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# THE GENUS *CHENOPODIUM* IN THAILAND

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The genus *Chenopodium* which is represented by several annual, weedy species all over the temperate and subtropical zone of the world is rare in the tropics. **Courchet** ( 1910 ) lists three weedy species from Indochina, i.e. *C. ambrosioides* L., *C. bothrys* L., and *C. hybridum* L. None of these have so far been reported from Thailand, but they may from time to time occur in waste areas around Bangkok and other larger communities. **Backer** ( 1949 ) reports also *C. polyspermum* L., *C. murale* L., and *C. album* from Indonesia. Also these may be found in Thailand as adventives.

So far, however, only one species has been collected in Thailand. **Larsen** ( 1963 ) reports *C. album* L. from Chainat based on *Sorensen, Larsen & Hansen 1901*, **Grey-Wilson** ( 1972 ) notes that *C. moquinianum* Aellen is the only *Chenopodium* species so far found in the country based on the collections of *A.F.G. Kerr 8801* and *12709*. I have now had the entire material of *Chenopodium* for study and compared it with Aellen's determination of material from the Far East.

There is no doubt that all material so far collected in Thailand belong to one species of *Chenopodium*. It seems to be common on sandy areas along the large rivers, but so far we have only few collections, and only a closer study by local botanists can clear up its total distribution and elucidate whether it is spreading at present. The species is:

**Chenopodium ficifolium** Smith subsp. **blomianum** ( Aellen ) Aellen, Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mittel-Eur. **3** ( 2 ) : 624. 1978.— *C. blomianum* Aellen, Bot. Notis. : 203. 1928.

This Taxon has hitherto been reported from India, Nepal, China, Eastern Siberia, Korea, Japan and Taiwan, which seems to be its natural distribution areas. As adventive it has been found in Sweden.

On the map (Fig. 14) the distribution in Thailand is illustrated. It is porbably much more widespread.

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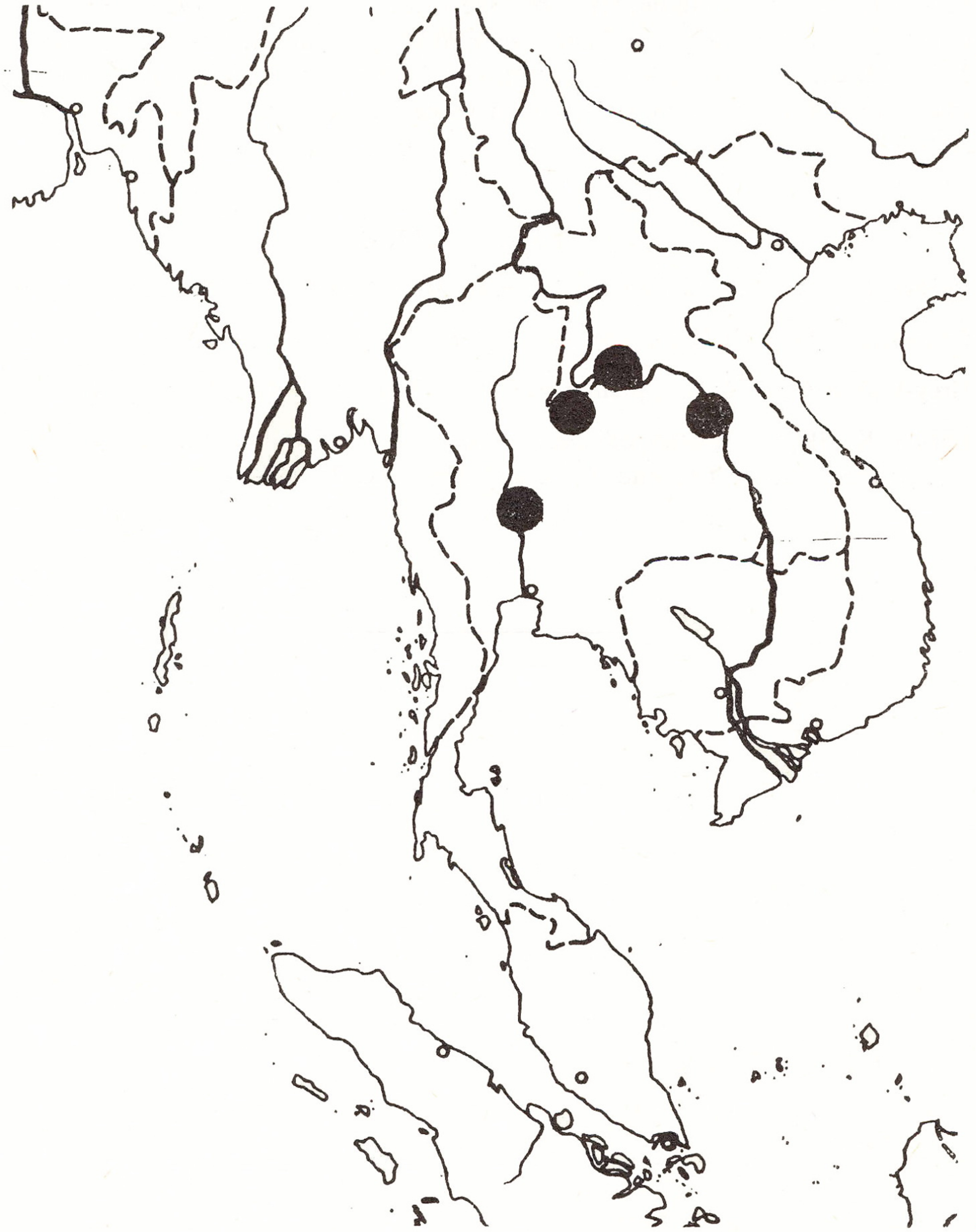


Figure 14. Map showing the distribution of *Chenopodium ficifolium* var. *blomianum*.

Material studied:
*Kerr, s.n.* : Nakhon Phanom, Bank of Mae Khong, 200 m, 13.2.1924; *Kerr 8801*, Chiang Khan, Loei, 200 m, 23.3.1924; *Kerr 20709*, Chaiyaburi, Nong Khai, 200 m, 24.3.1932, common on bank of Mae Khong; *Smitinand 4422;* Chao Phraya Dam, Chai Nat, 150 m, 5.3.1958, common on waste land; *Sorensen, Larsen & Hansen 1901*, Chai Nat, 5.3.1958.

## LITERATURE

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