

## NEW TAXA OF *ELATOSTEMA* (URTICACEAE) FROM THAILAND AND INDIA

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### Abstract

In this study, one new species and one new variety are described and illustrated. *Elatostema intanondense* Q. Lin (Urticaceae), collected from Doi Intanond of Chiang Mai in Thailand, is morphologically similar to *E. subincisum* Weddell, but differs by having obscure stipules (vs. conspicuous, linear-lanceolate, 5-6 mm long in *E. subincisum*), and elliptic to lanceolate nanophylls, 3-7 × 1.5-3.0 mm (vs. absent in *E. subincisum*). *Elatostema ranongense* Yahara var. *glabroum* Q. Lin, a new variety collected from Khasi Hills in Mawhplong of Meghalaya, India. This new variety has glabrous stems and glabrous leaves that differs from var. *ranongense* that having densely hirtellous stems, densely strigillose leaf blade on abaxial surface along veins.

### Introduction

The genus *Elatostema* J. R. Forster & G. Forster (Urticaceae) contains approximately 300 species primarily distributed in tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia, and Oceania (Lin *et al.*, 2003). *Elatostema* is distinguished from the other genera of Urticaceae by having capitula inflorescences with receptacles and involucre. During examination of Asian specimens of *Elatostema*, a new species and a new variety, *Elatostema intanondense* Q. Lin and *Elatostema ranongense* Yahara var. *khasiense* Q. Lin, were found from Thailand and India, respectively.

### 1. *Elatostema intanondense* Q. Lin sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

**Diagnosis:** *Habitu Elatostemati subinciso Weddell valde simile, quod stipulis minimis vel obscuris, foliis abortivis ellipticis vel lanceolatis, 3-7 mm longis, 1.5-3.0 mm latis differt (non stipulis linearilanceolatis, 5-6 mm longis, foliis abortivis absentibus).*

*Type:* Thailand: Chiang Mai: Doi Intanond, 1400-1700 m, 18°30' N, 98°30' E, 9 Nov. 1974, K. Larsen & S. S. Larsen 34423 (*Holotype* - L; *Isotype* - L).

Perennial herbs, monoecious, c. 20 cm tall, glabrous. Stems erect, branched. Leaves alternate; stipules obscure; petiole 0-1 mm long; leaf blade membranaceous or papery, obliquely oblong-lanceolate, 2.0-4.5 × 1.0-1.5 cm, semitriplinerved, base obliquely cuneate, margin deeply subpinnatifidly crenate or serrate, apex caudate to acuminate. Cystoliths conspicuous, sparse, random; nanophylls elliptic to lanceolate, 3-7 mm long, 1.5-3.0 mm wide. Flowers monoecious,

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capitate. Male inflorescences axillary, solitary, 3-7 mm in diam.; peduncle sessile; receptacle 2-5 mm in diam.; bracts ovate; bracteoles lanceolate to linear; male flowers 4-merous. Female inflorescences axillary, solitary, 5-8 mm in diam.; peduncle sessile; receptacle 3.5-6.5 mm in diam.; bracts broadly ovate; bracteoles spatulate-linear; female 4-merous. Achenes ellipsoidal, c. 6-ribbed.

