

Nepenthes suratensis M. Catal. sp. nov.

Nepenthi bokorensi Mey similis sed pedicellis bracteolatis, planta indumento caduco tantum in parte superiore, foliis angustioribus et peristomio ascidii tenuiore differt.

Typus: Kerr 13136 (BK), Thailand, province of Suratthani, Kanchanadit, sea level, 1927.

Terrestrial climber to 3 m tall. Stem terete, 3-5 mm in diameter, internodes 5.5-6.5 cm long. **Leaves** coriaceous, 0.5 mm thick, lamina lanceolate, 13-35 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, apex acute to narrowly 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, 10-24 cm long, 1-2 mm in diameter, coiling in upper pitchers. **Lower pitchers** 9-15 x 4-5 cm, ovate in the lower half and narrowing above or completely ovate, hip at the mid-section to absent in completely ovate pitchers; two alae, 3-12 mm wide, run down ventral exterior surface from mouth to tendril, fringed with narrow filaments; pitcher mouth oblique, smoothly triangular; peristome flattened, 4-10 mm wide, teeth 0.5-1 mm long; lid broadly to narrowly ovate, 3-4.5 x 2-3.5 cm, as large as or smaller than the mouth, with irregularly wavy margins, base slightly cordate, lower surface with a small depression towards the tip, crateriform glands densely arranged and numerous, larger along the midrib, 0.5-1 mm in diameter; spur 3-5 mm long, simple; longitudinal veins 4-6 on each side of midrib. **Upper pitchers** 12-18 x 2.5-3 cm, tubulose or narrowly infundibular; alae 0-3 mm wide; pitcher mouth oblique, smoothly triangular; peristome and lid as for lower pitchers. **Male inflorescence** a raceme, to 70 cm, peduncle 50 cm long, rachis 20 cm long with ca. 180 solitary flowers borne on pedicels 3-8 mm long, androphore to 3 mm; tepals elliptic, green with red margins, 3-5 x 2-3 mm; a bract, to 1.5 mm long, is often present at the base or lower half of the pedicel. **Female inflorescence** as for male inflorescence, but rachis 10-15 cm long with solitary flowers borne on pedicels 4-10 mm long; tepals elliptic, green, 3-4 x 1.5-2 mm; bracts absent or greatly reduced in size and number. **Indumentum** of orange or brown hairs 0.1-0.3 mm long covering inflorescence, leaves and stem; indumentum caducous, absent in the lower part of plant. **Colour:** leaves light green; stem, midrib and tendril green to red; lower pitchers green to orange with red stripes or completely red, with red blotches over the inner, non-glandular zone, peristome green to orange or red, lid orange to red, marked by fine red stripes; upper pitchers green to yellow, with red blotches over the inner, non-glandular zone, peristome and lid green to yellow.

Distribution: Southern Thailand, coastal Suratthani Province, in sandy soil, on open savannahs and grasslands, at sea level.

Specimens examined: Kerr 13136 (BK), Thailand, province of Suratthani, Kanchanadit, sea level, 1927.

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

It differs from *N. bokorensis* in having bracteate pedicels (vs. abradate), a caducous indumentum covering the upper part of plant (vs. a persistent indumentum of variable distribution), narrower leaves (2-4 cm vs. 7-8 cm) and a thinner peristome (10 mm vs. 20 mm).

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

It differs from *N. andamana* in having green flowers with red margins (vs. red flowers), a longer androphore (3 mm vs. 1 mm), flower bracts that are bent inwards (vs. bracts that are bent outwards), a caducous indumentum, to 0.3 mm long, covering the upper part of the plant (vs. a caducous indumentum, 0.8 mm long, that is limited to the tips and bases of the upper stem leaves), a more variable glandular zone (1/3 to 2/3 vs. 1/2 of lower pitcher length), wider wings in upper pitchers (0-3 mm vs. 0-1 mm) and lower pitchers (up to 12 mm vs. up to 6 mm), lids that are smaller than the mouth, broadly to narrowly ovate, with wavy margins and with a small depression under the tip (vs. larger than the mouth, orbicular to broadly ovate, with straight margins and with no depression), a shorter spur (3-5 mm vs. 5-7 mm), a triangular mouth, as large as 1/3-1/2 of the lower pitcher (vs. ovate mouth, as large as 1/4 of the lower pitcher), greenish upper pitchers without peristome lobes (vs. whitish upper pitchers with peristome slightly lobed on outer margin) and a flattened peristome (vs. cylindrical).

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

On the next page: 1. Lids, 2. Leaves, 3. Detail of lid's tip, 4. Detail of male inflorescence, 5. Male inflorescence, 6. Pitchers.