



*Phytosociology of the Terrestrial Vegetation along the Coasts  
of the Peninsular Thailand*

*Chukiat Laongpol*

*A Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Biology  
Prince of Songkla University*

*2010*

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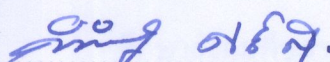
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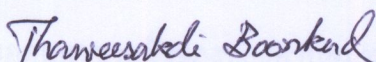
**Thesis Title**           Phytosociology of the Terrestrial Vegetation along the Coasts of  
the Peninsular Thailand  
**Author**                Mr. Chukiat Laongpol  
**Major Program**       Biology

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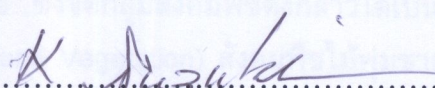
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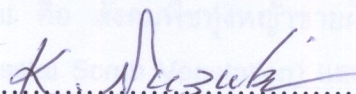
  
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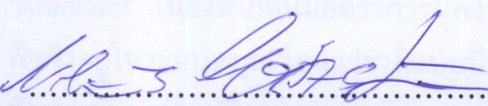
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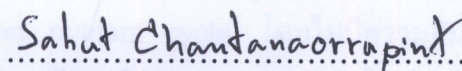
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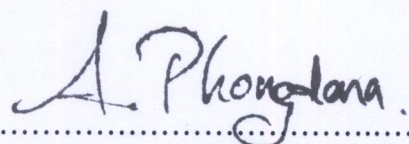
  
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Biology

  
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ชื่อวิทยานิพนธ์	การศึกษาสังคมพืชบนบกตามแนวชายฝั่งคาบสมุทรไทย
ผู้เขียน	นายชูเกียรติ ละอองผล
สาขาวิชา	ชีววิทยา
ปีการศึกษา	2553

### บทคัดย่อ

ศึกษาสังคมพืชตามธรรมชาติตลอดแนวชายฝั่งของคาบสมุทรไทย ตั้งแต่เดือนตุลาคม 2549 ถึงเดือนพฤษภาคม 2553 บรรยายลักษณะโครงสร้างสังคมพืชที่พบตามแนวชายฝั่ง ในรูปขององค์ประกอบของพรรณไม้ และภาพตัดขวางของสังคมพืชชายฝั่ง และจากการวิเคราะห์ สังคมพืชตามวิธีของ Zürich-Montpellier School (Braun-Blanquet method) แบ่งสังคมพืช ออก ได้เป็น 28 สังคมย่อย ประกอบด้วย 21 สังคมพืช (community) และ 7 สังคมพืชย่อย ซึ่งจัดกลุ่มสังคมพืชดังกล่าวได้เป็น 3 กลุ่ม คือ สังคมพืชทุ่งหญ้าชายฝั่ง (Coastal Grassland Vegetation) สังคมพืชไม้พุ่มชายฝั่ง (Coastal Scrub Vegetation) และสังคมพืชไม้ยืนต้นชายฝั่ง (Coastal Woodland Vegetation) จากการวิเคราะห์ดินจัดอยู่ในชุดดิน "Arenosol" เนื่องจากดินมีอัตราการผุพังอยู่กับที่สูงและมีความอุดมสมบูรณ์ต่ำ การดำรงอยู่ของพืชจึงอยู่ในระบบหมุนเวียนแร่ธาตุแบบปิด (closed nutrient cycle) โดยไม่มีความสัมพันธ์ที่ชัดเจนกับคุณสมบัติทางกายภาพและคุณสมบัติทางเคมีของดิน นอกจากกับโซเดียมไอออน ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) และคลอไรด์ไอออน ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ) จากการวิเคราะห์ด้วยวิธี DCA analysis สังคมพืชแบ่งออกเป็น 3 กลุ่ม สอดคล้องกับธรณีสัณฐาน (landforms) ต่างๆ ได้แก่ สังคมพืชที่อยู่บนธรณีสัณฐานเนินทรายที่เกิดจากอิทธิพลของลม (Eolian Landform) สังคมพืชบนธรณีสัณฐานชายหาดในบริเวณที่เป็นอ่าว และสังคมพืชบนธรณีสัณฐานสันทรายชายฝั่งที่อยู่ด้านในแผ่นดิน และจากการวิเคราะห์ด้วยวิธี CCA analysis สนับสนุนรูปแบบการกระจายของชนิดพันธุ์พืช ซึ่งมีส่วนสัมพันธ์กับปริมาณโซเดียมไอออน และคลอไรด์ไอออนในดิน ซึ่งชี้ให้เห็นว่า ละอองน้ำเค็ม (salt spray) ที่พัดมากับลมทะเล อาจมีอิทธิพลกับการกระจายของชนิดพันธุ์ และ/หรือ ในทางกลับกัน

<b>Thesis Title</b>	Phytosociology of the Terrestrial Vegetation along the Coasts of the Peninsular Thailand
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<b>Major Program</b>	Biology
<b>Academic Year</b>	2010

### ABSTRACT

A vegetation study along the coasts of peninsular Thailand was conducted from October 2006 to May 2010. Thirteen sites were selected. The study documented all the natural vegetation on sandy habitats by describing them in terms of species composition as well as their profiles. A phytosociological classification of the coastal forest vegetation was done according to the Braun-Blanquet method (Zürich-Montpellier School). The plant communities could be classified into twenty-eight community i.e. twenty-one community and seven sub-communities, which could be grouped into three main categories: 1) Coastal Grassland Vegetation; 2). Coastal Scrub Vegetation; 3) Coastal Woodland Vegetation. All soils fall into the Arenosol category according to FAO. Due to high weathering rates and consequently a poor nutrient supply from the partly Hyperalbic Arenosols, vegetation relies on a closed nutrient cycle. No clear relation to physical or chemical soil properties, except to extractable  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ , could be found. The DCA analyses of some selected parameters separates the sites into three groups according to the land forms i.e. the sand dune site (the Eolian Landform), the gulf sandy beach site and the inland sandbar site. The CCA analyses support these distribution patterns of sites which correlates with concentrations of  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  in the soil. That indicates that sea salt spray may have some impact on the distribution of plant species on sand bars/ dunes along the coasts and/or vice versa.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my whole gratitude to Assoc. Professor Dr. Kitichate Sridith, my advisor for giving me the opportunity to pursue a Doctoral degree and made himself available for all field surveys, comments, suggestions and discussion at every stage of my study. Finally, his constructive criticism of the manuscript is highly appreciated.

I am also extremely grateful to Professor Dr. Kunio Suzuki, The President of Yokohama National University, Japan, my co-advisor, who kindly helped me in the field surveys and vegetation analysis, helpful criticism and also assisted in correcting the present dissertation. Moreover, he had kindly provided financial support for the present study.

