

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF ORCHIDS FROM LAOS

by

GUNNAR SEIDENFADEN D.Sc.

Botanical Museum, Copenhagen

During short visits to Laos in 1957-58 the author made a few collections of orchids. First, in January 1957 a few specimens of *Sarcanthus* were collected just south of Luang Prabang. During a trip from Vientiane to Luang Prabang in April 1957, plants were collected at Col Den Din and Muang Kassy. Finally, a short trip was made in November 1958 to the plateau of Boa Kao Kwai (abt. 900 m) near Vientiane, where also a few orchids were collected. Two collections, made by Mr. Rondon of Vientiane, also at Boa Kao Kwai, are added to the list.

Below are listed the species so far identified. Although the list contains only some 40 species it may be of some interest to future students; some of them have as far as known not previously been found in Laos, and one species, *Pteraceras laotica*, is described as new. The species are listed in the same order as in the preliminary list of Orchids of Thailand (SEIDENFADEN & SMITINAND 1959-64) and the same nomenclature used. Specimens of most of the plants listed are kept in alcohol in the Copenhagen Museum, those still alive are in the hothouses in the Botanical Gardens at Copenhagen and Gothenburg.

Panisea uniflora LDL. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai 900 m (GT 2957). A sketch and a colour photo of this specimen is found in SEID. & SMITIN. (1959, p. 135 and pl. IV).

Pholidota pallida LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 775, 776, 913); Col Den Din (GT 966, 987, 999).

Pholidota articulata LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 790), Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2974).

Ephemerantha fimbriata (Bl.) H. & S.s.l. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2968). This specimen has rather small flowers as compared with most of the Thai specimens examined. The flowers are white, tip of mentum greenish, sidelobes and keels on lip have minute red dots. As already stated (SEID. & SMITIN. 1960, p. 187), we feel that the collections from Thailand listed under this name may prove to belong to several distinct species. Actually, the Laotian specimen seems to be identical with some plants collected in the Chiangmai area of Thailand (GT 2261,

2262, 1914), and may prove to be identical with the plant pictured by KING & PANTLING (Ann. Calc. VIII, 1898, pl. 86) under the name of *Dendrobium macraei* LDL.; these plants must, however, be further studied, and perhaps they are not identical with LINDLEY's Ceylonese plant.

- Dendrobium aggregatum* ROXB. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2973).
- D. trigonopus* RCHB. F. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (RONDON 118). As far as known, this species has not previously been recorded from Laos.
- D. chrysotoxum* LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 834).
- D. moschatum* SW. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 956, 970, 1004). The specimen GT 970 is referred to *var. cupreum*.
- D. fimbriatum* LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 841 A), Col Den Din (GT 983, 984). At Col Den Din, also the *var. oculatum* HK. F. is present (GT 941).
- D. sulcatum* LDL. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 954). A colour photo of this specimen is found in SEID. & SMITIN. (1960, pl. IX). We have seen no earlier records of this species from Laos.
- D. crassinode* BENS. & RCHB. F. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2955). Found recently also by TIXIER near Vientiane (GUILLAUMIN 1959, p. 270).
- D. pierardii* ROXB. Loc. : Very common in Luang Prabang, Muang Kassy and Col Den Din.
- D. primulinum* LDL. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2954). We have seen no earlier records of this species from Laos.
- D. delacourii* GUILL. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2961).
- D. cumulatum* LDL. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2956, det. ALSTERLUND). Not previously recorded from Laos.
- D. revolutum* LDL. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (RONDON 19)
- D. acinaciforme* ROXB. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2965). Not previously recorded from Laos.
- D. indivisum* (BL.) MIQ. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2971).
- D. kentrophyllum* HK. F. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 808, 845).
- Eria javanica* (SW.) BL. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 965, 996, 1007, 1008). Not hitherto recorded from Laos. See SEID. & SMITIN. (1960, fig. 218 and pl. XIII, and 1965, p. 782).
- Eria albidotomentosa* (BL.) LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 780, 784, 897, 927).
- Agrostophyllum khasianum* GRIFF. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 1000). Not previously recorded from Laos.
- Polystachya flavescens* (BL.) J.J.S. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 951).
- Bulbophyllum* sp. sec. *Epicrianthes*. Loc. : Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2985). This plant seems to be close to *Epicrianthes annamensis* GUILL. (1956, p. 486); I have, however, not seen his type specimen, and until considerably more material of plants in

this section has been studied, it is difficult to say how many different species there exist and to what extent the number and place of the appendages on the petals varies within each species. GUILLAUMIN (l.c.) indicates that his plant from Annam has 3-5 appendages, but he does not indicate if there is an appendage in the sinus between the lobes of the petals or not.

The plant from Boa Kao Kwai comes very close to the plant sketched as *Bulbophyllum haniffi* in SEID. & SMITIN. (1961, fig. 287 and pl. XVI), and belong in the group without appendages in the sinus; there are two appendages on the upper and three on the lower lobe of the petals. There are, however, some differences between the Laotian plant and the plants from Peninsular Thailand, i a. the lip is shorter (about 2 mm) and nearly truncate. There are also differences between the Laotian plant and GUILLAUMIN's plant from Annam, f.i. the sepals are dirty yellow with small red spots, mainly near the base, while GUILLAUMIN says that the sepals of *E. annamensis* are dark purplish; the appendages on the Laotian plant are only about 2 mm long and the lateral sepals are about 6,5 mm long; GUILLAUMIN says that the appendages on *E. annamensis* are about the same length as the sepals which are 5 mm long.

B. sessile (KOEN.) J.J.S. Loc.: Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2964, 2072). Not previously recorded from Laos.

