

Thysanotus chinensis (Anthericaceae?) in Thailand

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During field work in Thailand 1992, *Thysanotus chinensis*, a rare and endangered species was collected in Peninsular Thailand. A study of herbarium material revealed that it is known from five localities only. It grows on inundated open land with sandy, acid soil, a biotope, that is rapidly disappearing due to draining.

THYSANOTUS R.Br.

Rhizomatous, stemless herbs with narrow, often filiform leaves. Flowers in short or elongated, sometimes umbellate inflorescences. Tepals 6, free in two whorls. Outer perianth leaves with entire margin, inner ones with fringed margin. Stamens 6(–3), filaments thin, anthers linear. Ovary superior, 3-locular; style filiform with inconspicuous stigma. Capsule ovoid to sphaerical with 1–2 black, sphaerical seeds.

Taxonomic position.— *Thysanotus* belong to the Liliflorae. Following the classification of Dahlgren & al. (1985) it belongs to Anthericaceae together with *Anthericum* and other genera with curved embryo. The unequal outer and inner perianth segments, the last ones bluish with fringed margin, may, however indicate a closer relationship with *Bottinaea*, endemic to Chile and *Caesia* with few species in Australia. Thorne (1992) expand the circumscription of Aphyllanthaceae, by Dahlgren regarded as a monotypic family, and include *Caesia* and *Thysanotus*. The systematic position of *Thysanotus* is therefore still problematic.

About 50 species in Australia, two extending to SE Asia. In Thailand one species.

Thysanotus chinensis Benth., Fl. Hongk.: 327. 1861; Steenis, Blumea 20: 433. 1972; Jessop in Fl. Males. ser. 1, 9: 211, Fig. 10 e. 1979; Fl. R.P. Sinicae 14: 42, Pl. 9, 4–5, 48. 1980.— *T. siamensis* Ridl., J. Str. Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc. 59: 209. 1891; Fl. Mal. Pen. 4: 328. 1924.— *Halongia purpurea* Jeanplong. Act. Bot. Acad. Hung. 16: 296, Fig. 1–6. 1970. Figure 26.

Rosette plant with thin, fibrous roots. *Leaves* numerous, filiform, glabrous, 15–30 cm. *Peduncle* as long as leaves, unbranched, terminated by a umbellate inflorescence. *Pedicels* 1–2 cm, subtended by minute bracts. Outer perianth segments entire, greenish,

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with scarious margins, inner ones bluish-violet, with fringed margins. *Stamens* about half as long as perianth. *Capsule* ovoid, 4–5 mm.

T h a i l a n d.— EASTERN: Roi Et (Ying Yong 1100–82, Amphoe Suvannaphum, Srisawong. In paddy field. BK); PENINSULAR: Trang (Kerr 19044. Bangsak. BK, K), Thung Khai (Larsen et al. 43986. Open sandy, acid soil with spring bogs. AAU, BKF, PSU), Satun (Kerr 13696. Open grassy ground. BK, K); Setul (= Satun, Ridley s.n. Heath behind the village. Local, but abundant in one or two spots), type of *T. siamensis*.

D i s t r i b u t i o n.— Widely distributed but disjunct. From western and northern Australia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Moluccas, Flores, Celebes, northern Vietnam and southern China.

E c o l o g y.— In Thailand all collections seem to have been made at low altitudes and on wet sandy, acid soil; in East Malesia it is found up to 1600 m.

REFERENCES

- Dahlgren, R.M.T., Clifford, H.T. & Yeo, P.F. 1985. The families of the Monocotyledone. 520 pp.— Springer Verlag. Berlin.
Thorne, R.F. 1992. Classification and geography of the Flowering plants.— Bot. Review 58: 225–350.