

**TWO NEW SPECIES OF POLYGALA (POLYGALACEAE)  
FROM INDOCHINA**

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SUMMARY

Two new species of *Polygala* are described: *P. latistyla* from Vietnam and *P. perdurans* from Laos.

***Polygala latistyla* Pendry, spec. nov. — Fig. 1**

Ab *Polygala karensio* Kurz floribus brevioribus, stylo lato e basi differt. — Typus: *Poilane* 35827 (P holotype; TCD iso).

Erect shrub over 1 m tall. Twigs slightly ridged, glabrescent. *Leaves* elliptic or narrow ovate, acuminate, with cuneate to attenuate base, sparsely set with flattened, scale-like hairs towards margin above, glaucous below, 3–7.5 by 1–2.5 cm, secondary veins 4 or 5, forming a prominent intramarginal vein; petiole glabrescent, 2–13 mm long. *Inflorescence* terminal or axillary, with up to 5 clustered at the end of a twig, unbranched, shortly hairy, very dense with up to c. 60 flowers, to 5 cm long; bracts caducous, ciliate, 2 mm long. *Flowers* white with a yellow tip, 7 mm long; pedicel 1.2 mm long. *Outer sepals* ciliate, almost equal, the two lower sepals ovate, 1.5 by 1 mm, the upper slightly more cupped, 1.5 by 1.5 mm. *Alae* broadly obovate or rather oblong, sometimes oblique, cucullate, glabrous, 5–6 mm long. *Upper petals* 5.5–6 mm, the free parts oblong, 1.5–2 mm long. *Keel* 7 mm long, appendage irregularly 8-lobed, c. 1.5 mm long. *Stamens* 7 mm long. *Disk* annular, 0.3 mm high. *Ovary* orbicular, winged, 1.2 by 1.5 mm, style broad from the base, slightly curved towards apex, 5 mm long. Fruit unknown.

*Distribution* — Known only from the type collection from Ngok Pan Massif, Gia Lai-Công Tum, Vietnam.

*Habitat* — An understory shrub in primary montane forest on granite-derived soils at 2400 m. Collected in flower in December.

*Note* — *Polygala latistyla* belongs to *Polygala* section *Chamaebuxus*. In general appearance it is very similar to *P. karensium*, but its flowers are shorter (7 mm in *P. latistyla*, 16–21 mm in *P. karensium*) and the style differently shaped (ribbon-like, 5 by 0.4 mm, scarcely expanded above the base in *P. latistyla*; filiform at the base, 17–20 by 0.3 mm and more markedly expanded towards the apex in *P. karensium*). The capsule of *P. latistyla* is probably similar to that of *P. karensium* but smaller (orbicular with a smooth face and emarginate wing).

