A NEW SPECIES OF PANDANUS (PANDANACEAE) FROM BURMA

BENJAMIN C. STONE

Dept. of Botany, University of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Pandanus burmanicus sp. nov. is described from the Upper Chindwin District, Burma. It belongs in the Subgenus Rykia (DeVr.) Stone, the Section Rykia, Subsection Bidens (St. John) B. C. Stone. To date it is known only from the type locality.

The species of Pandanus in Assam, Burma, and Thailand are still incompletely known. The following new species was collected more than half a century ago and had been determined as P. furcatus Roxb., to which it is indeed allied, but it is specifically distinct in its several-celled phalanges, with the carpels arranged in adnate transverse series. The forked styles with adaxial stigmatic surfaces clearly indicate that the species belongs in Subg. Rykia (DeVr.) Stone, Sect. Rykia. Among the species of this group it appears to find a place near P. piniformis Holtt. & St. John, which till now has constituted the sole member of St. John’s Sect. Bidens, which I regard as a subsection of Sect. Rykia. The character of this subsection is that the phalanges are several-celled. Whether this is an artificial character of convenience remains to be seen.

Pandanus burmanicus B. C. Stone sp. nov. (Figures 1, 2).

Arbor habitu P. furcato. Folia ad 248 cm longae, 6.8 cm latae, lineari-ensiformia apicem versus sensim attenuato-acuminata, marginibus antrorse denticulatis, costa dorso distaliter antrorse denticulato; marginibus in basi dentibus 2–3 mm longis, 4–10 mm sese separatis; in medio, dentibus acicularibus 1 mm longis valde antrorsis 7–12 mm sese separatis; in apice dentibus vix 0.5 mm longis, 1.5–3 mm sese separatis; nervis longitudinalibus c. 120 per folium; nervis transversis inconspicuis; basis vaginantibus cupreo-brunneis. Inflorescentia foeminea terminalis, solitaria. Fructus c. 20.5 cm longis, 15 cm diametro (48 cm circumferentio), e phalangibus compositus. Carpilia in phalangis transverse-seriatis adnata; phalangibus 3–4-carpidiatis; cuneatis, compressis, c. 45 mm longis, ad 30 mm latis, c. 10–11 mm crassis; piteo delapso intacto 3–4-stylophoro; stylis antrorse deflectitis c. 7 mm longis et 4–5 mm latis, brunneis, nitidis, oblique actitis vel furcatis, stigmati infra styllos posta sursum spectantia. Mesocarpium apicatum fibroso-medullosum; basilium fibrosum. Endocarpium 3–4-loculatum c. 24 mm longum furginereum osseum. Cetera ignota.

Type: BURMA: Upper Chindwin District, Kodan stream near Kyoktha Village, 600–1500 ft. alt., 30 November 1917, C. G. Rogers 1033 (Holotype in Dephra Dun Herbarium). Vernacular name: “sathwa”.

The collector notes that this is “the common screwpine of the forests in the Kodan chaung.”
Fig. 1 — Pandanus burmanicus Stone. (From holotype). Leaf apex; short segment from near leaf apex; segment from lower third of leaf. Phylano in side, top, and longinsection views. Side view shows distal adaxial face.
Fig. 2 – *Pandanus burmanicus* Stone. (From holotype). At left, the holotype specimen. At right, close up view of three phalanges. Note that the pileus detaches with the styles intact.