

A THIRD BRYOPHYTE COLLECTION FROM LAOS

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Abstract: During a short non-botanical visit to Laos in 2019, a few bryophytes were collected, five of which were identified, with four proving to be new to the flora of the country, namely *Dumortiera hirsuta*, *Lejeunea anisophylla*, *Spruceanthus planiusculus*, and *Neckeropsis exserta*.

Keywords: Indochina, Laos, new records

INTRODUCTION

Although there were several accounts on the moss flora of Laos, officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic (summarized by Tan and Iwatsuki 1993; a few species added by Ho *et al.* 2015), its liverworts are still very vaguely known (Söderström *et al.* 2020; Pócs 2012, 2025) and these records came from only a few localities. Therefore even small collections are worthwhile to identify. The author's son, Bence Pócs visited briefly the country in 2019 and collected 10 bryophyte species on the 21 April at the Kuang Si Falls, surrounded by wet lowland rainforest at 560 m elevation, 25 km SW of Luang Prabang in northern Laos (*Figures 1–3*). Five of them were identified and four proved to be new records to the country (marked by *). The remaining five are pleurocarpous mosses waiting for identification, belonging to recently unrevised families or genera. The voucher specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of Eszterházy Károly Catholic University (EGR).

Based on the above experience, it would be very necessary a thorough collection and identification work to cover the geologically, climatically and therefore biologically very diverse habitats of this country by training local bryologists under the guidance of experienced leaders from the neighbouring countries.



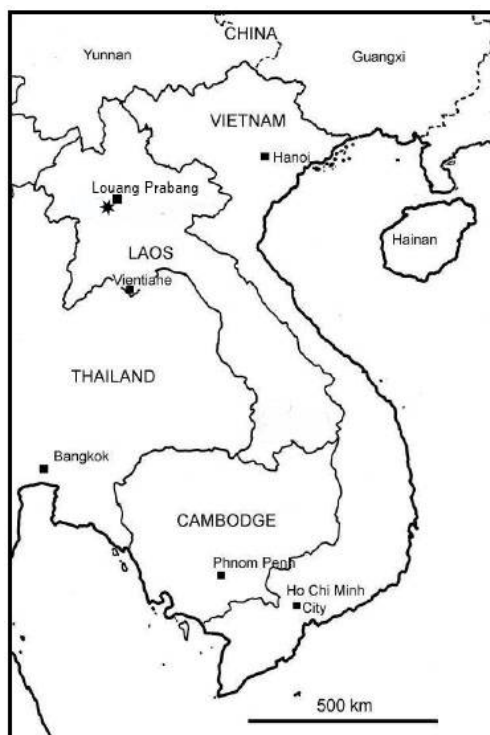


Figure 1. The collecting site of Bence Pócs is marked by an asterisk.

RESULTS

Enumeration of species

****Dumortiera hirsuta*** (Sw.) Nees – On wet soil. Widespread Pantropical and warm temperate species.

Heteroscyphus argutus (Reinw., Blume & Nees) Schiffn. – On bark of trees. Widespread Indomalaysian-Pacific species with a doubtful occurrence in Mauritius.

****Lejeunea anisophylla*** Mont. – On tree fern stem. Widespread Palaeotropic species. The name is currently accepted, as the synonym with *Lejeunea adpressa* Nees (Gradstein 2021), in which case it is Pantropical.

