

Hedyotis linoides (Griff.) Kurz (Rubiaceae)-New Record for Thailand

During a recent collecting trip to the Dongrak Range in Kantalarak District, Sisaket Province, which borders Cambodia, I found *Hedyotis linoides* (Griff.) Kurz. This is a new record for the flora of Thailand. The habitat of this slender, branched, very inconspicuous, relatively uncommon, annual herb to c. 30 cm tall is in open, seasonally dry and at the time of collecting, wet, thin soil on sandstone bedrock which is frequently exposed in bare patches. The forest is a savanna glade in fire-prone, degraded, deciduous forest at 350 m elevation (MAXWELL 03-366, 21 October 2003).

This species is easily recognized by having opposite, linear-to-ovate, mostly triangular, subsessile leaf blades with revolute margins up to c. 15 mm long with a uniquely truncate-cordate, amplexicaul base. Some field notes include: stems, branches, inflorescence axes, calyx tube light green; calyx lobes green; corolla light lilac; anthers, filaments, stigmas, style all white; leaf blades green above, and light green underneath.

This plant was originally listed by Wallich in his Catalog (1828, no. 864) as *Hedyotis arguta* R. Br., a *nomen nudum*, from Moulmein and Mergui, Burma. HOOKER (1880) incorrectly assumed that the Wallich Catalog name was validly published and transferred this species to *Oldenlandia*, viz. *O. arguta* (R. Br.) Hk. f. PITARD (1923), providing an excellent description, followed Hooker using material from Bassac, southern Laos (which is close to the Dongrak Range).

Oldenlandia linoides Griff. was validly published by Wm. Griffith (Not. Plant. Asia. Rarior. 4, 265) in 1855 based on material he collected in Mergui, Burma in October, 1834. Kurz (Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal 46:2, 134) recombined this species as *Hedyotis linoides* (Griff.) Kurz in 1877.

As *Hedyotis arguta* R. Br. was not validly published until 1880 by Hooker as *Oldenlandia arguta* (R. Br.) Hk. f., *Oldenlandia linoides* Griff. has priority since it was validly published in 1855.

This is the third additional species of *Hedyotis* for the Thai flora that I have recently found (MAXWELL, 2002). The two other species are found in a similar habitat and also on sandstone bedrock include *Hedyotis bahaii* Maxw. and *H. ternata* (Pierre ex Pit.) Maxw., both from Ubon Ratchatani Province.

The specific epithet *arguta* is Latin for sharp (calyx lobes), while *linoides* refers to *Linum* (Linaceae) (habit).

Acknowledgement.—I would like to thank Dr. J. F. Veldkamp (National Herbarium, Leiden, Netherlands) for some constructive and valuable comments concerning the taxonomic history of *Hedyotis linoides*.

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