B. odoratissimum LDL. Loc.: Muang Kassy (GT 830). Not previously recorded from Laos.

Trias disciflora (ROLFE) STAPP. Loc.: Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2959, 2976). See SEID. & SMITIN. (1961, p. 441, fig. 328).

Cymbidium sutepense ROLFE, ex DOWNIE Loc.: Boa Kao Kwai (GT 2981). As to the identity of this plant, see SEID. & SMITIN. (1965, p. 818).

Thecostele alata (ROXB.) PAR. & RCHB. F. Loc.: Muang Kassy (GT 755).

Thrixspermum arachnites (BL.) RCHB. F. Loc.: Muang Kassy (GT 827, 841, 849, 904).

Pteroceras laotica SEID. sp. nov.

Pterocerati stenoglottidi (HK.F.) HOLTT. *affine, ab eo lobis lateralibus labii verticalibus satis magnis imprimis diversum.*

Stem short with leaves close together. Leaves to 26 cm long, 5 cm broad, unequally bilobed, weak and flabby. Scape 8-12 cm, fattening towards apex, dark, rachis about 3-5 cm. Bracts dark, triangular, about 2-3 mm long and broad. Pedicel plus ovary 10-12 mm long when flowers open. Flowers close together, a few opening at a time, the lowermost first, the buds assembled in a head. Sepals about 9 mm by 4-5 mm, petals 9 mm by 2-3 mm. Lip about 10 mm long, sidelobes vertical, large, about 4-5 mm long and broad, midlobe minute. Column broadening upwards about 6 mm long, stigma circular; pollinia two, deeply cleft, on a short, broad stipes. Buds purple when young, flowers white,

yellowish at base of petals and sepals and inside lip. Reddish purple midlobe and two reddish purple blotches on sides of spur. Column white. See fig. 1.

Loc. : COL Den Din (GT 994, 998, 1006). Type specimen in Kew and Copenhagen.

It has not been possible to locate the type specimen of *Sarcochilus stenoglottis* HK. F. in Kew, but judging from the available figures (HOOKER F. 1895, pl. 62 and HOLTUM 1957, fig. 208) the Laotian species is vegetatively nearly identical with HOOKER's species, while the flower is distinctly different.

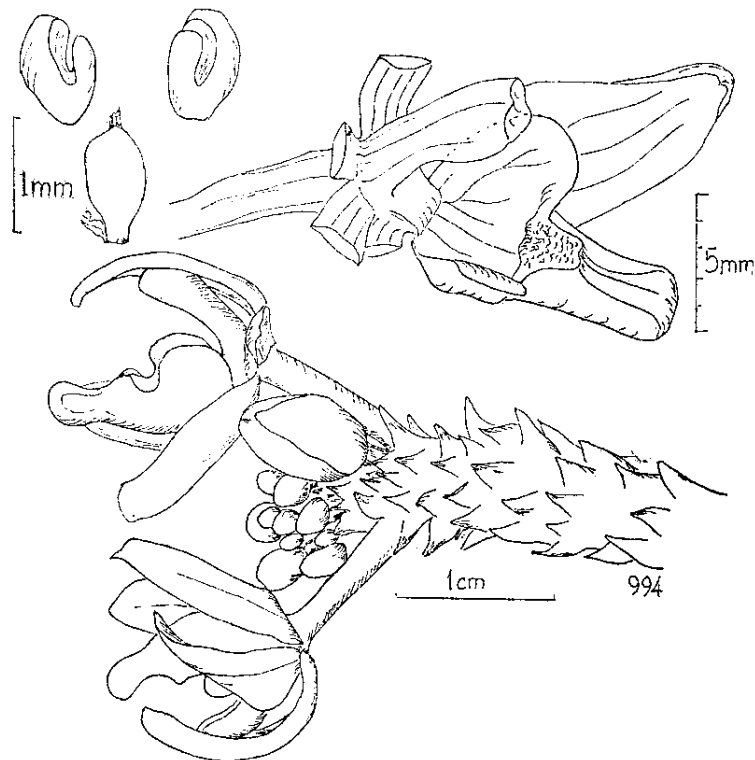


Fig. 1. *Pteroceras laotica* Sp. nov. Rachis, flower from above (petals and two sepals removed, operculum and pollinia missing), pollinia and stipes.

Aerides feldingii LODD. ex MORREN. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 805). Not earlier recorded from Laos. See SEID. & SMITH. (1965, p. 821 and pl. XXXVII).

A. falcatum LDL. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 911).

Renanthera coccinea LOUR. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT s.n.)

Saccolabium humile RIDL. Loc. : Col Den Din (GT 1011, 1013). See SEID. & SMITIN, (1963, p. 617 and fig. 465 A).

Pomatocalpa siamensis (ROLFE ex DOWNIE) SUMMERHAYES. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 768). Not previously recorded from Laos. See SEID. & SMITIN, (1965, p. 653).

Sarcanthus siamensis ROLFE ex DOWNIE Loc. : Luang Prabang (GT 421, 424).

Acampe ochracea (LDL.) HOCHR. Loc. : Muang Kassy (GT 958, 967). Not before recorded from Laos.

Literature cited :

GUILLAUMIN, A. (1956) : Plantes nouvelles, rares ou critiques.—Bull. Mus. Nat. 2. Ser. t. XXVIII, No. 5. Paris.

(1959) : *ibid.* t. XXXI, No. 3.

HOLTUM, R.E. (1957) : A revised Flora of Malaya I : Orchids of Malaya. 2. ed. Singapore.

HOOKE, J.D. (1895) : A Century of Indian Orchids.—Ann. Bot. Gard. Calc. Vol. V. Calcutta.

KING, G. & R. PANTLING (1898) : The Orchids of the Sikkim-Himalaya.—*ibid.* VIII.

SEIDENFADEN, G. & T. SMITINAND (1959-65) : The Orchids of Thailand. Bangkok.