

RIVEA LAOTICA, A NEW SPECIES FROM INDO-CHINA
(CONVOLVULACEAE)

by

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(Issued 15. VI. 1957).

Differt a speciebus ceteris generis *Riveae* habitu erecto et praesertim speciei proximae *Riveae ornatae* sepalis exterioribus margine plano non involuto et staminibus circa medium tubi corollae insertis vel paullo inferius.

INDO-CHINA. Laos, prov. Vientiane, vicinity of Vientiane, c. 200 m alt., in open Dipterocarpaceae monsoon forest, on sandy lateritic soil; erect shrub, 1.50 m high; flowers white with greenish midpetaline bands, fl. Aug. 20, 1953 (rain-season); vernacular name: *phi yik*; *Vidal 2350* (TL, type; fragments in L). A fruiting specimen from the same locality was collected Oct. 8, 1952; *Vidal 1120* (TL; fragments in L).

An erect shrub, c. 1.50 m high. Flowering branches (*fig. 1, a*) terete or angular to applanate upwards, more or less zigzag, densely covered with very short appressed whitish hairs. Leaves often folded along the midrib, orbicular to kidney-shaped, 10—13 cm by 6—12 cm; base deeply cordate with a narrow sinus, apex broadly rounded or slightly emarginate; upper surface glabrous, lower surface rather densely covered with short appressed hairs, finally glabrescent; midrib and c. 5—6 nerves (3 of which from the leaf base) on either side slightly prominent beneath and more densely hairy; petiole shorter than the blade, 3—6 cm long, hairy like the branches, glabrescent, with a glandular spot at the base of the blade. Flowers in (1—)2—3 (—5)-flowered cymes, forming a small narrow leafy panicle at the top of the branches; peduncles of the cymes angular, hairy like the branches, 1—1.5, afterwards up to 4 cm long, their subtending leaves much smaller than the others; bracteoles at the base of the pedicels linear, 4—5 mm long, concave, hairy outside, glabrous inside, caducous; pedicels hairy like the branches, 4—8 mm long, in fruit up to 15 mm long. Sepals about equal in length; two outer ones oblong, obtuse, c. 15 mm by 8 mm, appressedly hairy with nearly glabrous flat margins; two inner sepals elliptic-oblong to narrowly obovate, rounded to emarginate at the apex, c. 16—17 mm by 9 mm, appressedly hairy with glabrous margins. Corolla salver-shaped, white, glabrous outside except for the appressedly hairy greenish mid-petaline bands; limb indistinctly lobed, c. 7—8 cm broad; tube c. 5 cm long, slightly hairy inside below the stamens. Stamens inserted roughly at the middle of the tube or slightly lower; filaments hairy at their base, varying in length from 6 to 11 mm; anthers linear, c. 7 mm long. Ovary glabrous, 4-celled, each cell with 1 ovule; style glabrous, c. 25 mm long;