I am deeply indebted to Professor Dr. Klaus Katzensteinner, Institute of Forest Ecology, Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna, Austria, who kindly advised me in the soil surveys and soil analysis. Moreover, his kind hospitality during my stay at the Institute of Forest Ecology, BOKU Vienna is highly appreciated.

My great thankfulness goes to the examining committee members, Professor Dr. Thaweesakdi Boonkerd and Dr. Sahut Chantanaorrapint for their correcting the manuscript. In addition, Dr. Chantanaorrapint had kindly helped in the ordination analysis.

I also wish to thank all of my colleagues and friends in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University for their various kinds of help.

The Graduate School, Prince of Songhla University, the TRF/BIOTEC Special Program for Biodiversity Research and Training grant (BRT) T\_350010 and Yokohama National University had kindly provided financial supports of the present study.

Gratitude is especially extended to my parents, two sisters including father and mother in law who supported my study.

Finally, the encouragement and inspiration of my beloved daughter and wife are highly appreciated.

Chukiat Laongpol

September, 2010



# CONTENTS

	Page
บทคัดย่อ	iii
Abstract	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Contents	vii
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xi
List of Plates	xiii
Chapter	
1.Introduction	1
Objectives	2
Literature Review	2
2.Materials and Methods	5
Study area	5
Inventory	18
Data collecting	18
Data analysis	20
3.Plant Community Structure	23
Results	23
Discussion	86
4.Phytosociology	95
Results	95
Discussion	107
5.The Selected Environmental Parameters	139
Results	139
Discussion	154
6.Summary	164
Conservation Recommendation	167

## CONTENTS (Continued)

	<b>Page</b>
References	168
Appendices	172
Vitae	176



## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 List of 13 study sites.	7
2 The geography of the study sites.	10
3 The selected environmental factors of the study sites.	17
4 Chemical analysis	21
5 Distribution of grain size and mineralogical analyses.	22
6 List of dicotyledonous species on sandbars along the coast of the peninsular Thailand.	23
7 List of monocotyledonous species on sandbars along the coast of the peninsular Thailand.	29
8 List of non-flowering plant species on sandbars along the coast of the peninsular Thailand.	31
9 List of plant species found in each study sites.	32
10 Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (1)	110
11 Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (2)	111
12 Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (3)	112
13 Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (4)	113
14 Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (5)	114
15 Coastal Scrub-Vegetation (1)	115
16 Coastal Scrub-Vegetation (2)	116
17 Coastal Scrub-Vegetation (3)	117
18 Coastal Scrub-Vegetation (4)	120
19 Coastal Woodland Vegetation (coastal forest vegetation).	123
20 Analytical data of groundwater.	139
21 Mineralogy of the soil.	141
22 Particle sizes distribution of the soil	143
23 Chemical properties of the soils.	145
24 List of plant species V.S. species code on sandbars along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand.	149

**LIST OF TABLES** (Continued)

<b>Table</b>		<b>Page</b>
25	Summary statistics for DCA ordination and comparisons with result from CCA.	153

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1 Topographic map of peninsular Thailand.	6
2 Map of peninsular Thailand showing the 13 study sites.	8
3 General diagram of coastal sandbar landform of peninsular Thailand.	11
4 The coastal sandbar landform at Hat Thai Mueang, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.	11
5 General diagram of coastal sand dune landform of peninsular Thailand.	12
6 The coastal sand dune landform at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.	12
7 Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Ban Bangboet (study site 1), Pathio district, Chumphon province.	64
8 Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ao Panang Tak (study site 2), Pathio district, Chumphon province.	65
9 Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 1 (study site 7), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.	66
10 Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 2 (study site 8), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.	67
11 Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Nuea (study site 9), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.	68
12 Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Natap (study site 10), Chana district, Songkhla province.	69
13 Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.	70
14 Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.	71
15 Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.	72

## LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
16	Proposed natural vegetation on the coastal sandbars of the peninsular Thailand	93
17	Proposed natural vegetation on coastal sand dunes at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.	94
18	Schematic profiles of surface soils.	140
19	DCA ordination diagram for 13 study sites of the coastal vegetation.	147
20	DCA ordination diagram of coastal vegetation for 118 species.	148
21	CCA ordination diagram of coastal vegetation for 124 species.	153
22	Myrmecophyte at Ban Nathap Chana district, Songkhla province	160

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate	Page
1    Dicotyledonous plants 1.	46
2    Dicotyledonous plants 2.	47
3    Dicotyledonous plants 3.	48
4    Dicotyledonous plants 4.	49
5    Dicotyledonous plants 5.	50
6    Dicotyledonous plants 6.	51
7    Dicotyledonous plants 7.	52
8    Dicotyledonous plants 8.	53
9    Dicotyledonous plants 9.	54
10   Dicotyledonous plants 10.	55
11   Dicotyledonous plants 11.	56
12   Dicotyledonous plants 12.	57
13   Monocotyledonous plants 1.	58
14   Monocotyledonous plants 2.	59
15   Monocotyledonous plants 3.	60
16   Monocotyledonous plants 4.	61
17   Non-flowering plants 1.	62
18   Non-flowering plants 2.	63
19   A-G   Coastal vegetation at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province. (study site 1)	73
20   A-G   Coastal vegetation at Ao Phanang Tak, Mueang Chumphon district, Chumphon province. (study site 2)	74
21   A-H   Coastal vegetation at Ban Pak Nam Tako, Thung Tako district, Chumphon province. (study site 3)	75
22   A-G: Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Santi, Lamae district, Chumphon province (study site 4).	76
23   A-E: Coastal vegetation at Ban Takrop, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province (study site 5).	77

## LIST OF PLATES (Continued)

Plate		Page
24	A-H: Coastal vegetation at Ban Plongmai Chaiya district, Surat Thani province (study site 6).	78
25	A-H: Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 1, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province (study site 7).	79
26	A-H: Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 2, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province (study site 8).	80
27	A-E: Coastal vegetation at Ban Nuea, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province (study site 9).	81
28	A-E: Coastal vegetation at Ban Na Thap, Chana district, Songkhla province (study site 10).	82
29	A-E: Coastal vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang, Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang National Park, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province (study site 11).	83
30	A-G: Coastal vegetation at Hat Thung Thale, Thung Tale Non-hunting Areas, Ko Lanta district, Krabi province (study site 12).	84
31	A-G: Coastal vegetation at Hat Chao Mai National Park, Sikao district, Trang province (study site 13).	85
32	Coastal grassland vegetation along the coast of peninsular Thailand	129
33	Coastal grassland vegetation	130
34	Coastal grassland vegetation	131
35	Coastal grassland vegetation on sand-dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province	132
36	Coastal scrub vegetation.	133
37	Coastal scrub vegetation on sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province	134
38	Coastal woodland vegetation	135
39	Coastal woodland vegetation.	136
40	Coastal woodland vegetation.	137

**LIST OF PLATES (Continued)**

<b>Plate</b>		<b>Page</b>
41	Coastal woodland vegetation.	138
42	A-H: Plant succession stages on the coastal wind-bowled particle sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon Province	163



