

A New Species of *Desmodium* (Leguminosae) from Laos

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ラオス産ヌスビトハギ属の一新種

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A new species of *Desmodium* (Leguminosae), *D. vidalii* Ohashi, is described from Laos. It is classified as a member of the subgenus *Podocarpium*.

Desmodium and its related genera are considered to be differentiated primarily in South-eastern Asia (Ohashi 1973, Ohashi et al. 1981), because more representatives of the genera closely related to *Desmodium* and of subgenera of *Desmodium* occur in this area than in any other areas in the world. Within Southeastern Asia, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China and Southwest China (Yunnan, Kwansi and Szechuan) are known to have more species of *Desmodium* than Indonesia, Malaysia, Malay Peninsula and South China (Hainan). However, *Desmodium* is apparently less known in Indo-China than in the other regions mentioned above. While preparing a treatment of *Desmodium* for the “Flore du Cambodge du Laos et du Vietnam”, two new species were discovered among unnamed specimens kept in the herbarium of the Laboratoire de Phanérogamie, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle (P). One of them was published in 1990 under the name of *Desmodium schubertiae* (Ohashi 1990). In the present paper the

other new species is described.

The name of the new species honors Dr. J. E. Vidal of the Laboratoire de Phanérogamie, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the flora of Indo-China as well as to his taxonomic research in the families Leguminosae and Rosaceae.

***Desmodium vidalii* Ohashi, sp. nov.** (Fig. 1)

Species foliis 3-foliolatis longi-petiolatis (petiolus 9–15 cm longus) foliolis terminalis longi-rhachibus (rhachis 3.5–5 cm longa) a congeneribus diversa. Pseudoracemi terminales et axillares, 30–50 cm longi, longe pedunculati, laxi- et pauciflori, rhachi pilis rectis et uncinatis vestita. Flores fasciculati, 2(–3) crescentes; pedicelli tenues, 8–15 mm longi, ut rhachis pilosi. Legumen (valde juvenile) stipitatum, 3–4-articulatum, dense uncinato-pilosum.

