

Nepenthes kerrii M. Catal. et T. Kruetr. sp. nov.

Nepenthi bokorensi Mey similis, sed androphoris brevioribus, foliis obovatis et indumento tantum ad axillas foliorum differt.

Typus: Kerr 14127 (BK), Thailand, province of Satun, Tarutao Marine Park, 500 m, 1928.

Terrestrial climber to 4 m tall. Stem terete, 3-5 mm in diameter, internodes 1.5-8.5 cm long. **Leaves** coriaceous, 0.5 mm thick, lamina obovate, 18-31 cm long, 1.5-3 cm wide, apex acuminate, base attenuate and sessile, clasping the stem by three quarters of its circumference; longitudinal veins 3 on each side of the midrib in distal quarter of the lamina, pinnate veins arising obliquely from midrib; tendrils terete, 10-30 cm long, 1-3 mm in diameter, coiling in upper pitchers. **Lower pitchers** 2-6 x 6-14 cm, ovate in the lower half and narrowing above or completely ovate, hip at the mid-section or in the upper half, barely visible; two alae, 3-8 mm wide, run down ventral exterior surface from mouth to tendril, fringed with narrow filaments; pitcher mouth oblique, oval; peristome cylindrical, 5-12 mm wide, teeth 0.5 mm long; lid round, 1.6-4.7 x 1.8-4.3 cm, as large as the mouth, with irregularly wavy margins, base slightly cordate, crateriform glands densely arranged and numerous, larger along the midrib, to 1 mm in diameter; spur 2-7 mm long, simple or branched; longitudinal veins 2-4 on each side of midrib. **Upper pitchers** 3 x 10-15 cm, tubulose; alae 1-4 mm wide, 4-6 mm distant; pitcher mouth oblique, orbicular or broadly ovate; peristome lobate, with a distinct column; lid as for lower pitchers. **Male inflorescence** a raceme, to 90 cm, peduncle 65 cm long, rachis 27 cm long with ca. 120 solitary flowers borne on pedicels 6-8 mm long, androphore to 1.5 mm; tepals round or elliptic, green or red, 2-3 x 3-4 mm. **Female inflorescence** as for male inflorescence, but rachis 20-25 cm long with solitary flowers borne on pedicels 1-2.3 cm long; tepals round or elliptic, green, 2-3 x 3-4 mm. **Indumentum** of brown hairs 0.1 mm long covering leaf axil and inflorescence. **Colour:** leaves light green; stem, midrib and tendril green to red; lower pitchers orange with red blotches, also present over the inner, non-glandular zone, peristome and lid orange to red; upper pitchers green to yellow, with red blotches over the inner, non-glandular zone, peristome yellow or red striped, lid green to yellow, often red on the underside.

Distribution: Southern Thailand, Tarutao Marine Park, in sandy soil, on open savannahs and grasslands, at 500 m.

Specimens examined: Kerr 14127 (BK), Thailand, province of Satun, Tarutao Marine Park, 500 m, 1928.

Putative relatives: *Nepenthes kerrii* is closely related to *N. andamana*, *N. bokorensis*, *N. suratensis* and *N. kongkandana*. It differs from *N. andamana* in having obovate leaves (vs. linear to lanceolate) and a persistent indumentum limited to leaf axils (vs. a caducous indumentum covering the upper part of plant).

It differs from *N. bokorensis* in having a shorter androphore, obovate leaves (vs. linear to lanceolate) and an indumentum limited to leaf axils (vs. an indumentum of variable distribution).

It differs from *N. suratensis* in having obovate leaves (vs. linear to lanceolate) and a persistent indumentum limited to leaf axils (vs. a caducous indumentum covering the upper part of plant).

It differs from *N. kongkandana* in having an indumentum of 0.1 mm limited to leaf axils (vs. an indumentum of 0.3 mm covering the whole plant), lower pitchers narrowly ovate (vs. lower pitchers tubular or slightly ventricose), with pitcher hip at the mid section or in the upper half (vs. a pitcher hip at the mid section or in the lower half) and with a tendril twice to three times longer than the pitcher (vs. a tendril as long as the pitcher), upper pitchers with a lobed, often striped peristome (vs. a peristome without lobes and stripes), with a distinct neck (vs. a peristome without a neck) and with a shorter distance between the frontal wings (4-6 mm vs. 10-12 mm).

Thanks to Andreas Fleischmann for the Latin translation and to Alastair Robinson for reviewing the description.

On the next page: 1. Lids, 2. Leaf, 3. Detail of upper pitcher, 4. Male inflorescence, 5. Pitchers.