K. THOTHATHRI*: Studies in Leguminosae (10)
Further contributions to the genus Derris
from Yunnan, China

Derris henryi Thoth. from Yunnan, China is a distinct species under the section Dipteroderris Benth., characterized by the largest pod and seed. It is therefore described here with a figure. Derris yunnanensis was described by Chun et How (1952) on the basis of collections from Yunnan by Henry 9386 and 9386B which contained only the pods. Subsequent to this, the Chinese species of Derris have been reviewed by How Foon-Chew (1954) wherein the above species was known only in pods. The author during his visit to the Soviet Union in 1967–68 under the exchange programme examined the vast collections of the genus Derris Lour. in the Herbarium of the Komarov Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences, USSR at Leningrad. There is a similar collection of Henry from Yunnan under 9386A with beautiful flowers. Evidently this specimen has not been examined by either Chun et How or How Foon-Chew and hence the characters of the inflorescence as well as the flowers of this species are not known till now. In addition to this, there are in the Calcutta Herbarium all the 3 collections of Henry from Yunnan namely, Henry 9386, 9386B (in pods) and 9386A (in flowers and duplicate of Herb. Leningrad). All these collections are Derris yunnanensis Chun et How. A critical examination of all these materials revealed that D. yunnanensis is a distinct species, well marked by the inflorescence, flowers and pod. The characters of the inflorescence and flowers are given here for the first time. Further there are a few additions and corrections, needed in Chun et How's descriptions. An amended description with a figure is therefore presented in this paper.

Derris henryi Thoth. sp. nov. (Fig. 1)
Pertinet ad sect. Dipteroderris Benth. et clare distinguenda ab aliis specie-
bus huius sectionis leguminibus et seminibus maximis.

Volubilis, magna in silvis montanis; rami glabri, lenticellati, ventraliter striati. Folia imparipinnata, alterna, stipulata, 22-23.5 cm longa, foliola 5-7, oblonga vel oblongo-lanceata, 9-11×3-4.5 cm, opposita, extstipulata, integra, angustata ad basin, hebeta acuminata ad apicem, coriacea, glabra; nervi laterales 5-6-jugi; petioluli 5-7 mm longi, glabri. Infrutescentia axillaris racemosa, 14 cm longa. Flores ignoti. Legumen tumidum, oblongum, 10.5-20.0

Fig. 1. *Derris henryi* Thoth. sp. nov. Habit with fruits.
×3.5-4.0 cm, indehiscens, curvatum, et acutum ad apicem, angustum vel rotundatum ad basin, glabrum, molliter reticulate nervosum, 1-3-seminatum, eminenter nervosum ad utramque suturam, ala in sutura dorsali latiore quam in sutura ventrali, ala 5-7 mm lata; leguminis stipes 8-10 mm longus; semina reniformia, compressa 2.5×1.2 cm.

Holotypus lectus in Feng Chen Lin Silva montana ad 2333 m., in provincia Yunnan in Sina, a A. Henry anno 1897, et positus in CAL sub numero A. Henry 10883.

**Derris yunnanensis** Chun et How in Acta Phytotaxon. Sinica 2(2): 69, 1952, emend. Thoth. (Fig. 2)

A large climbing shrub; plant parts covered with short, yellowish-brown hairs; branches with longitudinal ridges and furrows, pubescent with yellowish brown hairs. Leaf imparipinnate, alternate, stipulate, 17.5-35.0 cm long; leaflets 9-11, oblong, terminal ones obovate to ob lanceolate at times, 6.5-14.0×2.0-5.7 cm, entire, shortly acuminate at apex, cuneate at base, subcoriaceous, glabrous above except the midrib and lateral veins, densely adpressed silky pubescent below; lateral veins 10 pairs arising at 45° from the midrib, distinct above, prominently raised below; rachis puberulous to pubescent; petiolule 4.0-5.5 mm long, puberulous to pubescent. Inflorescence an axillary raceme, solitary, 27.5-40.0 cm long, nodes tumid and produced into stalks, each bearing 3-4 flowers, rachis velutinous. Flowers white, pedicellate, 9-12 mm high; pedicels upto 2.5 mm long, velutinous; bract linear, at the base of the pedicel, bracteoles 2, linear, 3-4 mm long, velutinous, just at the base of the calyx cup. Calyx cup campanulate, 4-6 mm high, 5-toothed, upper 2 connate, laterals ovate-acute, lowermost lanceate and longest, calyx cup as well as the teeth velutinous. Corolla standard ovate-orbicular, 10-14 mm high, retuse to emarginate at apex, distinctly clawed, finely brown silky outside; wings oblong, 6-13 mm long, long-clawed; keels dolabriform, 9-11 mm long, clawed, rarely auriculate at base. Stamens 10, monadelphous, column 10-13 mm long, filaments free in their upper third, column split above and below on the dorsal side, anthers versatile. Pistil 10-13 mm long, ovary not stipitate, densely pubescent, style long, curved, glabrous, stigma capitate, ovules upto 3. Pod oblong, flat, 5.0-15.0×2.0-2.5 cm, acute at apex, shortly narrowed at base, slightly constricted between the seeds, subcoriaceous, obscurely reticulately veined, densely covered with adpressed, short, yellowish-brown hairs, wings
1–2 mm wide, much thickened opposite the seed; seed solitary to 2–4, reniform, compressed, 12×8 mm.

Regarding the type, Chun et How in their original description of this taxon states Yunnan, Mengtze, alt. 2000 m. A. Henry 9386 & 9386B without clearly assigning the type as well as its location. It is clear and certain that the above specimens on which the description was based as well as those at Leningrad (Henry 9386A) and Calcutta (Henry 9386, 9386A and 9386B) constitute one collection. The former (Henry 9386 & 9386B) on which the original description was based are to be considered as syntypes and the latter (Henry 9386A) as paratype.

CHINA. Yunnan, Mengtze, under cliffs, 2000 m, A. Henry 9386, 9386B (Syntypes); A. Henry 9386A (Paratype LE, CAL).

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References


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