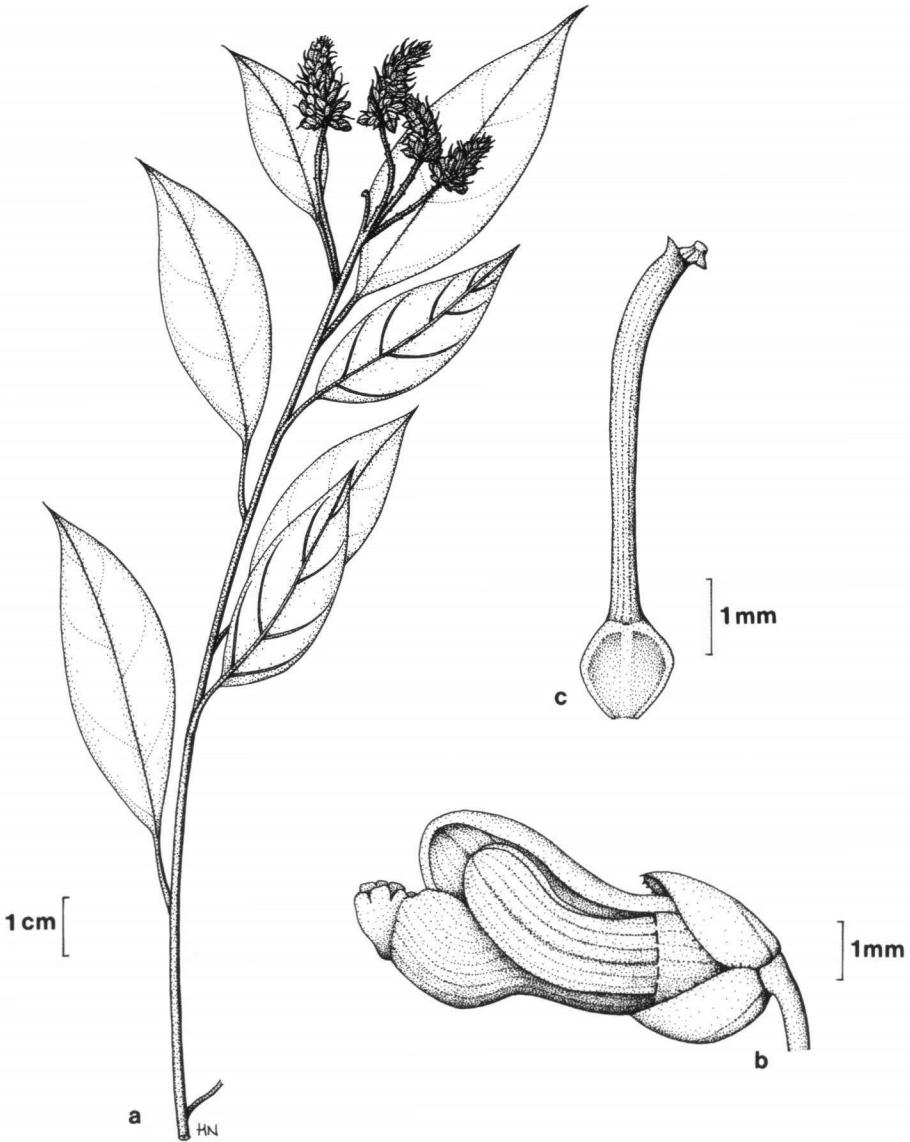


Fig. 1. *Polygala latistyla* Pendry. a. Habit; b. flower with one ala removed; c. ovary and style (a–c: Poilane 35827, P).

