RIVEA LAOTICA, A NEW SPECIES FROM INDO-CHINA (CONVOLVULACEAE)

by

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Differt a speciebus ceteris generis Riveae habitu erecto et praesertim speciei proximae Riveae ornatae sepalis exterioribus margine plano non involuto et staminibus circa medium tubi corollae insertis vel paullo inferius.

INDO-CHINA. Laos, prov. Vientiane, vicinity of Vientiane, c. 200 m alt., in open Dipterocarpaceae monsoon forest, on sandy lateritic soil; erect shrub, 1.50 m high; flowers white with greenish midpetaline bands, fl. Aug. 20, 1953 (rain-season); vernacular name: phi yik; Vidal 2350 (TL, type; fragments in L). A fruiting specimen from the same locality was collected Oct. 8, 1952; Vidal 1120 (TL; fragments in L).

An erect shrub, c. 1.50 m high. Flowering branches (fig. 1, a) terete or angular to applanate upwards, more or less zigzag, densely covered with very short appressed whitish hairs. Leaves often folded along the midrib, orbicular to kidney-shaped, 10—13 cm by 6—12 cm; base deeply cordate with a narrow sinus, apex broadly rounded or slightly emarginate; upper surface glabrous, lower surface rather densely covered with short appressed hairs, finally glabrescent; midrib and c. 5—6 nerves (3 of which from the leaf base) on either side slightly prominent beneath and more densely hairy; petiole shorter than the blade, 3—6 cm long, hairy like the branches, glabrescent, with a glandular spot at the base of the blade. Flowers in (1)—2—3 (—5)-flowered cymes, forming a small narrow leafy panicle at the top of the branches; peduncles of the cymes angular, hairy like the branches, 1—1.5, afterwards up to 4 cm long, their subtending leaves much smaller than the others; bracteoles at the base of the pedicels linear, 4—5 mm long, concave, hairy outside, glabrous inside, caducous; pedicels hairy like the branches, 4—8 mm long, in fruit up to 15 mm long. Sepals about equal in length; two outer ones oblong, obtuse, c. 15 mm by 8 mm, appressedly hairy with nearly glabrous flat margins; two inner sepals elliptic-oblong to narrowly obovate, rounded to emarginate at the apex, c. 16—17 mm by 9 mm, appressedly hairy with glabrous margins. Corolla salver-shaped, white, glabrous outside except for the appressedly hairy greenish midpetaline bands; limb indistinctly lobed, c. 7—8 cm broad; tube c. 5 cm long, slightly hairy inside below the stamens. Stamens inserted roughly at the middle of the tube or slightly lower; filaments hairy at their base, varying in length from 6 to 11 mm; anthers linear, c. 7 mm long. Ovary glabrous, 4-celled, each cell with 1 ovule; style glabrous, c. 25 mm long;
Fig. 1.
stigmas linear-oblong, papillose, c. 4 mm long; disc cupular, c. 1 mm high. Fruit a 4-seeded capsule (according to the collector’s label), with the patent or reflexed but not enlarged sepals at its base. Seeds (not well preserved) presumably c. 7 mm long, presumably minutely whitish-tomentose.

The genus *Rivea* in its restricted sense, as I have defined it in Blumea 5, 1943, p. 355, is found in tropical continental Asia. It consisted up to now of four species, or a few more, not yet sufficiently distinguished; they are *R. hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy, 1833, *R. ornata* (Roxb.) Choisy, 1833, *R. collinsae* Craib, 1916, and *R. clarkeana* Craib, 1922, all woody climbers. The present species is, according to the collectors’ field-notes, an erect shrub of 1.50 m height. Its foliage much resembles that of *R. ornata* and so do the flowers; the sepals are, however, of a different form (fig. 1, c), the outer two being oblong, outside with a hairy central part and nearly glabrous, flat margins, whereas in *R. ornata* (fig. 1, b) they are ovate-oblong or oblong-lanceolate with involute margins and are completely covered on their outer surface with a dense short tomentum; the inner two sepals of *R. laotica* are elliptic-oblong to narrowly obovate; in *R. ornata* they are ovate to elliptic-oblong. The stamens are inserted roughly at the middle of the corolla tube or slightly below the middle; in *R. ornata* they are inserted much higher. The bracteoles in *R. laotica* are 4—5 mm long; as far as I can see they are much longer in *R. ornata* (18—20 mm), but I am not quite sure that this is always the case.

Fig. 1. a: flowering branch of *Rivea laotica* Van Ooststr., from a photograph by the collector; b, 1—5: sepals 1—5 of *R. ornata* (Roxb.) Choisy from inside; c, 1—5: sepals 1—5 of *R. laotica*, from inside.