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The peninsular Thailand lies in the northern part of the Malay Peninsula, as the whole peninsular Thailand and Malaysia extends down from the Kra Isthmus in Thailand to Malaysia. The Thai part of the peninsula, bordered by the Thai gulf (Pacific Ocean) on the east and Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) on the west, is subdivided into three topographic regions: the mountain ranges; the Gulf coastal plain and the Andaman coastal plain. There are three mountain ranges in peninsular Thailand: the Phuket, the Nakhon Si Thammarat and the Sankala Khiri ranges. There is also a wide coastal plain, stretched along the east coast of the peninsula, which is a shoreline of emergence. The sediments deposited along this shoreline, produced many sandbars and offshore bars (Pongsaputra, 1991). On the other hand, the Andaman coast, on the west side, is a shoreline of submergence. Most of the coastal plain on this west coast is narrow, flanked by steep slopes. Besides, there are few rivers, running across the Gulf coastal plain and many short rivers/streams across the Andaman coastal plain. From these varieties of unique topographic features, there are various plant communities/vegetation that could develop in such habitats. However, among the various plant communities/vegetation in the various habitats in the Peninsular Thailand, the terrestrial vegetation, developed on the sandy soil/ sandbars, is one of the most interesting communities in terms of flora and physiognomy. In any case, it is such a pity that very limited information had been achieved from such vegetation comparing with other types of vegetation, i.e. mangrove, peat swamp, moist-evergreen forests etc. as there is not much economic value in terms of woods, though many rare and valuable woody tree species are also common in such habitat. Nonetheless, it is of importance in terms of biodiversity and plant genetic resource conservation. It is to be concerned here also that most of the natural (original?) terrestrial vegetation on the sandy soil/sandbars along the coasts on both sides of the Peninsula has been depleted by human activities. Agriculture and land development for various purposes are the major causes for those destructions. Unfortunately that most of the areas, where this vegetation occurs, have not been included in the reserved

areas, i.e. National Park; Wildlife Sanctuary etc. Only very few patches of them are included in some National parks. Therefore, most of the natural vegetation on these sandy soil/sandbars/sand-dune/ beach along the coast is left as isolated patches (small or large). Nevertheless, these left patches are very essential as they represent the former continuing areas of the former vegetation. They are also the most important sources of genetic diversity of the plants in that vegetation of this kind which is going to be soon disappeared from their natural habitats forever. The real ecological value of this interesting kind of vegetation has been neither put in account nor studied systematically so far.

## **OBJECTIVE**

1. To account all the remnant patches of the terrestrial vegetation in terms of phytosociology.
2. To gain information on structure and distribution of the relics of natural terrestrial vegetation along the coasts on both sides of the Peninsular Thailand.
3. To classify vegetation sites and their relating to some aspects of the physical environment.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Former studies of the terrestrial coastal vegetation in Thailand have focused only on the sandy beach, close to the seashore. Some of those areas are parts of the coastal sandbars (those closest to the sea), which were previously created by sea currents. However, there have been very few studies describing the vegetation and flora of those coastal sandbars from more stable sites slightly inland in the peninsula. The following works have considered some aspects of the terrestrial coastal vegetation on the main-land and island in Thailand.

Maxwell (1974) investigated the vascular flora of Satta-hip, Chon Buri province. Five hundred and fifty-eight species of vascular plants in one hundred and twelve families were recorded, of which, three species were regared as new records to Thailand. The vegetation was divided into seven primary and three secondary floristic zones.

Smitinand (1977) surveyed the vegetation of the Surin islands, Ranong province. The vegetation was classified into four types. The (coastal) beach forest was mentioned as one of the four types, and this study included a list of the plants found.

Congdon (1982) studied the vegetation of Tarutao Nationnal Park, Satun province. Ten vegetation types including the coastal heath forest were enumerated together with a vegetation map of the island. Eight hundred and sixty nine species including the coastal elements were recorded.

Santisuk (1999) studied the littoral vegetation on sa-mae-san and surrounding island, Chon buri province. The vegetation was divided into five types, with photographs and short descriptions of the plant species found.

Chamchumroon (2001) investigated the flora of beach forest in Koh Lanta and Koh Rok, Koh Lanta National Park, Krabi province. Sixty-eight plant species in forty families were listed.

Thunthwanich (2001) studied the vegetation and environmental gradients across the beach forest in Sirinath National park, Phuket province. The beach vegetation was divided into four zones. One hundred and four species in fifty-two families of vascular plant were recorded.

Sridith (2002) surveyed the vegetation on the coastal sandbars in Songkhla province. Ninety-eight species of vascular plants were recorded. Vegetation profiles were developed for the study plots at Ban Ta-ling Chan, Chana district.

Sridith and Laongpol (2003) studied some natural plant communities of the sandbars along eastern coast of peninsular Thailand in three provinces: Nakhon Si Thammarat, Songkhla and Narathiwat. Nine plant communities had been defined together with species list in each study site and rough comments of status of plant communities.

Laongpol, Suzuki and Sridith (2005) had enumerated the plant species on sandbars along the coast of Narathiwat province. One hundred and fifty-eight

species were recorded. The occurrence and abundance of plant species in the study sites were discussed.

Suzuki, Laongpol and Sridith (2005) studied vegetation of coastal dunes at Narathiwat province. Three types of vegetation had been classified and the profiles of the natural vegetation gradient across the sandbars had also been presented.

Hayasaka and Fujiwara (2005) explored species composition and environment factors, including human impacts on coastal sand dunes and maritime strand-forests in southern Thailand. Most of the general coastal species use thalassochory (seed dispersal by sea currents) and are distributed from tropical to subtropical regions, including Okinawa islands of Japan.

Laongpol *et al.* (2009) studied plant community structure of the coastal vegetation of peninsular Thailand. The coastal vegetation on the sandy ground could be divided into two groups, i.e., the vegetation on the sandbar, due to the sedimentation from sea current and the vegetation on the sandbar, due to the wind. The profiles of the actual and expected natural vegetation on the sandbars and sand dunes along the sandy coast were proposed.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

#### **STUDY AREA**

The peninsular Thailand lies in the northern part of the Malay peninsula which extends down from Kra Isthmus at about latitude of 10° N. to Malaysia which comprises 14 provinces of southern Thailand. The total area is 70,705 km<sup>2</sup> approximately.

The study areas, confined to the patches of the natural vegetation on the coastal sandy beaches/dunes/bars along the length of both the east coast of the peninsula which comprise four provinces, i.e. Chumphon, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Songkhla. Furthermore the west coast of the peninsula which comprises six provinces namely Ranong, Phangnga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun. (Figure 1).

#### **Climate**

The climate of the area is equatorial monsoon (Am) climate according to Köppen-Geiger classification of climate regions (Kottek *et. al.*, 2006). They defined this climate type through the mean temperature between 22-35 °C, The region is under the influence of the southwest and northwest monsoons, which create two distinct seasons, wet and dry. The average annual rainfall is normally above 2,000 mm per year.