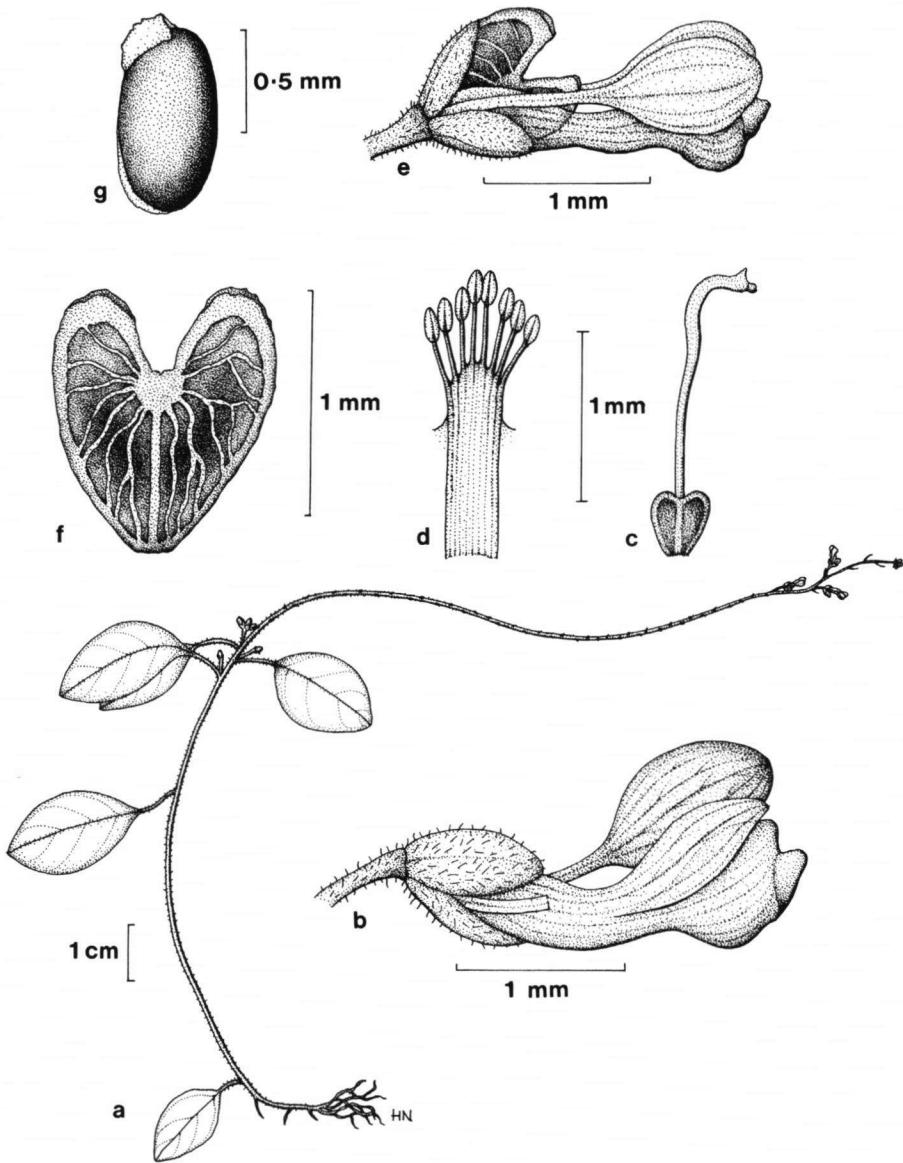


Fig. 2. *Polygala perdurans* Pendry. a. Habit; b. flower with one ala removed; c. ovary and style; d. staminal sheath; e. capsule enclosed by persistent calyx and corolla; f. detail of capsule; g. seed (a–g: *Pételot 3854*, P).

***Polygala perdurans*** Pendry, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 2

Ab speciebus Indosinensibus corolla ad maturitatem fructus persistens, semine ala angusta membranacea differt. — Typus: *Pételot 3854* (P holo).

Delicate herb to 15 cm high. Stems terete, with dense indumentum of long (to 1 mm), flattened, spreading white hairs. *Leaves* basal, rather membranaceous, ovate, elliptic or obovate, apex rounded to acute, base decurrent, margin flat, glaucous below, with long white hairs above and below, 0.5–2.5 by 0.3–1.0 cm; petioles densely long hairy, 2–8 mm long. *Inflorescence* terminal or axillary, unbranched, rather lax, with up to c. 80 flowers, indumentum shorter than on stems, 4–12 cm long; bracts boat-shaped, caudate, hairy, ciliate, persistent, 0.5 mm long. *Flowers* white (?), c. 2 mm; pedicel 0.8 mm long. *Outer sepals* almost equal, oblong, ciliate, hairy, 0.6–0.8 mm long. *Alae* orbicular with a filiform stalk, very delicate, glabrous, 1.8–2.2 mm long. *Upper petals* glabrous, 1.7–1.8 mm long, the free parts oblong, 0.6–0.7 mm long. *Keel* 1.9–2.1 mm long; appendage of two triangular lamellae, 0.2 by 0.3–0.4 mm. *Stamens* glabrous, slightly more connate towards centre of staminal sheath, glabrous, 2.2 mm long, the free parts of the filament c. 0.3 mm. *Disk* absent. *Ovary* obcordate, 0.4 by 0.3 mm; style sharply bent in apex, stigmatic lobes close, the upper tooth-like, 2.3 mm long. *Capsule* with persistent calyx and corolla, obcordate, deeply emarginate, with prominent concentric ridges arising from the apex, 1.2 by 0.9 mm; wing ribbed, widest at apex, up to 0.1 mm. *Seeds* oblong, laterally compressed with a narrow, membranaceous wing along one edge, smooth, glabrous, black, 0.6 by 0.3 mm; aril 2-lobed, 0.2 mm long.

*Distribution* — Known only from the type specimen collected by Mlle Coloni (under Pételot's number) at the village of Xa Ngom, Hoa, Cammon (= Khammouane Province?), Laos.

*Habitat* — Found growing in the shelter of rocks. The somewhat flimsy nature of the plant suggests that it would be restricted to sheltered areas and probably grows under shady conditions. Collected in flower in December.

*Note* — Although *P. perdurans* falls within section *Polygala* according to Adema's (1966) key, the habitat, delicate growth form and the persistent corolla (this is the character referred to by the name) are unique among the Southeast Asian species.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCE

Adema, F. 1966. A review of the herbaceous species of *Polygala* in Malesia (Polygalaceae). *Blumea* 14: 253–276.