Typus: Laos. Village de Thok, Province de

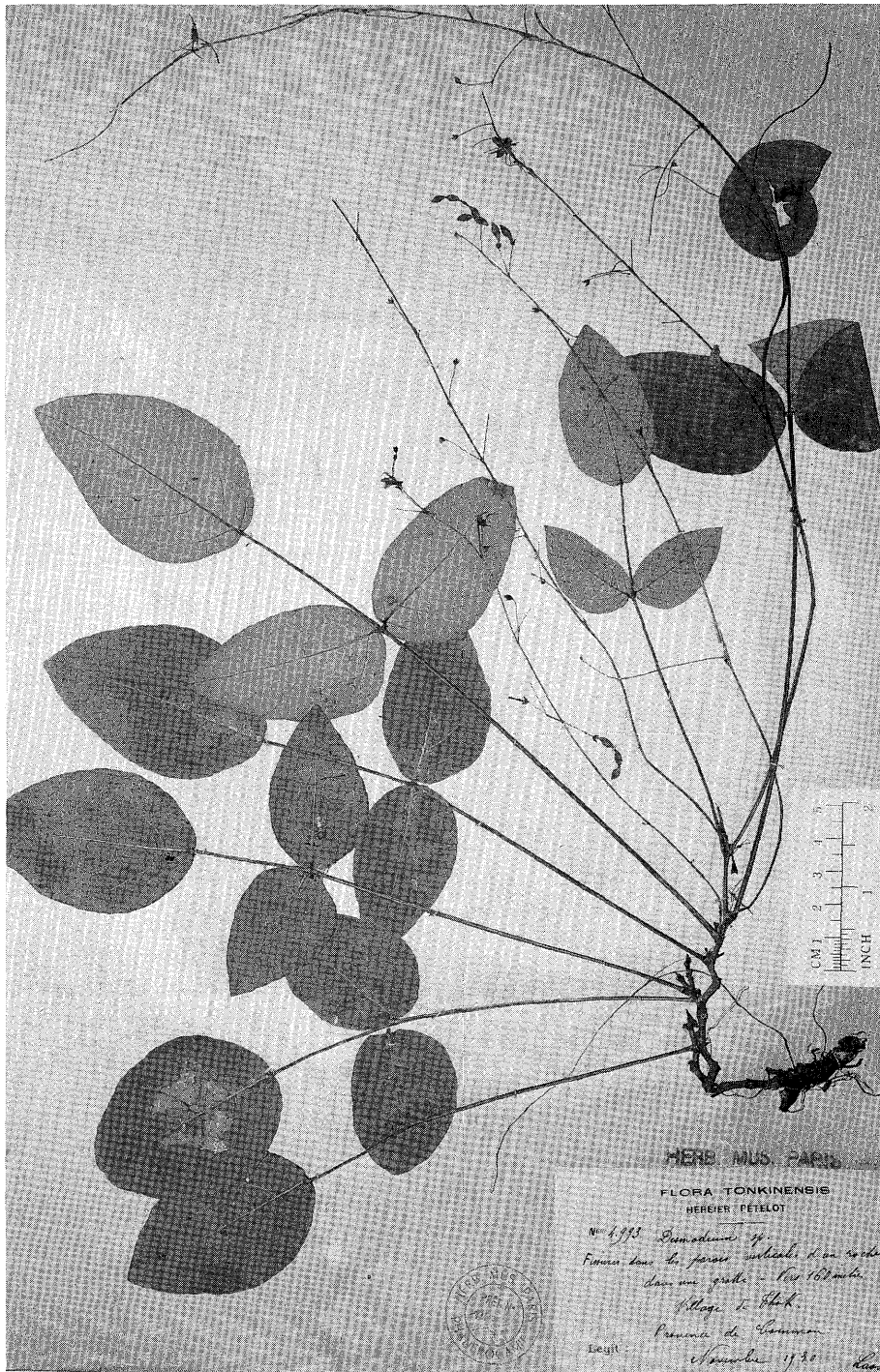


Fig. 1. *Desmodium vidalii* Ohashi (Petelot 4993, Type).

Common. Fissures dans les parois verticales d'un rocher dans une grotte, Vers 160 m. *H. Petelot 4993*, Novembre 1930 (**P-holo.**, photo in TUS, A).

Perennial herbs 50–60 cm high; stems simple, about 10 cm long, bent at each node, zigzag, striate, covered with spreading minute hooked hairs. Rootstocks more or less woody, thickened. Stipules persistent, triangular-ovate, long acuminate at apex, 7–8 mm long, 3–4 mm wide near base, scarioso, striate, glabrous inside, with minute hooked hairs outside, minutely ciliate.

Leaves evergreen, pinnately 3-foliolate, petiolate, 17–25 cm long; the petioles 9–15 cm long, rather densely covered with patent, long, straight hairs up to 0.5 mm long, and minute hooked hairs; the blade thick chartaceous, entire, the upper surfaces seemingly glabrous but densely covered with very minute hooked hairs, the lower surfaces velutinous with dense, straight, soft hairs, often somewhat glaucous, the reticulate veins prominent, the principal lateral nerves 6 to 7 on each side of midrib, prominent and directly reaching margin (Fig. 2); the terminal leaflets ovate, 7–8 cm long and 4.5–5 cm wide, acute at apex, obtuse to rounded at base; the rachis 3.5–5 cm long, hairy like the petiole; the lateral leaflets obliquely ovate, a little smaller than the terminal one.

Inflorescences terminal and axillary, long-pedunculate, 30–50 cm long, simple or branched, pseudoracemose, lax-flowered (with flowers 2(–3) at each node); rachides rather densely covered with patent, straight, and also hooked hairs; the peduncles 8–15 cm long. Pedicels 8–15 mm long, hairy like the rachis. Primary bracts early deciduous; the secondary bract lanceolate, acuminate, about 4 mm long. Bracteoles absent. Calyces funnellform, 3–4 mm long, glabrous inside, pubescent with straight hairs and minute hooked hairs outside, 4-lobed above middle, the tube about 1.5 mm long, the upper lobe bifid at apex, the lateral ones triangular, acuminate, 1.5–2 mm long, the lowest one longer than the laterals, 1.7–2.2 mm long. Standard unknown; wings and keel-petals long clawed, the claw about 3 mm long, keel-petals puberulent inside. Androecium diadelphous, about 7 mm long, glabrous. Pistils stipitate, 3–4-ovulate, the style incurved, glabrous. Mature pods unknown; the young one flat, stalked (Fig. 2), 3–4-jointed, with dense uncinat hairs and with reticulate-veins on walls, both sutures thickened, glabrous, constricted between the seeds, isthmus less than 1/4 as broad as the pod (Fig. 2), young articles elliptic. Seeds unknown.

