

The Genus *Curcuma* in Thailand

Curcuma is the the largest genus of the tribe Hedychieae in the family Zingiberaceae. It was first studied more than a century ago by Baker (1890) who reported 29 species in India. Since then several botanists have worked on this genus in SE Asia including Gagnepain (1908) in Indochina, Holttum (1950) on the Malay Peninsula, and Wu (1981) in south China. Roughly 100 species of *Curcuma* are now known to exist.

As part of the work on revising the family Zingiberaceae for Flora of Thailand all material from the major herbaria in Europe, i.e. Aarhus, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Kew, Leiden and Paris and the collections from Thai herbaria, i.e. Bangkhane (BK), Bangkok Forestry Department (BKF), Prince of Songkla University (PSU) and ChiangMai University (CMU), as well as the frest material from the natural habitats have been studied.

In Thailand, more than forty species of *Curcuma* have been found to occur. In this treatment thirty species have been examined, with only twenty-three of these species being formally identified. The chracteristics of the genus, the key to the species and the descriptions of the species are presented in this report.