

Curcuma bella (Zingiberaceae), a new species from Thailand

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ABSTRACT. *Curcuma bella* Maknoi, K. Larsen & Sirirugsa, new species from Phitsanulok province in Northern Thailand, is described and illustrated.

KEYWORDS: *Curcuma*, Zingiberaceae, Thailand

The bamboo associated deciduous forests in the lower Northern and Central regions of Thailand were under explored in the past. Within the past ten years, the new genera and many new species of the family Zingiberaceae were described from this particular type of vegetation, e.g. *Boesenbergia baimaii* (Saensouk & Larsen, 2002), *Cornukaempferia aurantiflora* (Mood & Larsen, 1998), *Kaempferia grandifolia* (Saensouk & Jenjittikul, 2001) and *Smithatris supraneanae* (Kress & Larsen, 2001).

In Phitsanulok province, the area of dry deciduous forest rich in bamboo but of little value to the forestry is threatening to be transformed to agriculture area. There is area called Kaeng Chet Kwae which is flooded after Kwae Noi Dam was constructed. This place was explored by the first author in 2004 and an undescribed species of *Curcuma* was

found. This species is here described as new under the name of *Curcuma bella*.

Curcuma bella Maknoi, K. Larsen & Sirirugsa, *sp. nov.* Figs. 1–2.

Curcumae parviflorae Wall. *affinis a qua differt bracteis latis cum apice rotundato rubente brunneis; coma carenti; staminodiis apice erubescente; labello majori, apice bifido, margine crenata, albo medialiter luteo-vittato, lobis erubescens, venis translucens albis, secus vittam medialem pubescente.*

Type: Thailand, Phitsanulok, Wat Bot, Kaeng Chet Kwae, 27 May 2004, Maknoi 541 (holotype PSU).

Perennial herb with a very short rhizome; corm ovoid, *ca.* 2 by 1 cm, white inside. Leafy shoot *ca.* 15 cm tall. Bladeless sheath 2-3, 2-4 cm long, brownish, glabrous, apex

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