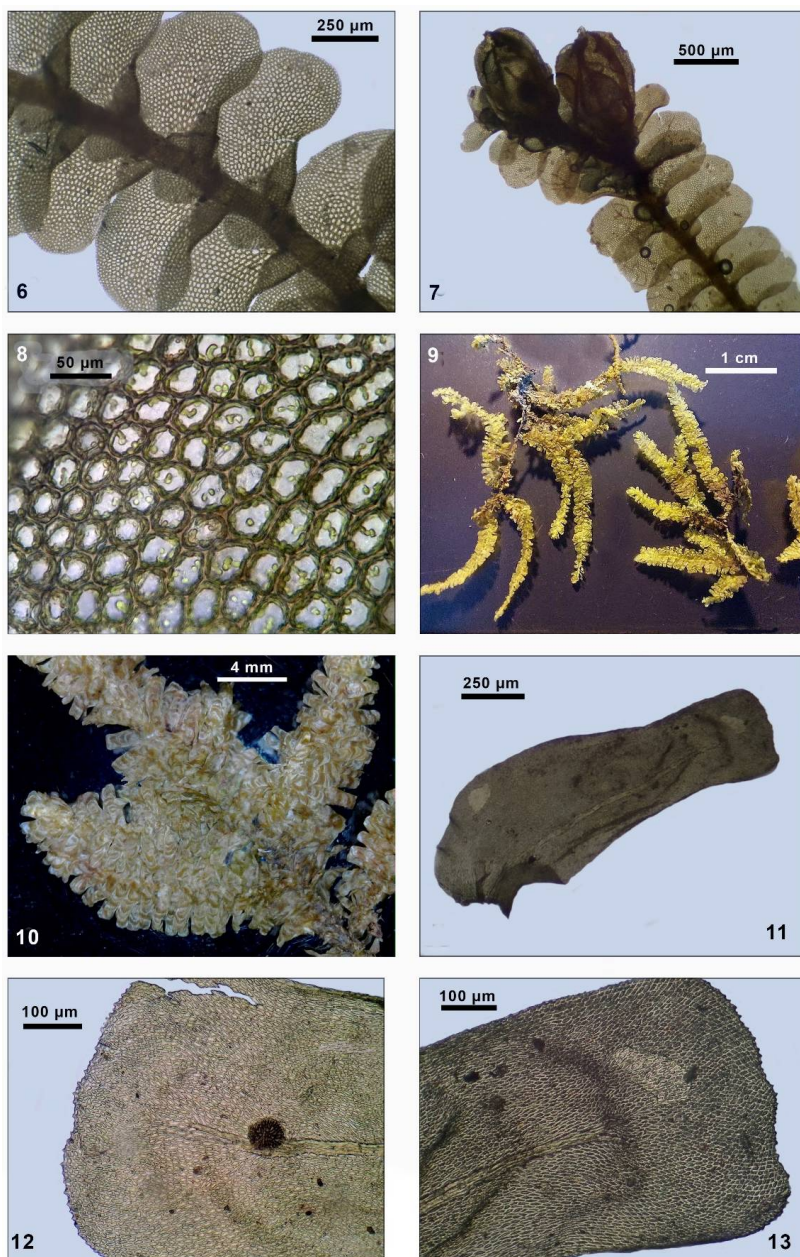
****Spruceanthus planiusculus*** (Mitt.) X.Q.Shi, R.L.Zhu & Gradst. – This is the most common species from tree fern stems in this collection. It occurs both with rounded and with acuminate, denticulate leaf apex (see *Figures 4, 6–8*). A species widespread in

the Indo-Pacific region previously known under the name of *Archilejeunea planiuscula* (Mitt.) Steph. (Wang *et al.* 2016).

**Neckeropsis exserta* (Hook. ex Schwägr.) Broth. – Apart from its small size, the species is characterised by a truncate and serrulate leaf apex (Figures 5, 9–13). It is an Indomalasian species known from both southern and northern India, Nepal and Thailand and in its var. *scrobiculata* (Nees) Touw it is also from the Philippines: Luzon (Touw 1962).



Figure 2. The rainforest above the waterfalls. **Figure 3.** The streamlet with limestone tuff bed above the falls. **Figure 4.** *Spruceanthus planiusculus* (Mitt.) X.Q.Shi, R.L.Zhu & Gradst. **Figure 5.** *Neckeropsis exserta* (Hook. in Schwägr.) Broth. Photos made by Bence Pócs.



Figures 6–8. *Spruceanthus planiusculus* (Mitt.) X.Q.Shi, R.L.Zhu & Gradst. 6. Shoot habit, ventral view. 7. Shoot with gynoecia, ventral view. 8. Median lobe cells. **Figures 9–13. *Neckeropsis exserta* (Hook. ex Schwägr.) Broth.** 9–10. Habit, dorsal view. 11. Leaf, ventral view. 12–13. Leaf apices with serrulate margin, ventral view (Photos made by the author).

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