THAI FOR. BULL. (BOT.) 29: 38–39. 2001.

Selaginella ciliaris (Retz.) Spring (Selaginellaceae), a new record for Thailand

PIYAPONG RACHATA* & THAWEESAKDI BOONKERD*

ABSTRACT. *Selaginella ciliaris* (Retz.) Spring is newly recorded for Thailand.

Selaginella is the sole genus of the family Selaginellaceae with more than 700 species. They are widely distributed in all parts of the world, particularly in the tropics and subtropics. Many are terrestrial plants, while some are epiphytic and others are adapted to quite xeric conditions. Twenty-nine species were previously known in Thailand (Tagawa & Iwatsuki 1979). *Selaginella ciliaris* (Retz.) Spring is newly recorded here.

Selaginella ciliaris (Retz.) Spring, Bull. Acad. Brux. 10: 231. 1843; De Vol, Fl. Taiwan 1: 49, pl. 10. 1980.

Stems prostrate or creeping, rooting at intervals but mostly near base, ca. 0.5 mm diam., with dimorphic leaves closed together or overlapping at basal portion, branches nearly to the base. *Ventral leaves* ovate-subdeltoid, acuminate at apex, round at base, ca. 2 mm long, 1 mm broad, minutely ciliate at base, white-margined. *Dorsal leaves* ovate, long acuminate at apex, cordate at base, ciliate at base, ca. 1.5 mm long, 1 mm broad. *Spike* ca. 4 mm in diam., up to 1 cm long; sporophylls dimorphic; ventral sporophylls deltoid, long acuminate at apex, keeled, with long cilia; dorsal sporophylls oblong-lanceolate, narrowing towards acuminate apex, ca. 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm broad, white-margined, ciliate.

Thailand.— NORTHERN: Chiang Rai [Khun Kon Waterfall Forest Park, *Ratchata* 225 (BCU), 226 (BCU), 232 (BCU), 235 (BCU)].

Distribution.— China [Hong Kong, *Dahlen* 102 (BM)], Taiwan, Philippines, India [*Gamble* 8987 (K); *Master* s.n. (holotype K)], Australia.

Ecology.— Terrestrial on slightly exposed mountain slopes in moist upper mixed deciduous forest, 670–800 m.

Selaginella ciliaris is one of a group of small spike-mosses that can be identified using the following key. This has been extracted from the Flora of Thailand Selaginellaceae account (Tagawa & Iwatsuki 1979), and has been emended to include the new species:

---

*Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

25. Ventral leaves entire to denticulate
  26. Dorsal sporophylls acuminate
    27. Sporophylls ciliate
      28. Stem erect or ascending **25. S. minutifolia**
      28. Stem prostrate or creeping **26. S. ciliaris**
    27. Sporophylls dentate **27. S. lindhardtii**
  26. Dorsal sporophylls round to obtuse at apex
    29. Ventral sporophylls denticulate **28. S. tenuifolia**
    29. Ventral sporophylls ciliate **29. S. chrysorhizos**
25. Ventral leaves ciliate near base **30. S. kurzii**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the TRF/BIOTEC Special Program for Biodiversity Research and Training grant BRT 140009. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the curators and staff of BK, BKF, BM and K for their kind permission to study pteridophyte specimens.

REFERENCES

Devol, C.E. 1975. Selaginellaceae. In: Hui-lin Li et al. (eds), Flora of Taiwan 1: 42–52.

Tagawa, M. & Iwatsuki, K. 1979. Selaginellaceae. In: Smitinand, T. & Larsen, K. (eds), Flora of Thailand 3(1): 14–31.