></b> |
| 1. Leaves hairy, not prominently reticulate on the upper surface, rarely linear; flowers pink or yellow          |                                |
| 2. Upper surface of leaves minute stellate hairy, scabrous, rarely glabrous, flowers yellowish pink or pale pink | <b>2. <i>D. parviflora</i></b> |
| 2. Both surfaces of leaves densely stellate long hairy, flowers yellow   | <b>3. <i>D. siamensis</i></b>  |

**1. *Decaschistia intermedia* Craib, Kew Bull. 1915: 423. 1915.**

Small shrub, 10–60 cm high. *Leaves* linear, 2.2–9 by 0.3–1 cm, apex acute, mucronate to obtuse, margin entire, revolute, base cuneate, narrowly cordate to rounded, upper surface entirely glabrous, prominently reticulate, midrib sunken, lower surface densely pale stellate hairy, petiole subsessile to ca. 1 cm long. *Flowers* axillary, solitary in upper leaf axils and in terminal racemes, ca. 6 cm in diameter; pedicel hairy; calyx 5-lobed, 6–9 mm, lobes acute to acuminate, 1-nerved, outside stellately hairy, inside with appressed

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simple hairs; petals 5, obliquely obovate, ca. 3 by 1–1.5 cm, red. *Stamens* many (ca. 22); free part of filaments slender, 3–5 mm long; anthers red. *Style* slender, glandular hairy, ca. 1 cm longer than stamens, branches 8, 2–3 mm long; stigma hairy. *Fruit* ca. 8 mm in diameter, 8-locular.

**T h a i l a n d.**— EASTERN: Surin, Ubon Ratchathani (Noaw-ngam forest, Ban Bong); SOUTH-EASTERN: Trat (Khlong Kut, Khlong Yai.)

**D i s t r i b u t i o n.**— Cambodia.

**E c o l o g y.**— Scattered in moist places on sandstone plateau, open sandy areas in scrub forest, open dipterocarp forest, pine-dipterocarp forest and in paddy field, 100–150 m.

**V e r n a c u l a r.**— Ya ki on (หญ้าขี้ฉี่) (Loei); hua i uk (หัวอิ๊ก) (Yao-Nakhon Phanom).

## 2. *Decaschistia parviflora* Kurz, J. As. Soc. Beng. 39: 66. 1870.

Small shrub, 0.3–1 m high, branched. *Leaves* narrowly oblong, oblong, oblong-ovate to lanceolate, 2–12 by 0.5–5 cm, apex acute to obtuse, margin entire, scarcely dentate or serrate, base rounded, sometimes cuneate to slightly cordate; basal nerves 1–3(–5), penninerved along midrib; upper surface scabrous with appressed, minute, stellate hairs, rarely glabrous, lower surface densely pale hairy; petiole 0.5–4 cm long. *Flowers* axillary in upper part of stem and in terminal racemes; pedicels stiff, epicalyx 10-lobed, linear, 3–5 mm long, outside stellately hairy, inside glabrous except near apex, thin hairy; calyx 5-lobed, ca. 1 cm long, lobe acuminate, 1-nerved, outside stellately hairy, inside appressed hairy; petals 5, obliquely obovate, 2–3.5 by 1.5–2 cm, longitudinally veined, white, yellowish pink, pale pink to red, base whitish, outside stellately hairy, inside glabrous; staminal tube cylindric, 5–8 mm long. *Stamens* many, from middle of the tube through the apex, filament ca. 3 mm long, anther U-shaped, yellow. *Style* much longer than the staminal tube, apex 8–10 branched, ca. 1.5 cm long, styles and stigmas red. *Fruit* ca. 1.5 cm in diameter depressed, densely hairy, 10-lobular; seeds densely appressed hairy.

**T h a i l a n d.**— NORTHERN: Nakhon Sawan (Hua Wai), Sukhothai; NORTH EASTERN: Sakon Nakhon, Kalasin (Phu Sing), Khon Kaen (Sawang Daen Din); EASTERN: Chaiyaphum (Pa khok Yai Chiu), Nakhon Ratchasima (Ban Chum Saeng, Lat Bua Kao, Muang Phon, Pak Thong Chai), Buri Ram, Surin (Khao Sawai); SOUTH-WESTERN: Uthai Thani (Ban Rai, Huai Kha Khaeng), Phetchaburi (Cha-um, Nang Ya Pong); CENTRAL: Saraburi; SOUTH EASTERN: Prachin Buri (Krabin Buri, Wathana Nakhon).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n.**— Cambodia and Laos.

**E c o l o g y.**— Found in evergreen forest, deciduous forest, mixed deciduous forest, common in scrub forest, on roadside in sandy soil, and open areas. Altitude from sea level to 200 m.

**V e r n a c u l a r.**— Thong phan dun (ทองพันชูด) (Ratchaburi), kai u (ไก่อู) (Nakhon Sawan), hua kai oak (หัวไก่ออก) (Nakhon Ratchasima), chaba nu (ชบาหนู) (Central).

**N o t e.**— Plants from southwestern Thailand have leaves that are glabrous on upper surface.

**3. Decaschistia siamensis** Craib, Kew Bull. 1912: 146. 1912.

Shrub, 0.5–2 m. tall, all parts covered with yellowish stellate hairs. *Leaves* ovate, oblong-ovate, on upper part of stem narrowly oblong, 3–13.5 by 1.5–7 cm, apex acute to obtuse, margin entire, irregularly serrulate to dentate, shallowly lobed, base rounded, basal nerves 3–5, nerves 3–5 along midrib, softly stellately hairy on both surfaces densely hairy beneath, with a linear gland at the base of midrib on lower surface, in young leaves the gland often extending down to the apex of petiole; petiole 1–4 cm. long; stipules filiform, 1–3 in each side, 5–18 mm, unequal. *Flowers* axillary, solitary or in a terminal raceme; bracts linear, with a linear gland similar to the leaves; racemes, clustered or elongate, up to 40 cm long; pedicels 3–5 mm., increasing in fruit; epicalyx 9–10-lobed, linear, acute, 4–10 by 1–2 mm, connate at the base; calyx cup-shaped, 9–15 mm long, divided to half way into 5 lobes, lobes broadly triangular 4–8 mm wide, apex acute to acuminate, slightly thickened by yellowish long hairs along the midrib and margin; petals 5, obliquely obovate ca. 5 by 3.5 cm, longitudinally veined, yellow, base deep maroon inside, membranous; staminal tube cylindrical. *Stamens* many, from the base to the apex, filament 1 mm. long, anthers U-shaped. *Style* longer than the staminal tube, divided into 10 branches; stigmas papillose. *Fruit* globose, 1.5 cm. in diameter, depressed, densely yellowish to light brown woolly, 10-locular; seeds ca. 4 by 3 mm, glabrous, brown.

**T h a i l a n d.**— NORTH-EASTERN: Nakhon Phanom (Phu Wat), Sakon Nakhon (Phu Phan), Surin; CENTRAL: Saraburi; SOUTH-EASTERN: Chonburi (Khao Khiao), Chanthaburi (Pong Namron, Makham).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n.**— Endemic to Thailand.

**E c o l o g y.**— Common scattered in moist evergreen forest also on open rocky ground, in dry places on rock plateau, deciduous forest and along forest margin, alt. to 380 m.

**V e r n a c u l a r.**— Po-thai (โป้ไทย), fai phi (ฝ้ายผี) (Chanthaburi).