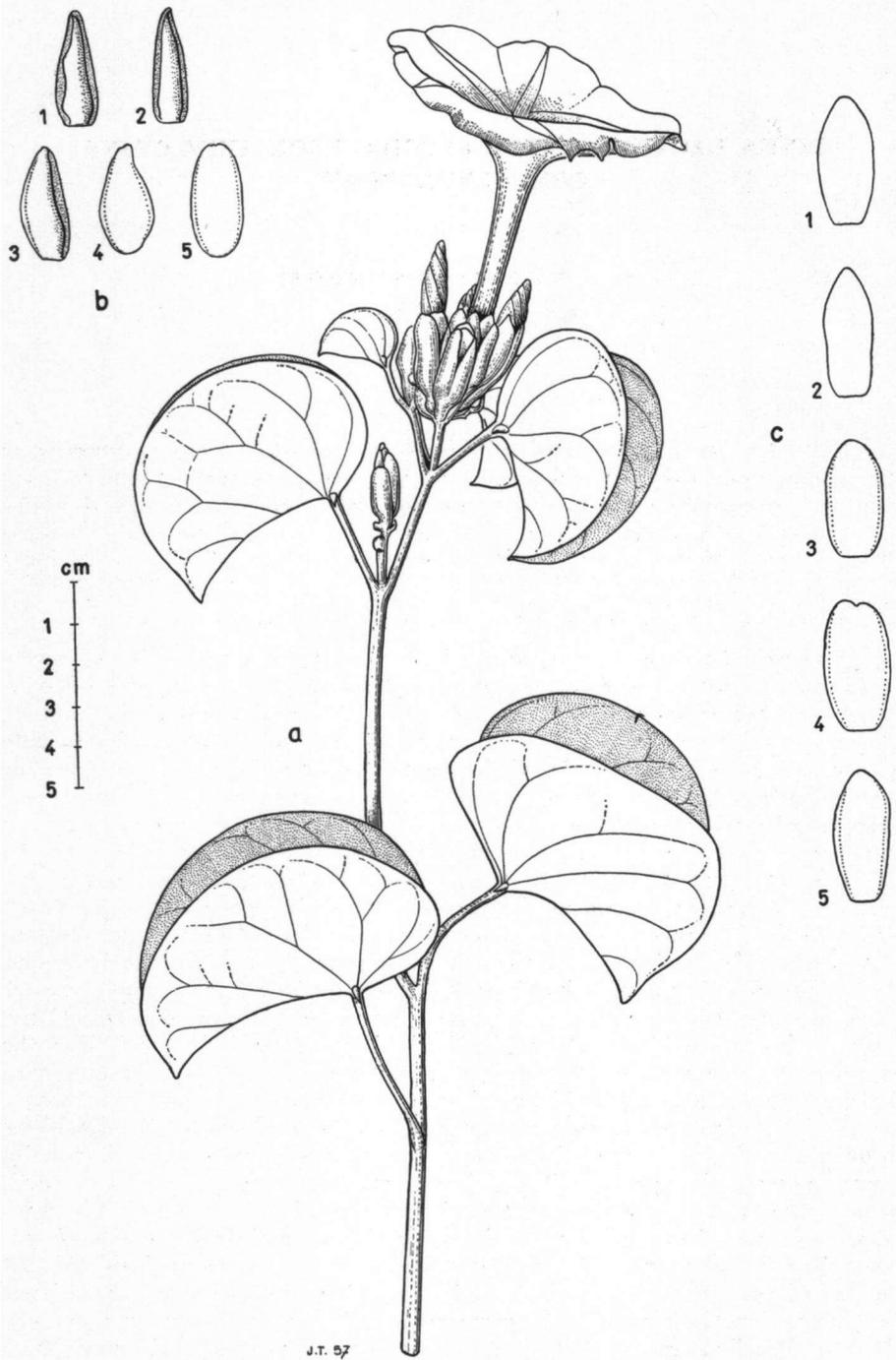


Fig. 1.

stigmas linear-oblong, papillose, c. 4 mm long; disc cupular, c. 1 mm high. *Fruit* a 4-seeded capsule (according to the collector's label), with the patent or reflexed but not enlarged sepals at its base. Seeds (not well preserved) presumably c. 7 mm long, presumably minutely whitish-tomentose.

The genus *Rivea* in its restricted sense, as I have defined it in *Blumea* 5, 1943, p. 355, is found in tropical continental Asia. It consisted up to now of four species, or a few more, not yet sufficiently distinguished; they are *R. hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy, 1833, *R. ornata* (Roxb.) Choisy, 1833, *R. collinsae* Craib, 1916, and *R. clarkeana* Craib, 1922, all woody climbers. The present species is, according to the collectors' field-notes, an erect shrub of 1.50 m height. Its foliage much resembles that of *R. ornata* and so do the flowers; the sepals are, however, of a different form (*fig. 1, c*), the outer two being oblong, outside with a hairy central part and nearly glabrous, flat margins, whereas in *R. ornata* (*fig. 1, b*) they are ovate-oblong or oblong-lanceolate with involute margins and are completely covered on their outer surface with a dense short tomentum; the inner two sepals of *R. laotica* are elliptic-oblong to narrowly obovate; in *R. ornata* they are ovate to elliptic-oblong. The stamens are inserted roughly at the middle of the corolla tube or slightly below the middle; in *R. ornata* they are inserted much higher. The bracteoles in *R. laotica* are 4—5 mm long; as far as I can see they are much longer in *R. ornata* (18—20 mm), but I am not quite sure that this is always the case.

Fig. 1. a: flowering branch of *Rivea laotica* Van Ooststr., from a photograph by the collector; b, 1-5: sepals 1-5 of *R. ornata* (Roxb.) Choisy from inside; c, 1-5: sepals 1-5 of *R. laotica*, from inside.