

### The Identity of *Phacelophrynium exorbitum* (Marantaceae)

Kai Larsen\*

---

In 1970 Mr. H. Dixen, former head-gardener at the greenhouses, Botanical Institute, Aarhus, collected rhizomes of a Marantaceae from northern Thailand and brought them back for cultivation. The material was sterile at the time of collecting. In 1977 a few inflorescences were produced in the greenhouses, and it was evident that the material belonged to a taxon not previously recorded from Thailand. As the inflorescence showed resemblance to members of the genus *Phacelophrynium* the collection was described as a species belonging to this genus with some hesitation and attention was drawn to the fact that the locality was far outside the known range of the genus.

Since then the plant has not flowered in Aarhus, but it was divided and a part of the material transferred to the greenhouses in Copenhagen where it produced several inflorescences in 1985. This material was studied once more and now a better description of the ovary and placentation was possible; it was indeed clear that only one ovule was formed in each locule. This, together with the general composition of the inflorescences which were very well developed, made it possible to correct the previous statements and transfer it to the South American genus *Ctenanthe*, and it is beyond doubt that it belongs to the species *C. compressa* (Dietr.) Eichl.

*Phacelophrynium exorbitum* K. Larsen is hereby reduced to synonymy of this species.

---

\*Botanical Institute, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

It has not been possible to trace how this species not known to be cultivated in private gardens in Thailand has been spread to the north of the country and how it has been naturalized far away from any of the larger cities.

#### LITERATURE

Larsen, K. 1978. A new species of *Phacelophrynium* from northern Thailand.-Bot. Not. 131 : 83-84.