A taxonomic revision of *Pterisanthes* (Vitaceae) in Thailand and a new Thai record for *Pterisanthes cissioides*

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Abstract

A revision of *Pterisanthes* in Thailand is presented with three species: *P. eriopoda*, *P. polita* and *P. cissioides*. *Pterisanthes cissioides* Blume is newly recorded for Thailand. A description and illustration are provided. Full typification is presented for all species and synonyms and lectotypes are selected for five names. Distribution maps are presented.

Introduction

The genus *Pterisanthes* Blume (Vitaceae) comprises ca. 19–20 species (Latiff 1982, 2001; Wen 2007) with a distribution centred in Malaysia, extending northwards to Peninsular Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines. In many cases the distribution of *Pterisanthes* species is quite restricted, with five species restricted to the Malay Peninsula, four to Borneo and two to Sumatra. In addition, around 5 species are only known from their type location and one species (*Pterisanthes pulchra* Ridl.) is only found in the forest of Fraser’s Hill in Peninsular Malaysia (Latiff 1987). Three *Pterisanthes* species are widespread in their distribution and have wide intraspecific variation (Latiff 1982): *Pterisanthes polita* (Miq.) M.A. Lawson, *Pterisanthes eriopoda* (Miq.) Planch. and *Pterisanthes cissioides* Blume.

The genus *Pterisanthes* was first described by Blume in 1825 from plants collected in Java that presented a very distinctive inflorescence type. The genus is characterised by an inflorescence in the form of a leaf-opposed, somewhat fleshy, leaf-like, flat lamellate panicle. A sterile tendril is present at the base of the peduncle (Trias-Blasi et al. 2012). Often the lamellate flowers are partially immersed in the lamina. In 1858 Agardh suggested that *Pterisanthes* should be placed in its own family, the Pterisanthaceae; however this suggestion was never adopted (Latiff 1982). In 1863 Miquel transferred many Vitaceae species and genera to *Vitis* and then separated *Vitis* into several sections. One of the genera transferred was *Pterisanthes*, becoming *Vitis* Sect. *Pterisanthes*, which at the time contained five species. Even though authors such as Kuntze (1891) adopted Miquel’s classification system, most authors agreed with Blume and retained generic status for *Pterisanthes*. Subsequently, new *Pterisanthes* species were described by several authors: Lawson (1875) 3 spp.; Planchon (1887) 8 spp.; Ridley (1893, 1912, 1931) 4 spp.; Merrill (1907, 1917, 1929, 1934) 5 spp.; van Steenis & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1967) 2 spp.; Latiff (1982) 3 spp. In 1982 Latiff separated the genus into two sections based on the nature of the inflorescences; while Sect. *Pterisanthes* has pedicellate flowers on the margin of the lamellae, Sect. *Paginiflora* has sessile flowers.

Van Steenis & Bakhuizen van den Brink suggested (1967) *Pterisanthes* might have its origins in *Ampelocissus* because of their shared morphological similarities such as seed morphology, petiole anatomy, indumentum types and association of the tendril to the inflorescence (Latiff 1982). Recent molecular studies (Soejima & Wen 2006; Wen et al. 2007; Trias-Blasi et al. 2012) have suggested relationships are with *Ampelocissus*, *Nothocissus* and *Vitis*. 


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Pterisanthes pulchra


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