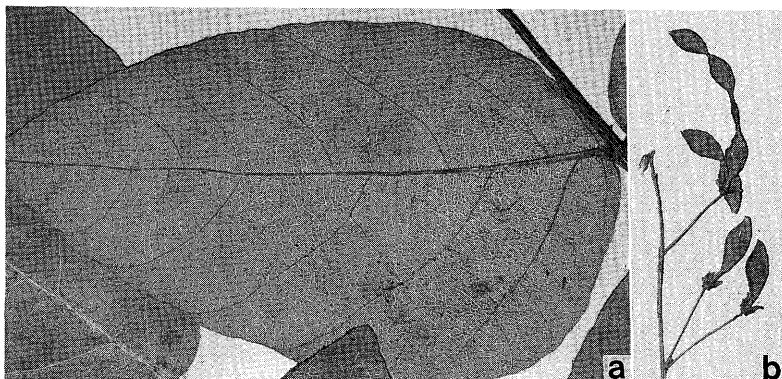


Fig. 2. *Desmodium vidalii* Ohashi, a. lateral leaflet showing venation ($\times 1.2$), b. young pods ($\times 1.2$).

According to the note on the label of the type specimen, the plant was collected at a fissure on a lining of a rocky grotto. Such a habitat is, as far as I know, quite exceptional for *Desmodium* plants so far known. The new species is probably very rare in occurrence. No duplicates have been found in P, and complete flowers and mature pods and seeds could not be examined.

Desmodium vidalii is characteristic in having short zigzag stems (about 10 cm high) bearing several patent long-petioled 3-foliolate leaves (which are 17–25 cm long), evergreen leaves of which the terminal leaflet has long rachis (3.5–5 cm long), loosely flowered, elongate inflorescences (30–45 cm long) with 2 or 3 flowers at each node, and densely hooked-hairy pods. However, several features of the new species suggest a similarity to some species of the subgenus *Podocarpium*. Common characteristics between *D. vidalii* and *Podocarpium* species are deeply constricted, long stipitate, and hooked-hairy pods, lax-flowered long inflorescences, and an herbaceous habit with evergreen 3-foliolate leaves. *D. vidalii* is, therefore, placed in the subgenus *Podocarpium*, but detailed position of the new species within the genus may be determined only after examining complete flowers and mature pods with seeds. Additional material is much needed for further studies.

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要 旨

Flore du Cambodge du Laos et du Vietnam のヌスピトハギ属を執筆するため、Laboratoire du Phanérogamie 所蔵の未同定標本を同定中、1930年ラオスで採集された未知のヌスピトハギ属の植物を見つけた。葉だけを見ても著しい特色があり、既知のどの種とも異なるものであった。葉柄は茎よりも長く、頂小葉には長い葉軸があり（図1）、小葉柄は非常に短く、側小葉はやや無柄にみえる（図2）。この標本は1枚だけで、残念なことに完全な花も成熟した豆果や種子もない、不完全なものであった。重複品を探し出してより完全な記載を作ってから発表したいと考え、同研究所の J. E. Vidal 博士に探索を依頼し、また私自身も同研究所所蔵のインドシナからのマメ科の未同定標本を調べてみたが、別の標本を発見できなかった。1枚だけの標本に基づく判断ではあってもこの植物が新種であることは間違いないと思われるので、ここで *Desmodium vidalii* と命名し、発表しておくこととした。標本が不完全であるため、この新種の属内の分類学上の位置を厳密には決定できないが、小形の草本で、常緑の3小葉からなる葉をつけ、豆果はかぎ毛で密に被われていて節で深くくびれ、基部に柄のあること、さらに花序は長く、節はまばらで、各節に2–3花をつけるなどの特徴を総合してみると、*Podocarpium* 亜属の種と判定してよいと考える。