



## *Curcuma leonidii*, a new species from southern Vietnam

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### Abstract

*Curcuma leonidii*, a new species of *Curcuma* subg. *Hitcheniopsis* (Zingiberaceae) from southern Vietnam is described and illustrated here. *Curcuma leonidii* with flowers similar to some *Stahlianthus*-like species but inflorescences consisting of up to 8 green bracts and their arrangements conforming to usual ‘classical’ *Curcuma*-like species provides the much-awaited morphological link between the two genera, of which *Stahlianthus* have been, based on molecular results, recently proposed to be merged with *Curcuma* subg. *Hitcheniopsis*.

**Key words:** Bù Gia Mập National Park, *Curcuma* subgenus *Hitcheniopsis*, *Stahlianthus*

### Introduction

Numerous ginger novelties, have recently been described (Dhetchuvi *et al.* 2011, Kumar *et al.* 2013), including a new genus (Leong-Škorničková *et al.* 2011) and numerous species from Indochina (e.g. Leong-Škorničková *et al.* 2010, 2011, Lý *et al.* 2010, Nguyen & Leong-Škorničková 2012). As extensive explorations of Zingiberaceae for the Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam continue, numerous interesting ginger species have been collected, including the new *Curcuma* L. (1753) which we describe and illustrate below. It belongs to subgenus *Hitcheniopsis* Schuman (1904), because it lacks epigynous glands and anther spurs (Záveská *et al.* 2012).

This new species of *Curcuma* was first discovered in southern Vietnam in 2005, during the expedition by Prof. Leonid Averyanov & his collaborators to Binh Phước Province, Bù Gia Mập National Park (HLF 5062, then identified as *Kaempferia angustifolia* Roscoe (1807)). The images of this collection have been confirmed to represent a new species by the first author who is revising *Curcuma* for the Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. With no spirit or living flowering material at hand, the description of this new species was not pursued originally. The recent collections made by the second author were accompanied by material on spirit and photographs of flower dissections, which now allows us to formally describe this species.

Description based on living material Lưu Hồng Trường, Đinh Nhật Lâm & Võ Huy Sang LUU 807 & spirit material Lưu Hồng Trường, Đinh Nhật Lâm & Võ Huy Sang LUU 897 & LUU 898. Measurements derived from dried material are explicitly mentioned. Terminology follows Beentje (2012).

### Taxonomy

#### *Curcuma leonidii* Škorničk. & Luu

Similar to *Curcuma harmandii* Gagnep. (subg. *Hitcheniopsis*) in inflorescence consisting of green bracts with no obvious coma, but differs from it by having a more compact inflorescence (vs. more elongated in *C. harmandii*), white corolla lobes (vs. greenish), white oblanceolate-spathulate shape of the lateral staminodes (vs. greenish-white nearly linear) and white labellum with rich yellow well-defined median, the sides of the basal half of the median puberulent, patched with red, and nearly plain margin (vs. white labellum with yellow pubescent median bordered around with pink tinge, especially towards the apex, and crisped margin).