

Woranart THAMMARONG*, Sarayut RAKARCHA, Charun MAKNOI and Wattana TANMING: *Lasiococca comberi* (*Euphorbiaceae*), a New Genus and Species Record for the Flora of Lao PDR

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Summary: *Lasiococca comberi* Haines (*Euphorbiaceae*) is reported as a new generic and specific record of *Euphorbiaceae* for the flora of Lao PDR. Description and photographs are provided.

The genus *Lasiococca* Hook. f. with five species globally, belongs to the family *Euphorbiaceae* and is mainly distributed in India, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Malesia (Welzen and Chayamarit 2007). They are characterized by small-shrubby habit, whorled leaves, narrowly cordate leaf base, the presence of glands on the lower thirds of the leaves and echinate fruits (Welzen 1998, 2002). *Lasiococca comberi* Haines was originally described from India by Haines (1920). Airy Shaw (1963) synonymized *Mallotus pseudoverticillatus* Merr. into *L. comberi*, by which China was included in the geographic range of this species, but Kiu (1982) separated Chinese element as *L. comberi* var. *pseudoverticillata* (Merr.) H. S. Kiu. Consequently, *L. comberi* var. *comberi* was known to be distributed in India and Thailand, whereas *L. comberi* var. *pseudoverticillata* is distributed in China and Vietnam (Qiu and Gilbert 2008). Among the specimens in QBG collected during a botanical expedition in Luang Prabang, Phongsali and Xayabuli provinces, Lao PDR, between January 2015 and September 2019 in collaboration with Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, we found specimens of *L. comberi*. Although we thought that these specimens are var. *pseudoverticillata*, more

specimens are still needed to confirm it as there were no male flowers on these specimens to identify the variety. Nonetheless, this species represents a new genus and species record for the flora of Lao PDR.

Lasiococca comberi Haines in Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1920: 70 (1920); Welzen & Chayamarit, Fl. Thailand 8(2): 351, f. 13 (2007); Qiu & Gilbert, Fl. China 11: 247 (2008). **Type:** INDIA. Orissa, Angul, Mayurbhanj, Comber s.n. (K–holotype). [Fig. 1]

Euonymus auriculatus Craib in Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1922: 170 (1922). **Type:** THAILAND. Chiang Mai (Payap), Mae Tha, A.F.G. Kerr 3620 (K–holotype; ABD–isotype).

Mallotus pseudoverticillatus Merr. in Lingnan Sci. J. 14: 23, f. 7 (1935). – *L. comberi* Haines var. *pseudoverticillata* (Merr.) H. S. Kiu in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 20(1): 108, f. 1 (1982). **Isotypes:** CHINA. Hainan. Ngai, 3 Aug. 1932, S. K. Lau 353 (A, BM, K, MICH, MO, NY, US).

Shrubs up to 2 m high, monoecious. Leaves alternate or subwhorled; blade elliptic to obovate, 7–17 × 3–6 cm, base cordate, margins entire, apex acuminate, glabrous, pinnately veined, nerves 10–13 per side; stipules triangular, ca. 3 mm long; petioles 4–6 mm long, hairy. Inflorescences unisexual; staminate inflorescences not seen. Pistillate flowers solitary, axillary; pedicel ca. 3 cm long, pubescent; sepals 5, obovate, 5–6 × 1.5–2 mm, unequal, imbricate, persistent; ovary 3-locular, muricate;

Phaosrichai & K. Intamma L17-260 (QBG); *ibid.*, L17-272 (QBG). Phongsali, Boun Tai, Ban Sing Sai, alt. 660 m, 21°25'35.795"N 101°55'31.323"E, 17 Sept. 2019, W. Thammarong, S. Rakarcha, P. Phaosrichai, P. Xaiyalath & S. Phetlamphun L19-441 (QBG).

Distribution: India, China, Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam.

Ecology: In China, this species grows on limestone mountain forest at an altitude of 300–1000 m (Qiu and Gilbert 2008). In Lao PDR, it is known from Luang Prabang, Phongsali and Xayabuli province at altitude 295–660 m in montane forest.

Notes: *Lasiococca comberi* and *L. malaccensis* Airy Shaw are related species but *L. comberi* has lower leaf surface without hair tuft domatia, hairy inflorescence and fruit with wider tubercles (Welzen and Chayamarit 2007).

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W. Thammarong, S. Rakarcha, C. Maknoi, W. Tanming :
 ラオス新産の *Lasiococca comberi* (トウダイグサ科)

トウダイグサ科 *Lasiococca* 属は単性の花序をつける雌雄同株の落葉あるいは半常緑の灌木あるいは亜高木で、葉が輪生状につき、果実に刺があることなどで特徴付けられる。東南アジア、南アジアから中国南部にかけて分布し、5種が認められている。本論文で報告する *Lasiococca*

comberi Haines は属および種レベルでラオス新産である。なお、*L. comberi* は 2 変種に分けられているが、区別の特徴となる雄花序が得られていないので、種レベルの同定にとどめた。

(タイ・Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden)