

CHAPTER III

INTRODUCTION TO *STRYCHNOS THORELII* PIERRE EX DOP

Smitinand (1980)⁶ recorded the presence of the plant and the vernacular names of *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop distributed in Thailand :

Strychnos thorelii Pierre ex Dop C

เขี้ยว Khieo nguu , **ลุ่มนง** Lum nok (Chumphon) ; **จองละอา** Chong la aa, **จองระอา** Chong ra aa (Chantaburi); **เถาสะเอม** Thao sa em , **สะเอ็ง** Sa eng (Trat)

(The well-known vernacular name is in bold printed.)

Botanical Character

Leenhout (1972)¹⁴⁰ described the characteristic feature of *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop as follows :-

Liane. Twigs thinly patentely pubescent, glabrescent. Leaves oblong-ovate to lanceolate, 4.5-10 by 2-4 cm, chartaceous to coriaceous, shining above, sometimes sparsely patentely hairy on the midrib beneath, otherwise glabrous; base broadly cuneate to subcordate , slightly attenuate , apex gradually acute - acuminate ; 3-5 plinerved above the base; petiole 0.5-1 cm, pubescent. Inflorescences axillary and terminal , up to 10 cm long , lax , minutely pubescent, with some fruits only, branches slender, torus somewhat broadened. Fruits ovoid to oblong-ellipsoid, 2.5 by 1.5 cm, thin-shelled. Seed 1, elliptic-lenticular, 2 by 1.25 cm.

Distribution¹⁴⁰

Cochin-china, Siam, and Burma, in Malaysia : northern part of the Malay Peninsula.

Ecology¹⁴⁰

In and along evergreen and bamboo forests, up to 200 m

Bisset (1974)⁵ described the characteristic feature of *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop as follows :-

This species is a liane up to 18 m in height, with a finely lenticellate yellowish grey bark. It is found in forests between 300 and 600 m altitude. Strangely enough, the flowers have never been collected, and although vegetatively the plant closely resembles *Strychnos cathayensis*, the two species are readily differentiated by the very different fruits.

Distribution⁵

South Burma (Tenasserim), Thailand (Chantaburi, Phuket), Cambodia (Kampot), South Vietnam, and Malaysia (Kelantan)

Medicinal Uses

According to Bisset (1974)⁵, *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop are stated to be used medicinally. But no details of the ailments treated are given.

In Chantaburi province, Thailand, this plant is widely used in folk remedy as an antidote against poisons.



Figure 3 *Strychnos thorelii* Pierre ex Dop

ศูนย์วิจัยทรัพยากรชีวภาพ
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย