occur nearer the ground than in evergreen rain forest. Myrmecophyte are abundant (Whitmore, 1985).

Smitinand (1977) did not mention heath forest. The coastal heath forest supposed to be included in the mentioned beach forest, since some of the sites and some species of the mentioned beach forest is also characteristic of the heath forest. In Thailand, Heath forest was only once mentioned by Congdon (1982). The coastal heath forest found on Tarutao island in the peninsular Thailand has some different characteristic from typical heath forest as described by Whitmore (1985). The true heath forests are taller and contain more species than those found on Tarutao island, in any case, the environmental conditions at Tarutao sites resemble those of heath forests and many species on Tarutao coastal heath forests are characteristic of heath forest too (Congdon, 1982).

Methodology

I The surveys
The surveys of the (+) primary vegetation along the sand-beach coast of Songkha province from Sating-Phra district to Thee-Paa district had been conducted from March 1993 - September 1994 in order to select a sample site for the vegetation and flora study

II The vegetation and flora study
A transected line from the edge of the sand ridge with right angle to the the shore line had been selected. This transected line starts at the rim of the sand ridge next to the shore through the vegetation. Along this transected line, four 40X10 m² plots were laid at 40 m interval to study the vegetation structure and zonation of the vegetation. The vegetation profiles had been made.

The plant species composition survey of the whole study area is achieved. The plant collections had been made once a month from March 1993 - September 1993 and from May 1997 - December 1998. Voucher specimens are at PSU Herbarium, The Natural History Museum of Prince of Songkla University at Hat Yai, Songkla.

Result

Only one patch of (more or less) natural coastal heath forest had been found at Ban Ta-ling-chan, Chana district. This was to be selected as a study area for vegetation study. The selected study area is about 0.5 km in length (the site along the shore line), 1.5 km in width and covers about 0.75 km²

Soil type of the study area
The soil type at the study area is podzols (spodozol). In general, podzols of the tropical Far East could be in the place where the annual rain-fall exceed 2000 mm (Whitmore, 1985). Podzols could be divided in layers i.e., a dark gray sandy A horizon which may have a raw humus in undisturbed sites; a bleached E horizon under A horizon; a very dark or strongly colored B horizon under E horizon enriched in colloidal organic matter or inorganic matter and sesquioxides (humus-iron podzol) (Burnham in Whitmore, 1985).