**Figure 1.** Topographic map of peninsular Thailand.

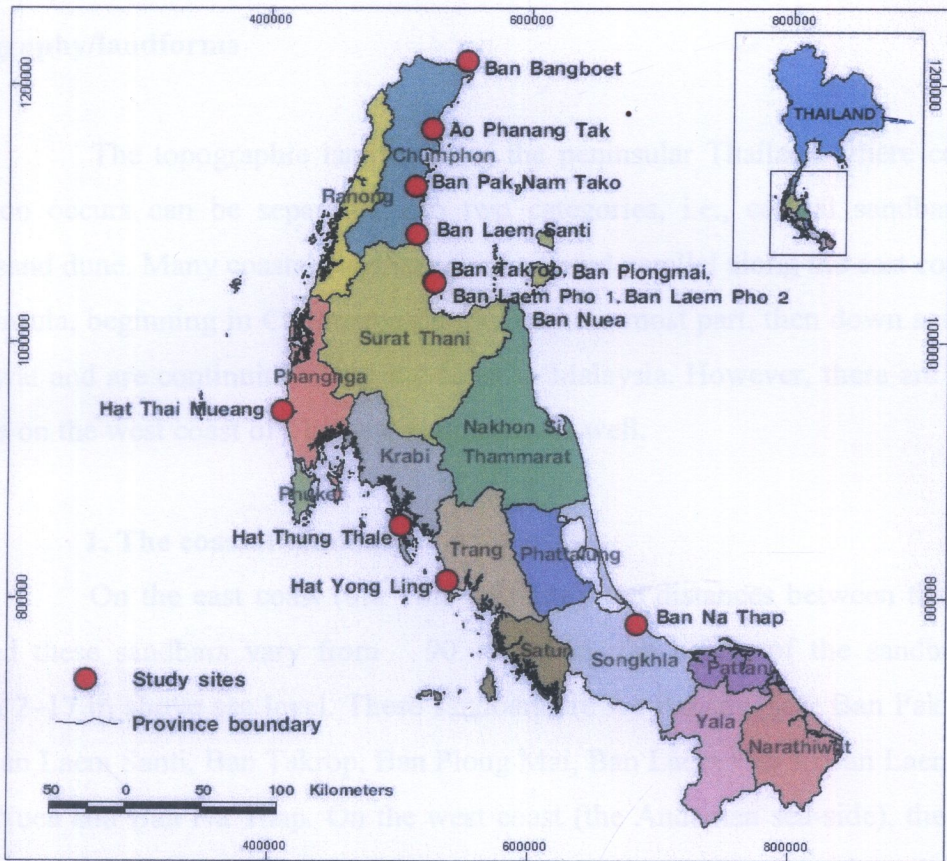
## Study sites

Thirteen study sites along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand, both on the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea were marked as the study sites as follows (Table 1, Figure 2).

**Table 1.** List of 13 study sites.

No.	Study sites	District	Province	Position
<i>Sites on the gulf of Thailand</i>				
1	Ban Bangboet	Pathio	Chumphon	UTM 47N 553235 E, 1213774 N
2	Ao Phanang Tak	Mueang	Chumphon	UTM 47N 526443 E, 1161688 N
3	Ban Pak Nam Tako	Thung Tako	Chumphon	UTM 47N 514587 E, 1116976 N
4	Ban Laem Santi	Lamae	Chumphon	UTM 47N 515385 E, 1077929 N
5	Ban Takrop	Chaiya	Surat Thani	UTM 47N 528536 E, 1044394 N
6	Ban Plongmai	Chaiya	Surat Thani	UTM 47N 528877 E, 1043970 N
7	Ban Laem Pho 1	Chaiya	Surat Thani	UTM 47N 530370 E, 1038346 N
8	Ban Laem Pho 2	Chaiya	Surat Thani	UTM 47N 530396 E, 1037905 N
9	Ban Nuea	Chaiya	Surat Thani	UTM 47N 528815 E, 1036563 N
10	Ban Na Thap	Chana	Songkhla	UTM 47N 685627 E, 779003 N
<i>Sites on the Andaman Sea</i>				
11	Hat Thai Mueang	Thai Mueang	Phangnga	UTM 47N 413271 E, 943898 N
12	Hat Thung Thale	Koh Lanta	Krabi	UTM 47N 504874 E, 855453 N
13	Hat Yong Ling	Sikao	Trang	UTM 47N 540944 E, 812158 N





**Figure 2.** Map of peninsular Thailand showing the 13 study sites.

## **Physiography/landforms**

The topographic landforms of the peninsular Thailand where coastal vegetation occurs can be separated into two categories, i.e., coastal sandbar and coastal sand dune. Many coastal sandbars can be found parallel along the east coast of the peninsula, beginning in Chumphon on the northern-most part, then down south to Narathiwat and are continuing along the coast to Malaysia. However, there are some sandbars on the west coast of Thailand peninsular as well.

### **1. The coastal sandbars**

On the east coast (the Thai gulf-site), the distances between the tidal zone and these sandbars vary from 90 – 3000 m, the height of the sandbars is between 2–17 m above sea level. These sandbars are Ao Panang Tak, Ban Pak Nam Tako, Ban Laem Santi, Ban Takrop, Ban Plong Mai, Ban Laem Pho 1, Ban Laem Pho 2, Ban Nuea and Ban Na Thap. On the west coast (the Andaman sea-side), the sand bars are narrow coastal plains, the distance from seashore to the inland sandbars is about 600 – 2000 m. These sandbars are Hat Thai Mueang, Hat Thung Thale and Hat Yong Ling (Table 2, Figure 3, 4).

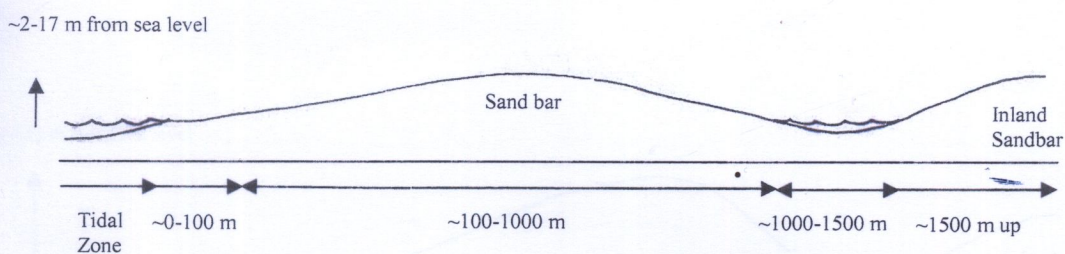
### **2. The coastal sand dunes**

There is only one site with coastal sand dunes in Peninsular Thailand at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district in the Chumphon province. The Bangboet sand dunes lie on the seashore, just next to the tidal zone. The site is situated right in the northern most part of peninsular Thailand. The sand dune complex is composed of many sand dunes of different sizes. Each is composed of wind-blown sand particles. The dunes vary from few meters to half a kilometer across and 10-30 m high. The highest one is 33 m (Table 2, Figure 5, 6).

