

## REVIEW

CHRISTIAN PUFF, KONGKANDA CHAYAMARIT & VORADOL CHAMCHUMROON: **Rubiaceae of Thailand. A pictorial guide to indigenous and cultivated genera.** The Forest Herbarium, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bangkok, Thailand, 2005. vii, 245 pp., colour illus. ISBN 974-463-142-2. Price: USD 50 (including postage)<sup>1</sup>.

This is a bilingual guide (Thai and English) to the genera of Rubiaceae of Thailand. The book is very well produced with a clear layout and beautifully illustrated by many colour photographs.

The book starts with general notes on Thai Rubiaceae including a family description. The next chapter describes selected characters such as life form, leaves, stipules, flowers, fruits and pollination. The illustrations in this chapter include schematic drawings and LM and SEM micrographs.

The main part of the book is formed by the genus descriptions in two parts native (wild) and not native (cultivated) genera. The ordering in the chapter on native genera is a bit strange: the main ordering is by life form (Trees, treelet and shrubs, Climbers, Epiphytes and Ant plant, Herbs). Within these groups the ordering is by shared characters. To find a particular genus you need the index! The genus descriptions are quite clear with good photographs of examples showing important characters on the opposite page. The chapter on introduced genera describes some ornamentals and some cash crops.

As a whole this guide is a beautiful and needed addition to our knowledge of the large and difficult family Rubiaceae. However, a major flaw is that this guide lacks a key to the genera. Adding a key and putting the genera in an alphabetical order will make this book really user-friendly.

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1) The book can also be ordered directly by sending a cheque to: The Forest Herbarium, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, 61 Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.