Fimbristylis pubisquama (Cyperaceae), a new record for the Flora of Thailand

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ABSTRACT. Fimbristylis pubisquama Kern is newly recorded for Thailand. A description illustration of this taxon are provided. An emended portion of the key to Fimbristylis in the Flora of Thailand account of this genus is proposed.

KEY WORDS: Fimbristylis, Flora of Thailand, key, taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

During fieldwork in north-eastern Thailand, Fimbristylis sieboldii Miq. ex Franch. & Sav. and a closely allied species were collected. The former was misidentified in the Flora of Thailand Cyperaceae account (Simpson & Koyama, 1998) as F. ferruginea (L.) Vahl (Zhang et al., 2010). The latter was identified as F. pubisquama Kern and is new to Thailand. With the discovery of F. pubisquama and an earlier discovery of Fimbristylis alata E.-G. Camus by J F Maxwell (Maxwell 2002) the total number of Fimbristylis species in Thailand now stands at 62.

TAXONOMY


Annual. Culms tufted, 20–80 cm by 0.8–3 mm, ± biconcex, smooth. Leaves basal, blade narrowly linear, 2–30 cm by 0.5–2 mm, abruptly obtuse to acute, base canaliculate, glabrous; sheath up to 20 cm long, pale brown; ligules with a fringe of short hairs ca. 0.5 mm long. Involutral bracts 3–4, leaf-like, longest 6–13 cm long, as long as or longer than inflorescence. Inflorescence simple to compound, open, 5–10 by 2–10 cm; primary branches 4–8, 0.5–7 cm long. Spikelets 12–100 per inflorescence, usually solitary or clusters of 2, elipsoid to ovoid, 4–8 by 1.5–2.5 mm. Glumes many per spikelet, spirally arranged, 1.8–2 mm by 0.8–1.2 mm, acute or mucronate, densely pubescent, upper part dark reddish- (rusty) brown, margin ciliate, 1-nerved. Stamens 2; anthers 0.5–0.6 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nutlets obovoid, biconvex, 0.7–0.9 mm by 0.6–0.8 mm mature dark brown, ±smooth, with indistinct hexagonal or polygonal epidermal cells.


Distribution.— Southern India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, northern Australia.

Ecology.— Open wet grassy fields, spreading into paddy fields, on saline soil.

Note.— Fimbristylis pubisquama Kern closely resembles F. sieboldii Miq. ex Franch. & Sav. Nevertheless, it is distinguishable from the latter by its annual habit, the absence of a shortly creeping woody rhizome and smaller nutlets.

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Figure 1. Fimbristylis pubisquama Kern: A. habit; B. spikelet; C. glume; D. stamen and nutlet with style and stigma; E. style and stigma; F. nutlet; G. nutlet surface. Scale bars = 1 mm. All from Ka. Wangwasit & K. Wangwasit 028 (KKU). Drawn by K. Wangwasit.
An emended portion of the key to *Fimbristylis* in the Flora of Thailand (Simpson & Koyama, 1998) is proposed below.

41. Glumes hairy at least in the apical part
   41 a. Culms usually crowded along a somewhat creeping rhizome. Leaf blades up to 10 cm long. Involucral bract usually shorter than inflorescence. Glumes sparsely pubescent
   **F. sieboldii**
   41 b. Culms tufted. Leaf blades up to 30 cm long. Lowest involucral bract usually overtopping the inflorescence. Glumes densely pubescent
   **F. pubisquama**
41. Glumes glabrous

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**REFERENCES**