**Table 2.** The geography of the study sites.

Study sites	District	Province	Distance from the sea (m)	Elevation (m)
<i>Sites on the gulf of Thailand</i>				
Ban Bangboet	Pathio	Chumphon	600	20-33
Ao Phanang Tak	Mueang	Chumphon	90	2
Ban Pak Nam Tako	Thung Tako	Chumphon	1,600	2
Ban Laem Santi	Lamae	Chumphon	600	8
Ban Takrop	Chaiya	Surat Thani	300	13
Ban Plongmai	Chaiya	Surat Thani	400	12
Ban Laem Pho 1	Chaiya	Surat Thani	400	12
Ban Laem Pho 2	Chaiya	Surat Thani	200	12
Ban Nuea	Chaiya	Surat Thani	600	12
Ban Na Thap	Chana	Songkhla	3,000	17
<i>Sites on the Andaman Sea</i>				
Hat Thai Mueang	Thai Mueang	Phangnga	600	4
Hat Thung Thale	Ko Lanta	Krabi	2,000	2
Hat Yong Ling	Sikao	Trang	600	2



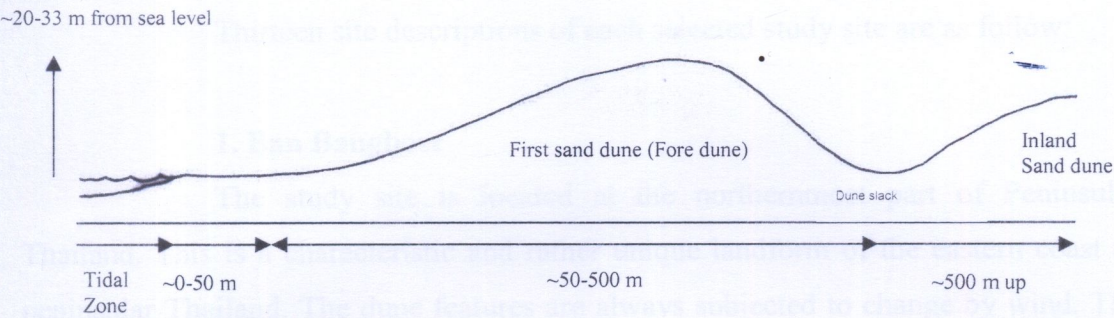


**Figure 3.** General diagram of coastal sandbar landform of peninsular Thailand.



**Figure 4.** The coastal sandbar landform at Hat Thai Mueang, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.





**Figure 5.** General diagram of coastal sand dune landform of peninsular Thailand.



**Figure 6.** The coastal sand dune landform at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.



## Site descriptions

Thirteen site descriptions of each selected study site are as follow:

### 1. Ban Bangboet

The study site is located at the northernmost part of Peninsular Thailand. This is a characteristic and rather unique landform of the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand. The dune features are always subjected to change by wind. The wind is building up the continuing sand dune complex which is about 500 m in length, parallel along the coast, 200 m across and about 20-33 m high. In given places, the natural vegetation has developed. The vegetation is composed of coastal dune grassland and coastal dune scrub. In the coastal dune scrub, there is litter on the surface soil about 2-3 cm deep. The area is exposed to the sunlight, and the site is quite dry. This area is used for recreation and less disturbed (Table 3).

### 2. Ao Panang Tak

The study site is located on the sandy beach next to the tidal zone. There is coastal vegetation which consists of the coastal grassland, the coastal scrub and the coastal woodland vegetation. All occur in a narrow strip next to each other, beginning from the tidal zone with grassland, scrub and woodland respectively. The woodland is secondary and has more litter than any other sites. Its litter depth is about 6-8 cm with some epiphytic species found right on the ground litter. The area is highly disturbed. The local inhabitants/others have been transplanting many big trees for ornamental purpose and using the land for many purposes, e.g., recreation, construction and cattle etc. (Table 3).

### 3. Ban Pak Nam Tako

This study site is located on the inland sandbar, 1.6 km far from the tidal zone and rather close to the nearby swampy area (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community and other secondary peat swamp forests). The vegetation found is a secondary one. Some epiphytes in the vegetation could be seen. And a litter layer is about 2-3 cm deep. The site is rather wind exposed, so some effects from wind on the vegetation might be expected here. The inhabitants have been using the shrubby trees in the

vegetation for fuel wood. The surrounding areas were disturbed for oil palm plantation (Table 3).

#### **4. Ban Laem Santi**

This study site is located on a large area of a coastal sandbar, about 580 m far from the sea. The vegetation is composed of secondary woodland which has a thin litter layer on the ground surface, about 3-4 cm deep. Many epiphytes could be found in the vegetation. Most tall trees and shrubs have been cut for fuel wood and charcoal production and the surrounding area was disturbed for construction and agricultural purposes, e.g., oil palm plantation, etc. (Table 3).

#### **5. Ban Takrop**

This site is located on the fore dune next to the sea (the first dune). There is the secondary woodland vegetation on this dune, which has a litter layer on the ground surface about 8-9 cm deep. There should be some impact from wind on this vegetation. The inhabitants use big trees for fuel wood, charcoal and have been using the land for housing (Table 3).

#### **6. Ban Plongmai**

This study site is located on the fore dune which is close to the swampy areas (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community and mangrove forest). There is the secondary forest which has a litter layer on ground surface, about 8-9 cm deep. Many epiphytes are seen in the vegetation. The local people use big trees for construction timber and charcoal making and use the land for housing (Table 3).

#### **7. Ban Laem Pho 1**

This study site is located at the fore dune close to the swampy area (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community). It is a sandy dry habitat. There is litter layer about 4 cm deep with few epiphyte species found on the ground floor. Most tall trees and shrubs have been cut for woods and charcoals and the surrounding area was disturbed for communities setting and agricultural purpose such as oil palm plantation (Table 3).

### **8. Ban Laem Pho 2**

This study site is located on the fore dune. This is a dry habitat close to the swamp areas (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community). There is secondary woodland vegetation which has a litter at ground surface about 5 cm deep. Few epiphytes may be found in the vegetation of this site. Most tall trees and shrubs have been cut for fuel woods and construction timber (Table 3).

### **9. Ban Nuea**

This study site is located at the inland sandbar. This is a dry habitat close to the swampy areas (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community and mangrove forest). There is the secondary forest which has a litter layer on the ground surface about 5 cm deep. This area has been disturbed by local people for a long time. Most tall trees and shrubs have been cut for woods and charcoals. The surrounding area was disturbed for construction and agricultural purposes, e.g., as oil palm plantation (Table 3).

