A New Record of *Hoya* (Asclepiadaceae) from Southern Thailand

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A new addition to the known list of Thai *Hoya* flora, *Hoya pusilla* Rintz has been found in southern Thailand. This new recording of this species in Thailand is reported, and the species is described and illustrated in this paper.

The genus *Hoya* R. Br. is a member of the milkweed family, Asclepiadaceae, and consists of at least 200 species which occur from China, Southeast Asia to Oceania\(^1\). Their common characters are: milky sap in all parts, opposite leaves, umbelliform inflorescence and a star-shaped corona. Presently, there are approximately 40 species of *Hoya* in Thailand\(^2,3,4\). More work, however, is required in order to make clearer visual based taxonomic keys for the identification of the members of this genus. Towards this aim, specimens of *Hoya* were collected from southern Thailand and one of them is now reported as a new species record for this country and important biodiversity region.

Herbarium specimens of Hoyas’ collected from the Betong district, Yala province (*J. Wai* 778BCU, 914PSU), southern Thailand, were determined to species level using the keys to species in Hooker (1883)\(^5\), Constantin (1912)\(^6\), Kerr (1951)\(^7\), Rintz (1978)\(^8\) and Li et al. (1995)\(^9\). For comparisons, we examined herbarium specimens deposited at the following herbariums: BCU, PSU, K, L, P, BM and BKF.

The morphological characters of the *Hoya* specimens collected, examined and reported here (*J. Wai* 778BCU, 914PSU) were found to fit well with the key to species and description of *H. pusilla* Rintz in Rintz (1978)\(^8\). It also matched well with the herbarium and type specimens of this species, which are deposited at Leiden herbarium (L). Accordingly, *H. pusilla* Rintz is newly recorded for Thailand. A description of this species given below is based on these Thai materials.

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**Hoya pusilla** Rintz, Malayan Nat. J. 30 (3-4): 492, 1978. (Fig. 1)

A small climbing epiphyte. *Stem* and branches slender, 2 - 3 mm in diam., greenish or greyish color, glabrous; internodes 1 - 10 cm long. *Leaves*: petiole glabrous, 2 - 8 mm long; blade coriaceous, ovate or elliptic to oblanceolate, 1.5 - 6 cm long, 1 - 3 cm wide, glabrous, upper surface green, lower surface slightly paler, apex acute to acuminate, base...
obtuse to rounded; midrib and nerves inconspicuous or slightly raised above, lateral veins 4 - 5 pairs. Inflorescences auxiliary or terminal, positively geotropic, 17-32-flowered; peduncle 5 - 11 cm long, glabrous. Pedicels various in length, 6 - 11 mm long, creamy with scattered reddish purple glands, glabrous. Calyx reddish purple, lobes nearly divided, ovate, 0.6 – 0.7 mm long, 0.5 – 0.6 mm wide, apex acute, outer surface minutely papillate. Corolla creamy white to pinkish white, lobes recurved, ovate, 2.5 - 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, apex acute, inner surface sparsely pilose at nearly the base of lobes, outside glabrous. Corona less than half size of corolla, 2.2 - 2.5 mm in diam., coronal scales obvate, creamy or pinkish cream, 0.8 - 1 mm long, 0.6 - 0.8 mm wide, upper surface convex, outer angle obtuse, inner angle acute, reddish purple, slightly raised up; anther appendages white, covering the receptive area of stigma. Pollinarium: pollinia obliquely oblong, yellow, 0.20 - 0.23 mm long, 0.10 - 0.13 mm wide; caudicles triangular, hyaline with oblong wing; corpusculus reddish brown, cylindrical-oblong, 0.10 - 0.14 mm long, 0.05 - 0.06 mm wide. Stigma conical, subquadrangular. Fruit not seen.

Thailand.– PENINSULAR: Yala [Betong, J. Wai 778 (BCU), 914 (PSU)].

Distribution.– Peninsular Malaysia [RER 55 holotype L!, isotype PER!, KLU!].

Ecology.– Occurs on trees near streams, in both semi-exposed and shady areas in moist evergreen forest, alt. 550 - 600 m. Very rare. Flowering almost all year round, more flowers in the wet season.

Hoya pusilla Rintz was first described from specimens collected by Rintz in Sangahi Tahan, Kuala Putek Camp, Pahang, Malaysia, in 1976. In this study, the specimens were collected from plants growing on trees in an evergreen forest in southern Thailand. H. pusilla Rintz is closely related to H. lacunosa Blume, but differs both in size and form of the flowers. The flowers of H. lacunosa are larger than those of H. pusilla. H. lacunosa is densely pubescent on the inner surface of the corolla lobes with an ovate to elliptic coronal scale with an acute apex, while H. pusilla has only a ring of long hair on the inner surface near the base of the corolla lobes and has obovate coronal scales with an obtuse apex.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our thanks to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Obchant Thaithong for her criticism of the manuscript. This work was financially supported by Chulalongkorn University through the ‘Plants of Thailand Research Unit’ and the ‘Grants for Development of New Faculty Staff’.

LITERATURE CITED


Received: 16 July 2009
Accepted: 24 August 2009