

## V. STUDY ON THE FLORA OF THAILAND, A REVIEW

The taxonomic result of the Thai-Danish Botanical Studies has come out under the title, "*Studies in the Flora of Thailand*" in the Dansk Botanisk Arkiv, Bind 20, Nr. 1, pp. 1-108, 1961 with 14 figures, after the intensive study undertaken during 1957-60. It is the first installment of a series, which will duely come out successively. It is indeed a valuable addition to the rather scanty bibliography of the Thai botany, and will be wellcome by all concerned.

The work follows the step of its classical predecessor, the Flora of Koh Chang by having the collaboration of specialists, besides the members of the expedition. It is comprising the following plant groups:— *Filicinae* by Dr. **R.E. Holttum** of Kew; *Liliaceae*, *Triuridaceae*, *Trilliaceae*, *Iridaceae*, and *Polygonaceae* by Mr. **Kai Larsen** of Copenhagen; *Scrophulariaceae-Nelsonieae*, *Thunbergiaceae*, and *Acanthaceae* by Dr. **C.E.B. Bremekamp** of Utrecht; and lastly the genus *Sphagnum* by Mr. **Bertel Hansen** of Copenhagen.

Throughout the work the localities are arranged after the old administrative division, applied in the Florae Siamensis Enumeratio. It is without doubt rendering a confusion to the present as well as the future students of Thai botany.

Dr. **Holttum** gives a record of 157 Thai ferns, many of which are being reported for the first time, and new species are to be expected after a thorough study. It is for the first time that the study of a collection representing the fern flora of various parts of the country has been made. As the expedition had another studies to be achieved, namely the cyto-taxonomy, ecology, and pedology, an extensive collection of particular plants is not possible. The number of ferns collected is to be estimated as about 25% of the whole population of Thai ferns. As to be seen the fern flora of Thailand presents a tempting prospect for any pteridologist to have a further study of their relationship and distribution.

Mr. **Larsen** accredits four new species to the plant kingdom, three belonging to the *Liliaceae*, i.e. *Aspidistra sutepensis* K. Larsen, *Tupistra albiflora* K. Larsen and *Chlorophytum subundulatum* K. Larsen. The occurrence of the family *Triuridaceae* in Thailand is indeed of great interest, and is represented by a new species: *Sciaphila thailandica* K. Larsen.

Dr. *Bremekamp* removes the section *Nelsoniae* from the family *Acanthaceae* to *Scrophulariaceae*, and 5 new species of the genus *Staurogyne* are being proposed: *S. expansa* Brem., *S. flexicaulis* Brem., *S. kradengensis* Brem., *S. longeciliata* Brem., and *S. polycaulis* Brem. The genus *Thunbergia* is also being raised to a family rank, *Thunbergiaceae*, of which 5 species have been recorded, including a cultivated one. Fifteen new species and three new varieties with a number of new combinations are being proposed in the *Acanthaceae*, of which 76 species are being enumerated. Besides this a new genus *Eriostrobilus* Brem. is being created, basing on *Strobilanthes bombycina* Imlay. The followings are new taxa: *Sericocalyx thailandicus* Brem., *Adenostachya plurispica* Brem., *Buteraea parvifolia* Brem., *Lepidagathis chiengraiensis* Brem. (the actual specific epithet is *chiengmaiensis*, as the type and only specimen referred to come from Chiengrai, it is to be presumed that an orthographic error is involved), *Chroesthes racemiflora* Brem., *Ch. racemiflora* var. *glabrior* Brem., *Phlogacanthus racemosus* Brem., *Gymnostachyum gracile* Brem., *Clinacanthus siamensis* Brem., *Mananthes tenuispica* Brem., *Rhyticalymma angustifolium* Brem., *Rostellularia chiengmaiensis* Brem., *R. cradengensis* Brem. (the inconsistency in the latinization of the name Poo Kradeng or Phu Krading is involved here), *R. elegans* Brem., *R. elegans* var. *glabrifolia* Brem., *R. neglecta* Brem., *R. ramosissima* Brem. and *Rungia parviflora* var. *ciliata* Brem.

In conclusion Mr. *Hansen* gives an account of the genus *Sphagnum* of Phu Krading (Poo Kradeng), from where he records 7 species, including one new species, *Sphagnum personatum* Hansen and two new records. A general description of the plateau is being given.

T.S.