### **10. Ban Na Thap**

The study site is located on the inland sandbar, 3.1 km far from the sea. There is a remnant patch of fragmentary natural forest which is composed mainly of dipterocarps. There is an 8 cm thick litter layer (leaf litter) on the ground surface and a thick fibrous root system near the soil surface. Many epiphytes could be found in such vegetation. Though the study site is rather small, it is rather a good remnant patch, however, as it was less disturbed due to the fact that it is located in a local public cemetery (Thai traditional cemetery). The surrounding areas have been strongly influenced by human activities such as oil palm and rubber plantations (Table 3).

### **11. Hat Thai Mueang**

The site is located on the coastal sandbar of the west coast of Peninsular Thailand. The vegetation occurring in this area is more or less natural. The site is rather humid (in the dry season), compared with other sites. There is a thick litter layer about 8-10 cm deep on the ground surface. There are many orchid and bryophyte species on the ground at this site (Table 3).

## **12. Hat Thung Thale**

The study site on the sandy dry habitat of the coastal dune area, located at the inland sand dune 625 m far from the sea. This study site is a narrow-small area of sand dune between a mangrove forest and *Melaleuca cajuputi* community. The litter layer is about 4 centimeters thick. It is a local public cemetery. The surrounding area strongly influenced by human activities such as crop, oil palm plantation and rubber plantation (Table 3).

## **13. Hat Yong Ling**

The study site is located on the inland sand dune about 625 m far from the sea. This study site is a narrow stripe of sand dune between the mangrove forest and the *Melaleuca cajuputi* community. There is litter layer on the ground surface about 4 cm deep. The surrounding areas have been strongly influenced by human activities e.g. crop, oil palm plantation, etc. (Table 3)

## **Soil**

The study was confined to “Arenosols”, according to the world reference base for soil resources (2006), Arenosols in the humid tropic are either young soils in coarsely textured alluvial, lacustrine or aeolian deposits, or they are very old soils in residual acid rock weathering that lost all primary minerals other than (coarse grained) quartz in the course of an impressive pedogenetic history. (Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2006b.)

Table 3. The selected environmental factors of the study sites.

Study sites	Litter (cm)				Wind exposure	Epiphyte	Disturbance	Land use	
	L			H				study sites	Surrounding area
	Lv	F	H						
Sites on the gulf of Thailand									
Ban Bangboet	2	<1	<0.5	-	3	0	2	r	f, u
Ao Panang Tak	3	3-5	<0.5	-	1	2	3	a4, o, u	a2, a4, o, r, u
Ban Pak Nam Tako	2	1	<1	-	2	2	3	w	a1, a2
Ban Laem Santi	3	1	<1	-	1	3	3	w	a1
Ban Takrop	5-6	1	2	-	2	1	3	w	a1, u
Ban Plongmai	5	1	1	-	2	3	3	w	a1, u
Ban Laem Pho 1	3	1	<1	-	3	2	3	w	a1, u
Ban Laem Pho 2	3	1	1	-	3	2	3	w	a1, u
Ban Nuea	5	3-5	<1	-	3	0	3	w, m	a1, a2, a3, c, u
Ban Na Thap	5	2	1	-	1	3	1	c	m
Sites on the Andaman Sea									
Had Thai Mueang	2	1	1	-	2	3	2	f, r	a2, r, u
Hat Tung Thalae	2	1	1	-	3	2	3	f	u
Had Yong Ling	2	1	1	-	3	2	3	f	a2, a4, r

Litter: L = fresh fallen/intact leaf litter, Lv = slightly altered leaves, F = decayed leaves, H = humification layer

Wind exposure: 0 = no, 1 = low, 2 = moderate, 3 = much

Epiphytes: 0 = none, 1 = few, 2 = moderate, 3 = many

Disturbance: 0 = no, 1 = low, 2 = moderate, 3 = high

Land use: a1 = oil palm plant plantation, a2 = coconut plantation, a3 = shrimp farm, a4 = cattle, c = cemetery, f = forest or protected area, o = extraction of plants for ornamental purpose, r = recreation, u = communities setting, w = wood cutting, m = others



## INVENTORY

Exploring the patches of (more or less) natural terrestrial vegetation along the seashore of the Peninsular Thailand (both Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand); marking the places suitable as the research study sites.

*Note:* The natural vegetation is plant communities which have developed in an area without/less human inference such as farming or land development.

## DATA COLLECTING

### 1. Plant collecting

1.1 Plant specimens were collected at intervals from all study sites for identification.

1.2 Plant collections were made with field notes of selected interesting species and these were correlated with their photographs.

1.3 Specimen processing followed the directions specified in “The Herbarium Handbook” (Bridson and Forman, 1999).

1.4 Voucher specimens were kept at the Herbarium, Department of Biology, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla (PSU) and the Forest Herbarium (BKF), Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources, Phaholyothin Rd., Bangkok.

### 2. Vegetation data collecting

2.1 The vegetation was studied in accordance with the concepts and methods of the Zülich-Montpellier School (Braun-Blanquet, 1964; Miyawaki and Suzuki, 1980)

2.2 Study plots were laid out in the selected study sites. It was determined that each stand selected had to cover a minimum survey space in a habitat which showed homogeneous physiognomy. Thus, the stands were even. All of the species within the stand were checked to make a complete species list by layer. Multistructural communities were divided into two or three layers according to the stands: tree, shrub and herb layers. The Braun-Blanquet method was employed to

determine comprehensively the cover class (cover degree-abundance scale) and sociability of the species in each layer.

The cover degree-abundance scale applied is the one originally proposed by Braun-Blanquet (1964):

- 5 any number of individuals covering more than 3/4 of the area
- 4 any number of individuals covering 1/2 to 3/4 of the area
- 3 any number of individuals covering 1/4 to 1/2 of the area
- 2 great abundance of individuals or covering at least 1/20 of the area
- 1 plentiful but of small cover value
- + sparsely or very sparsely present, covering very small or insignificant area

Another quantitative estimate per species is the sociability rating. The sociability scale used is the one originally proposed by Braun-Blanquet (1964):

- 5 growing in very extensive patches or covering the sample area in one large population
- 4 growing in large groups or colonies, forming patchy carpets, fairly extensive
- 3 growing in small patches, troops, cushions
- 2 growing in small groups or tufts or clumps
- 1 growing singly (the foliage of one plant does not touch another)

2.3 Tree species were recorded together with data on position, crown height, crown area and diameter at breast height (dbh) in order to draw profile diagrams of the vegetation.

2.4 Photographs were taken showing the general structure of the study sites.

### 3. Environmental data collecting

3.1 Soil description was conducted on soil pit according to the FAO Guidelines for Soil Description (FAO, 2006a). The Soil classification follows the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (FAO, 2006b).

#### 3.2 Soil sampling and sample preparation

Soil samples were taken by means of a spade from diagnosed horizons (mineral horizons down to 70 cm depth).

#### 3.3 Water sampling and sample preparation

Water sample were taken from the natural pond of study sites. The samples were transferred into 1.0 L polyethylene bottles.

