

Survey and Herbarium Specimens of Medicinal Vascular Flora of Doi Suthep-Pui

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ABSTRACT

The herbarium includes over 9,285 specimens from 238 families (270 fam. in the word) in medicinal plant herbarium, Faculty of Pharmacy, Chiang Mai University. From July 1987 to September 1991, a total of 2,044 species have been collected from Doi Suthep-Pui National Park, some of which are of considerable economic, medicinal and botanical interest. Vascular plants in this national park comprise of 193 of the 228 known families of vascular plants in Thailand, including a new family record for the flora of Thailand (Lardizabalaceae), eleven species new records for Thailand, three emended descriptions, two new combinations, and at least two species, with several others that are probably undescribed and new to science. The lowland, mostly disturbed forests up to 350-950 m. elevation, are of two deciduous facies, viz., dipterocarp-oak and mixed (former teak) forest. Elevations above this to the summit of Doi Suthep (c.1,620 m.) and Doi Pui (c.1,685 m.) are primary evergreen (monsoon) with some residual pine on some of the ridges. There is a distinct dry season (December-May) during which there are fires and many of the lowland species flower and fruit, many become leafless while in the evergreen areas, there is no specific flowering or fruiting season, that is, the phenologies of the plants in this habitat vary according to each species throughout the year. This research has enabled other scientists and students to work in other fields (phytochemistry, phytogeography, ecology, entomology, seed germination, ethnobotany, etc.) on Doi Suthep-Pui National Park and nearby forested areas.

Key words: Doi Suthep-Pui, Herbarium specimens, Medicinal plants museum

INTRODUCTION

Doi Suthep-Pui, which lies a few km west of Chiang Mai city, was designated a national park in 1981, covering 261 km². Two main kinds of forest occur in the park. Evergreen forest is found mostly between 950 m above sea level and the summit (1,685 m). Trees such as *Dipterocarpus costatus* Gaertn f. (Dipterocarpaceae), *Sapium baccatum* Roxb. and *Talauma hodgsonii* Hk. f. & Thoms. grow there. Deciduous forest occurs mostly below 950 m and in particularly dry areas higher up. Trees such as *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* Bl., *D. tuberculatus* Roxb. and *Quercus kerrii* Craib are common there. Such forest loses its leaves