

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW



For the knowledge of the moss flora of Thailand, the contribution supposed to be the first appeared in E.J. Schmidt's Flora of Koh Chang (1901). During 1901 - 1932 Dr. A.F.G. Kerr then the civil servant to his majesty government of Siam had made a massive collection of botanical materials including mosses in various parts of Thailand. His moss collection was studied and determined by H.N. Dixon who later published under the title the Moss Flora of Siam (1932). The enumeration consisted of 220 known species.

P.W. Richards on his excursion to northern Thailand in 1957 did collect some moss specimens; and he with his collaborator, R.M. Giesy, determined them and published the findings in Trans. Brit. Bryol. Soc. (Giesy and Richards, 1959). It was just the last decade in which more foreign bryologists gave interests on the bryological flora of Thailand. They contacted the thai botanists of the Royal Forestry Department and created the joint venture teams making many extensive surveys collecting quite a number of bryological specimens. Touw (1968) and his team collected nearly 4200 specimens of which 2800 were mosses; Horikawa and Ando (1964), the Japanese bryologist, also collected

certain amount of the mosses; P.P. Tixier and Tem Smitinand (1966) did collect about 2000 bryological specimens in various part of Thailand.

The collected materials but one of the duplicate sets which were deposited at the Forest Herbarium were sent abroad for identification by many expert authors, and the enumeration were published in many botanical journals and periodicals.

The whole moss collection found both at The Bangkok Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture (B.K.), and at the Herbarium of the Forest Department (B.K.F.) is totaling about 7000 specimens within 450 genera of 44 different families. The most common and widely distributed ones belong to the Family Sematophyllaceae.