3.4 The following data were collected: disturbance, wind speed, and land use.

## DATA ANALYSIS

### 1. Flora analysis

1.1 All plant collections were identified as far as possible with the available taxonomic literatures at PSU.

1.2 Specimens with a doubtful identification were compared with named ones from various herbaria (PSU, BKF).

1.3 All voucher specimens have been deposited at PSU and BKF.

### 2. Vegetation analysis

2.1 Analyses were made according to the concepts and methods of the Zurich-Montpellier School, base on the work of Braun-Blanquet (Braun-Blanquet, 1964; Miyawaki and Suzuki, 1980). The data of releves collected in the field surveys were put together into a raw table. The raw table was then rearranged into a differential table. Finally, the vegetations were classified into communities, considering all the data available.

2.2 Profile diagrams of selected study sites were prepared together with photographs.

### 3 Environmental analyses

#### 3.1 Soil analysis

##### Physical and chemical soil analyses

Soil sample have been air dried at PSU and sent to the laboratory of the Institute of Forest Ecology, BOKU for chemical and the Institute of Applied Geology, BOKU for analyses of particle size distribution and mineralogy analyses. The roots were sorted out, the proportions of coarse and fine soil were separated by dry sieving (2 mm) and the mass values of the compartments, as well as the conversion factors for the calculation of the oven dry masses, were determined.

Table 3 and 4 show the parameters analyzed in the individual organic and mineral soil layers and the methods used for analysis. The pH values were principally measured in suspensions of fresh fine soil samples.  $C_{\text{tot}}$  was analyzed in oven-dry samples. Exchangeable cations as well as the water-extractable anion content in the mineral soil were determined in air-dried samples. For the illustration, all the results were converted to an oven-dry base.

**Table 4: Chemical analysis**

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Extraction and analytical method</i>	<i>Standard</i>
pH-value	suspension in deionised water and 0.01 m $\text{CaCl}_2$ , electrometrically	Austrian Standard L1083
C, S	Leco S/C 444; $C_{\text{org}} = C_{\text{tot}} - C_{\text{CaCO}_3}$	Austrian Standard L1080
N	Microkjeldahl Kjelttec 2300	Austrian Standard L1082
Exchangeable cations	0.1 m $\text{BaCl}_2$ -extract, Element detection: simultaneous ICP-OES (Perkin Elmer Optima 3000 XL); Calculation of $\text{CEC}_{\text{eff}}$ on the sum of ion equivalents	Austrian Standard L1086
Water extractable anions	Hot water extract (10 g soil in 100 ml water); analyzed by ion chromatography Dionex DX 100	

**Table 5:** Distribution of grain size and mineralogical analyses.

Parameter	Preparation, measurement procedure
Distribution of grain sizes in fine soil	Wet sieving (> 40 µm), automatic sedimentation analysis (< 40 µm); Sedigraph 5000 ET (Micromeritics) after oxidation of organic components (10 % H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ) and treatment of the sample with ultrasonic (0.5 ‰ Calgon as dispersing medium); classification according to Austrian Standard B 4412 (CS: 2000 – 630 µm, MS: 630 – 200 µm, FS: 200 – 63 µm, CSi: 63 – 20 µm, MSi: 20 – 6.3 µm, FSi: 6.3 – 2 µm, CC: 2 – 0.63 µm, MC: 0.63 – 0.2 µm, FC: < 0.2 µm); due to the low fine silt and clay content in the most samples the sieving procedure was stopped at 20 µm
Total mineral content	X-ray diffraction device (Philips PW 1710, Bragg Brentano geometry, Cu K α radiation, 45 kV, 40 mA); 1° 2 Theta - 70° 2 Theta Identification & semiquant. mineral determination)

3.2 Water analysis

The water samples were sent to the Central analytical center, Faculty of Natural Resources, Prince of Songkla University. The electrical conductivity (EC) was measured using a microprocessor conductivity meter and pH with microprocessor meter (Laorngsiriwong, 2007).

4. Statistic analysis

4.1 Vegetation-Environmental factors relationship

Detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) was applied to analyse the variation of species composition among study sites, and Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) (Jongman *et al.*, 1997) was applied to study the relationship between vegetation and soil properties. Both analyses were undertaken using the program package PC-ORD for Windows–version 5.19 (McCune and Mefford, 2006).

## CHAPTER 3

### PLANT COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

## RESULTS

### Floristic study

The study and collection of vascular plants on sandbars along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand was undertaken from October 2006 to May 2008. Two hundred and seventeen species of vascular plants were recorded belonging to eighty-one families and one hundred and eighty-one genera. It is included 159 species of dicots, 40 species of monocots and 18 species of non-flowering plants (Table 6-8).

**Table 6.** List of dicotyledonous species on sandbars along the coast of the peninsular Thailand.

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Acanthaceae	<i>Thunbergia fragrans</i> Roxb.	Hu pakka	C
Aizoaceae	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i> (L.) L.	Phak bia thale	H
Amaranthaceae	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart.	Ban mai ru roi pa	H
Anarcadiaceae	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.	Kuk	ST
	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Mamuang	T
Ancistrocladaceae	<i>Ancistrocladus tectorius</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Lin kwang	C
Annonaceae	<i>Polyalthia evecta</i> (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep.	Nom noi	S
Apocynaceae	<i>Aganosma marginata</i> (Roxb.) G.Don	Mok khrua	C
	<i>Alyxia reinwardtii</i> Blume	Chalut	C
	<i>Cerbera manghas</i> L.	Tin pet sai	ST
	<i>Cerbera odollam</i> Gaertn.	Tin pet thale	C
	<i>Holarrhena curtisii</i> King & Gamble	Phut thung	ST
	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) W.T.Aiton	Khruea pla song daeng	S
	<i>Spirolobium cambodianum</i> Baill.	Phetchahueng takkat	S
	<i>Willughbeia coriacea</i> Wall.	Khui	C
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex cymosa</i> Blume	Sai khi tai	ST
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Dischidia major</i> (Vahl.) Merr.	Chuk rohini	CrH
	<i>Hoya diversifolia</i> Blume	Lin khwai	C
	<i>Hoya parasitica</i> (Roxb.) Wall. ex Traill	Nom phi chit	C

Table 6. (continued)

