

76. *Nepenthes thorelii* Lecomte

Nepenthes thorelii Lecomte, Not. Syst. 1, 2 (1909) 63. – Type: Thorel 1032 (lecto, designated here, P; iso P, BO), Vietnam, Guia-Toan, Lo-thieu, Ti-tinh.

Terrestrial shrub with large perennial rootstock producing annual shoots in the wet season. Rootstock irregularly branched to 2 cm thick. Stem erect, to 40 cm high, terete, 0.4-0.8 cm in diameter. Leaves linear lanceolate to narrowly obovate; 12-26 x 1.8-3 cm; apex acute to acuminate; base amplexicaul inserted at an acute angle, and decurrent to stem for 1-2.5 cm, ultimately rounded, these basal wings almost meeting on opposite side of stem; longitudinal veins 2-4 on each side of midrib, arising from along the midrib; pennate nerves numerous curving towards the apex. Lower pitchers ovoid; to 11.5 x 4.5 cm; wings broad, 5-8 mm, with fringe elements 2-5 mm, c. 2 mm apart; the mouth ovate-triangular, oblique, concave; peristome rounded at front, 2-4 mm across, towards lid to 7 mm across, ribs 0.25-0.4 mm apart, the inner margin with rounded teeth 0.2-0.5 mm long; spur simple, 2-4 mm; lid ovate to rounded, 2-3.5 x 2-2.8 cm, the glands prominently lipped, dense and numerous near base of midline, 0.3-0.7 mm across there, c. 0.15 mm across towards margin and not so dense. Upper pitcher borne on uncoiled tendril; obovate, narrowed towards mouth; to 12.5 x 4.5 cm; wings narrow, 1-1.5 mm broad, with very sparse (3-7 mm apart), acuminate fringe elements 1-1.5 mm long; mouth oblique, concave; peristome rounded, 3-5 mm across, outer margin regularly sinuate; lid as in lower pitcher. Inflorescence a raceme; 8-18 cm long; borne on a tall erect rhachis 50-70 cm long; partial peduncles 1-flowered pedicels 3-6 mm long, with or without a short bract. Indumentum of simple or branched hairs 0.3-0.4 mm long. Colour of pitchers light green with reddish markings, lid reddish, indumentum white.

Distribution – Vietnam.

Ecology – Seasonally dry savannah grassland; sea level to 200 m.

Notes – 1. The male specimen at Paris, with lower pitchers, is selected as the lectotype. The Paris isotype is a female plant with upper pitchers.

2. There are problems with the delimitation of this species, *N. anamensis* and *N. smilesii* (see Little Known Taxa). All three species share narrow linear leaves with clasping leaf bases. The limits of variation of these two species is not yet understood, and *N. anamensis* may occupy similar habitats to *N. thorelii*. *Nepenthes thorelii* appears to be a plant of seasonally dry grassland, surviving as a dormant rootstock during the dry season when fires burn out the above ground vegetation. Besides its perennating habit, *N. thorelii* is characterised by the non-coiling tendrils of the upper pitchers, and its tall inflorescence, which rises over a metre above the ground.

Collection – Vietnam. Guia-Toan, Lo-thieu, Ti-tinh, Thorel 1032 (Type).