

**XII. RANGE EXTENSION OF THE GENUS
PENTASTEMONA STEENIS (PENTASTEMONACEAE),
ENDEMIC OF SUMATRA**

B. E. E. DUYFJES

Rijksherbarium / Hortus Botanicus, P.O. Box 9514, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

Pentastemona Steenis (*Pentastemonaceae*) is known with two local endemic species, one in Central Sumatra (West Coast province), the other in northern Sumatra (southern Aceh province), i.e. both in areas West of the Barisan Mountain range. — Fig. 1.

Additional material obviously belonging to *Pentastemona* was lately discovered among *Epithema* Blume (*Gesneriaceae*) borrowed from Harvard and Michigan herbaria by Dr. B.L. Burt of Edinburgh, who was kind enough to send it to me for closer examination. It concerns four different gatherings by Rahmat si Boeea for H.H. Bartlett, made in or in the vicinity of the canyon-like course of the upper Asahan River, flowing to the East Coast, province Tapanuli (close to province North Sumatra), in northern Sumatra. The specimens had been named at the time by E.D. Merrill as '*Epithema saxatile* Bl.?', and filed as such.

All collections appeared to belong to *P. sumatrana* Steenis, a species hitherto known only from a few localities rather close to each other along the middle Alas River, which flows to the West Coast; see Van Steenis (1982), Duyfjes (1991, 1992, 1993), De Wilde & Duyfjes (1994). The Asahan localities are at a distance of some 150 km from those of the Alas River (Fig. 1).

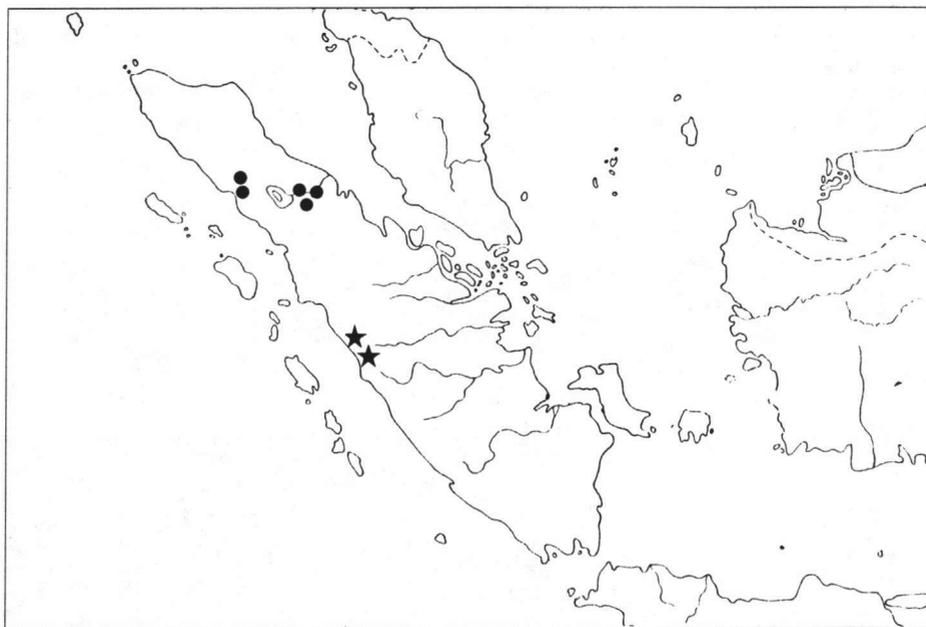


Fig. 1. Localities of the two species of *Pentastemona*. ★ = *P. egregia* (Schott) Steenis; ● = *P. sumatrana* Steenis.

The labels of the Rahmat si Boeea collections do not give particulars on the habitat, and the high collecting numbers, of 1934/1935, are not incorporated in Bartlett's treatise of botanical collecting in the area (Bartlett, 1935). They are the following:

Rahmat si Boeea 6550 and 6650, vicinity of Hoeta Bagasan, 7 Sept. 1934–4 Feb. 1935 (in GH, MICH), 7250, vicinity of Hoeta Bagasan, 7 Sept. 1934–4 Feb. 1935 (in MICH), 7845, vicinity of Loemban Ria, 5 Feb.–12 Apr. 1935 (in GH, MICH).

Nothing is known about the status of these localities today.

As can be expected with such a comparatively large addition of material, some emendation of the species description is admissible, i.e. the overall length of the inflorescences which are generally not much longer than the petioles; the raceme-like partial inflorescences are still more-flowered, with up to 30 persistent bracts; the margins and midribs of the bracts and hyaline ridges of the fruit are broader and more conspicuously undulately dissected.

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