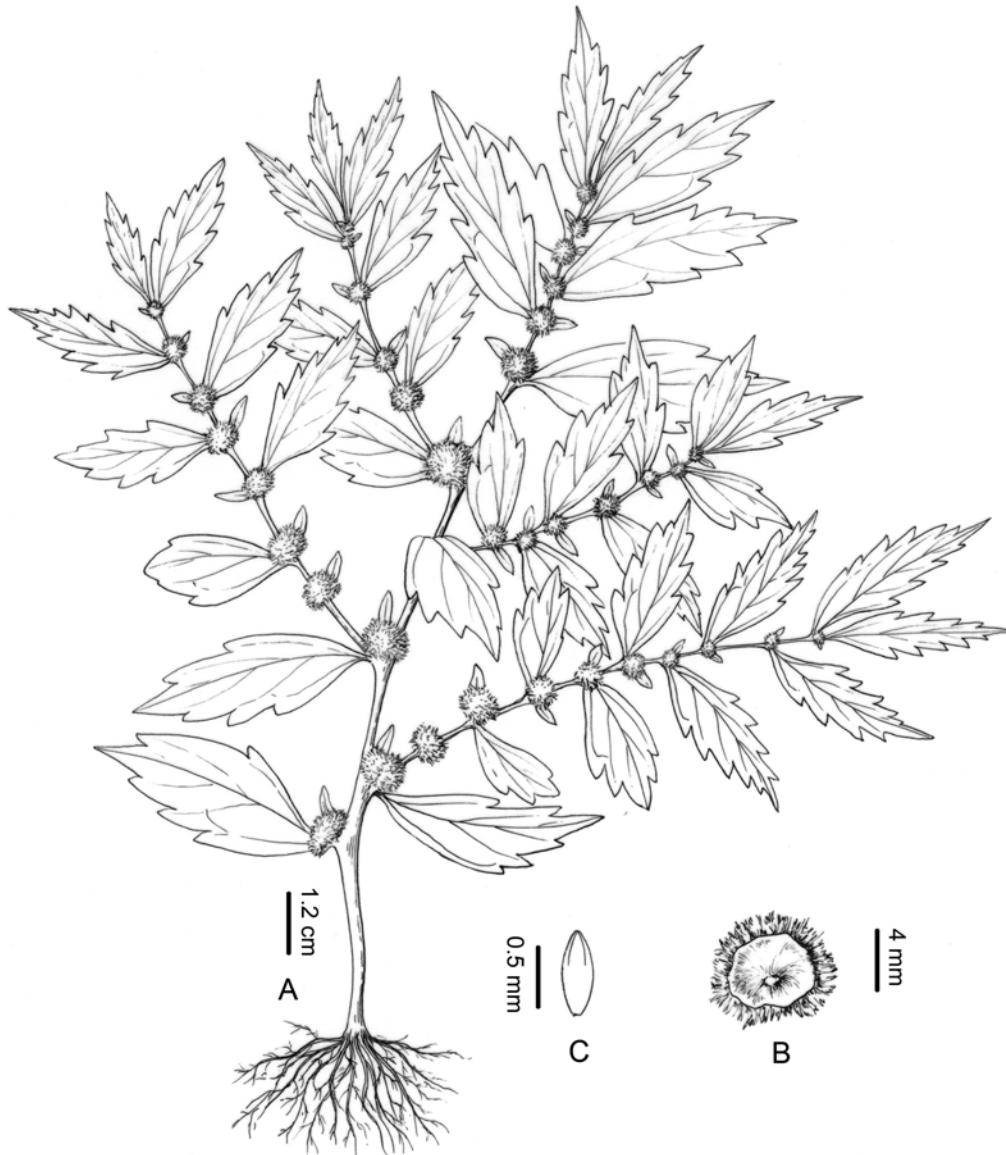


Fig. 1 *Elatostema intanondense* Q. Lin sp. nov. (from *K. Larsen & S. S. Larsen 34423=L Herb. Bar Code No. 0412346*, holotype, L): A. habit; B. female inflorescence (ventral view); C. achene.

*Phenology*: Flowering September; fruiting from October to November.

*Distribution and habitat*: Only known from the type locality in Doi Intanond, Chiang Mai of central Thailand, at altitudes between 1400 and 1700 m above sea level.

*Note*: Morphologically, *E. intanondense* Q. Lin is similar to *E. subincisum* Weddell that occurring in India and Nepal (Weddell, 1856) based on small herbs, glabrous; stems erect, branched; petiole absent; leaf blade margin deeply subpinnatifidly crenate or serrate, apex caudate to acuminate. More detailed morphological differences between two species are given in Table 1.

**2. *Elatostema ranongense* Yahara var. *glabroum* Q. Lin var. nov. (Fig. 2)**

var. *ranongensi* differt caulibus glabribus et foliis glabris.

*Type*: India. Assam (= Meghalaya): Mawphlng (= Mawhplong), Khasi Hills, 2000 m, 14 September 1949, *Rupchand 2281* (*Holotype* - L). Stems and leaves glabrous.



Fig. 2. Holotype of *Elatostema ranongense* Yahara var. *glabroum* Q. Lin (from *Rupchand 2281*, L). Photographed by Q. Lin.

*Phenology*: Flowering September; fruiting from October to November.

*Distribution and habitat*: The new variety is only known from the type locality at Khasi Hills in Mawphlong of Meghalaya, India. It occurs under moist forests at altitude of 2000 m above sea level.

**Table 1. Comparisons of morphological characters between *Elatostema intanondense* Q. Lin and *E. subincisum* Weddell.**

Characters	<i>E. intanondense</i>	<i>E. subincisum</i>
Stipules	obscure	conspicuous, linear-lanceolate, 5-6 mm long
Leaf blade	obliquely oblong-lanceolate, 2.0-4.5 × 1.0-1.5 cm	obliquely oblong-lanceolate, 1.5-3.5 × 0.6-1.2 cm
Nanophylls	present, elliptic to lanceolate, × 1.5-3.0 mm wide	3-7 absent
Male inflorescences	3-7 mm in diam.; sessile; receptacle 2-5 mm in diam.	2-5 mm in diam.; sessile; receptacle 1-3 mm in diam.
Female inflorescences	5-8 mm in diam.; sessile; receptacle 3.5-6.5 mm in diam.	3.0-5.5 mm in diam.; sessile; receptacle 1.5-3.0 mm in diam.

The new variety has glabrous stems and glabrous leaves which differs from var. *ranongense* that having densely hirtellous stems, densely strigillose leaf blade on abaxial surface along veins.

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