



Taxonomic notes on the genus *Justicia* (Acanthaceae) from Thailand

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Abstract

Justicia hansenii is described and illustrated from south-eastern Thailand. *Justicia henicophylla* and *J. viridiflora* are lectotypified, and four names are placed into synonymy for the first time.

Introduction

The genus *Justicia* Linnaeus (1753: 15) (Acanthaceae) comprises ca. 600 species (Graham 1988, Mabberley 2008) and is distributed throughout tropical and subtropical regions, extending into warm temperate zones in Europe, Asia and North America (Heywood *et al.* 2007). The most recent treatments of the genus for Thailand are those of Imlay (1938), Hansen (1985) and the Smitinand (2001). They recognised 48, 40 and 14 species, respectively.

During preparation of the treatment of *Justicia* for the Flora of Thailand Project, 50 taxa have been enumerated, 20 of which are endemic. Most of the taxa typically occur in evergreen forests or open areas on limestone substrates. Several putative new taxa have been discovered, one of which is described here. Other taxa will be described later as more material becomes available.

Materials & Methods

Specimens were consulted from the following herbaria: AAU, BCU, BK, BKF, BM, C, CMU, E, G, K, KKU, L, M, P, PSU, QBG, SING and TCD (acronyms according to Thiers 2013). Pollen was prepared according to the acetolysis method (Erdtman 1960), measured and studied under both light and scanning electron microscopes. The terminology used follows Lindau (1895) and Punt *et al.* (2007).

Taxonomic treatment

Justicia hansenii K. Rueangsawang & Chantar., *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–3)

J. hansenii resembles *J. distincta* Imlay (1939: 147) and *J. vasculosa* (Nees von Esenbeck 1832: 104) Anderson (1867: 515) but differs in having inflorescences with more numerous spreading lateral branches and finely pubescent calyx, corolla and capsule (Table 1).

Type:—THAILAND. Prachuap Khiri Khan: Pala-U waterfall, elevation ca. 125 m, 10 March 2010, K. Rueangsawang 258 (holotype KKU!, isotypes BK!, BKF!).