

***Dialium patens* Bak. (Leguminosae-Caesalpinioideae)**

New to Thailand

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Since the publication of the Leguminosae – Caesalpinioideae in Flora of Thailand 4(1), 1984 a new species of *Dialium* has been discovered by Dr. C. Niyomdham during his exploration of the peat swamp forest area in the Narathiwat Province in southern Thailand.

Dialium patens Bak. in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 270. 1878; Ridl., Fl. Mal. Pen. 1: 622. 1922; Whitmore in Tree Fl. Mal. 1: 260. 1972.— *Dialium angustisepalum* Ridl., Kew. Bull. 1929: 255; Whitmore, Gard. Bull. Sing. 24: 4. 1969. Figure 24.

Buttressed tree up to 25 m. Young branches terete, rugose. Leaves with rachis 10–20 cm long. *Leaflets* 5(–9) opposite to subopposite, lanceolate, 6–9 by 2.5–4.5 cm, when mature glabrous except the faintly hairy midrib on the lower side, petiolules ca 5 mm. *Panicles* 15–22 cm long, up to 10 cm broad, branches slender, finely pubescent; pedicels 2–3 mm. *Flowers* creamy-white, fragrant. *Sepals* 4–5 mm long ovate-oblong, densely fine greyish pubescent on both sides, reflexed during anthesis with incurved margins. *Petals* 0. *Stamens* 2, early caducous, glabrous, filament 0.5 mm, anther ca 4 mm. *Ovary* densely brownish pubescent; style glabrous; stigma small. *Pods* ovoid, ca 15 by 8 mm, slightly compressed, very fragile, black with scattered, short, grey hairs.

Thailand.—PENINSULAR : Narathiwat (Niyomdham 833, 875, 1150, 1184. BKF, AAU).

Distribution.—Malay Peninsula where most records are from the southern part, Singapore, Sumatra, Banka, Bileton, Borneo.

Ecology.—Low, swampy areas including peat swamp forests.

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Amended key to *Dialium* in Fl. Thai 4(1): 88. 1984.

- 1. Leaflets glabrous when mature (except for few scattered hairs on the midrib on the lower side)
 - 2. Pods \pm sphaerical, 20–25 mm. Tree without buttresses; on dry hillsides in evergreen forests **2. *D. indum***
 - 2. Pods ovoid ca 15 mm long
 - 3. Flower buds 3–4 mm, anthers 3 mm. Tree without buttresses; in dry, deciduous forests **1. *D. cochinchinense***
 - 3. Flower buds 4–5 mm, anthers 4 mm. Buttressed tree in swamp forest **4. *D. patens***
- 1. Leaflets yellowish-brown pubescent beneath **3. *D. platysepalum***

The texture of the leaves is a difficult character to use and has been omitted.

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Figure 24. *Dialium patens* Bak.
Base of tree showing the characteristic buttresses from Narathiwat.
Photo : C. Niyomdham.