

Introduction

The genus *Hedychium* was first established by Koenig in 1783 based on the type species *H. coronarium*. The genus comprises approximately 80 species, distributed mainly in eastern Himalaya, South India, South-East Asia and South China.

Although this genus from the continental Asia has been barely known, a number of species have been treated. Baker (1890) recorded 24 species of the genus from India. Ridley (1899) described four new species from Malay Peninsula. Schumann (1904) listed 38 species from Asia. Holttum (1950) noted seven species from Malay Peninsula including one new species. Larsen (1965) described two new species and one new variety from Indo-china. Since then, a number of species have been described from India by Sastry and Verma (1968), Rao and Hajra (1977) and Jain and Srivastava (1986); from South China by Wu and Chen (1978), Fang (1978, 1980), Zhu (1984), Li (1984) and Tong (1986); and from Borneo by Smith (1982).

As part of the work on revising the family Zingiberaceae for Flora of Thailand all material from the major European herbaria, i.e., A, C, E, K, L and P; from Japan, KYO and the collections from Thai herbaria, i.e., BK, BKF, PSU and Chiang Mai University, as well as the fresh material from the natural habitats have been studied. It is the first time the genus has been treated from this area.

In this treatment 19 species of the genus *Hedychium* in Thailand are recognized, five of which, namely : *H. aff. hookerii*, *H. aff. hirsutissimum* (Kerr 12540), *H. aff. aurantiacum*, *H. aff. griffithianum* and *H. aff. hirsutissimum* (Murata et. al. T-16946), are new to science and have not been publicized. It is the author's plan to have these new species published in the international botanical journal in the near future.