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Streptocaulon juvenas</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Thao prasong	C
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polycarpaea corymbosa</i> (L.) Lam.	Soi thong sai	H
Celastraceae	<i>Euonymus cochinchinensis</i> Pierre	Kra chap nok	ST
	<i>Pleurostyliia opposita</i> (Wall.) Alston	Daeng hin	ST
	<i>Salacia chinensis</i> L.	Kam phaeng chet chan	S
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	Hu kwang	T
Connaraceae	<i>Connarus semidecandrus</i> Jack	Thopthaep khrua	C
Convolvulaceae	<i>Argyreia mollis</i> (Burm.f.) Choisy	Khruea phu ngoen	HC
	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i> (Vahl) Griseb	Phak bung thale khao	CrH
	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i> (L.) R.Br.	Phak bung thale	CrH
	<i>Merremia hirta</i> (L.) Merr.	Chingcho nuan	HC
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Scopellaria marginata</i> (Blume) W.J. de Wilde & Duyfjes	-	C
Dilleniaceae	<i>Tetracera indica</i> (Christm. & Panz.) Merr.	Thao ora khon	C
	<i>Tetracera loureiri</i> (Finet & Gagnep.) Pierre ex Craib	Rot su khon	C
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Anisoptera costata</i> Korth.	Krabak	T
	<i>Cotylelobium lanceolatum</i> Craib	Khiam	T
	<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i> Roxb. ex G.Don	Yang na	T
	<i>Dipterocarpus chartaceus</i> Symington	Yang wat	T
	<i>Dipterocarpus obtusifolius</i> Teijsm. ex Miq.	Hiang	T
	<i>Hopea odorata</i> Roxb.	Ta khian thong	T
	<i>Shorea roxburghii</i> G.Don	Phayom	T
	<i>Vatica harmandiana</i> Pierre	Sadao pak	T
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros areolata</i> King & Gamble	Ma phlap	ST
	<i>Diospyros ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh.	Lambit	S
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus robustus</i> Roxb.	Sathon rok	T
Epacridaceae	<i>Styphelia malayana</i> (Jack) Spring	Khet takhap	S
Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium bracteatum</i> Thunb.	Thing thuat	S
Erythroxylaceae	<i>Erythroxylum cuneatum</i> (Miq.) Kurz	Krai thong	S
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Antidesma ghaesembilla</i> Gaertn.	Mao khai pla	S
	<i>Aporosa</i> sp.	-	S
	<i>Breynia racemosa</i> (Blume) Mull.Arg.	Kang pla	S
	<i>Breynia glauca</i> Craib	Ra ngap phit	S

Table 6. (continued)

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Chaetocarpus castanocarpus</i> (Roxb.) Thwaites	Samphao	ST
	<i>Cleistanthus</i> sp.	-	S
	<i>Euphorbia atoto</i> G. Forst.	Nam nom ratchasi thale	H
	<i>Glochidion rubrum</i> Blume	Kradum phi	S
	<i>Hymenocardia wallichii</i> Tul.	Faep nam	S
	<i>Microstachys chamaelea</i> (L.) Müll. Arg.	Soi nok	S
	<i>Phyllanthus oxyphyllus</i> Miq.	Yai chung lan	S
	<i>Shirakiopsis indica</i> (Willd.) Esser	Samo thale	ST
	<i>Suregada multiflorum</i> (A.Juss.) Baill.	Khan thong phayabat	S
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Casearia grewiaefolia</i> Vent.	Kruai pa	ST
	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	Ta khop pa	S
	<i>Scolopia macrophylla</i> (Wight & Arn.) Clos	Ta khop pa	ST
Gentianaceae	<i>Fagraea fragrans</i> Roxb.	Kan krao	T
Gesneriaceae	<i>Aeschynanthus fulgens</i> Wall. ex R.Br.	-	H
Goodeniaceae	<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Rak thale	S
Guttiferae	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.	Kra thing	T
	<i>Calophyllum pulcherrimum</i> Wall.	Tanghon	T
	<i>Cratoxylum cochinchinense</i> (Lour.) Blume	Tio kliang	ST
	<i>Garcinia cowa</i> Roxb. ex DC.	Cha muang	ST
	<i>Garcinia hombroniana</i> Pierre	Wa	T
	<i>Garcinia celebica</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Sam ma nga	S
Labiatae	<i>Leucas zeylanica</i> (L.) R.Br.	Ya prik	H
	<i>Platostoma cochinchinense</i> (Lour.) A.J.Paton	Hang suea	H
	<i>Premna obtusifolia</i> R. Br.	Cha lueat	C
	<i>Vitex pinnata</i> L.	Tin nok	ST
	<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i> L.f.	Khon thi so thale	CrS
	<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i> L.f.	Khon thi so thale	CrS
Lauraceae	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	Sangwan phra in	C
	<i>Neolitsea zeylanica</i> (Nees) Merr.	Ian	ST
	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i> (Lour.) C.B.Rob	Mi men	ST
Lecythidaceae	<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz	Chik le	ST
Leguminosae-	<i>Sindora siamensis</i> Teijsm. & Miq.	Ma kha tae	S
Caesalpinoideae	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb.	Sawat	C
Leguminosae-	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Ma klam ta nu	C
Papilionoideae	<i>Canavalia rosea</i> (Sw.) DC.	Thua khla	HC
	<i>Derris indica</i> Bennet	Yi nam	ST



Table 6. (continued)

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Leguminosae-	<i>Dicerma biarticulatum</i> (L.) DC.	Kraduk ueng	H
Papilionoideae	<i>Dunbaria bella</i> Prain	Khang khrang	C
	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> L.	Sara phat phit	S
	<i>Vigna marina</i> (Burm.) Merr.	-	H
Loranthaceae	<i>Amylothea duthieana</i> (King) Danser	-	Pa
	<i>Dendrophthoe pentandra</i> (L.) Miq.	Kafak ma muang	Pa
	<i>Macrosolen cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) Tiegh.	Prathat nuan	Pa
Malvaceae	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L.	Po Thale	ST
	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Soland. ex Corr.	Pho Thale	ST
Melastomataceae	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L.	Khlong khlang	S
	<i>Melastoma sanguineum</i> Sims	Mang khre chang	S
	<i>Memecylon edule</i> Roxb.	Phlong mueat	S
	<i>Memecylon ovatum</i> Sm.	Phlong kin luk	S
	<i>Memecylon scutellatum</i> Naudin	Mueat chi	S/ST
Menispermaceae	<i>Tiliacora triandra</i> (Colebr.) Diels	Thao yanang	C
Moraceae	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Khoi	ST
Myristicaceae	<i>Knema globularia</i> (Lam.) Warb.	Lueat raet	ST
Myrsinaceae	<i>Ardisia crenata</i> Sims	Ta kai bai kwang	S
	<i>Ardisia elliptica</i> Thunb.	Ram yai	S
Myrtaceae	<i>Rapanea porteriana</i> (A.DC.) Mez	Rang ka thae	ST
	<i>Rhodamnia cinerea</i> Jack	Cha aeng	S
	<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i> (Aiton) Hassk.	Phruat	S
	<i>Syzygium grande</i> (Wight) Walp.	Mao	T
	<i>Syzygium gratum</i> (Wight) S.N. Mitra	Samet chun	ST
Ochnaceae	<i>Ochna integerrima</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Tan lueang	S
	<i>Brackenridgea palustris</i> Bartell.	Daeng lueat nok	S
Olacaceae	<i>Olap psittacorum</i> (Willd.) Vahl	Nam chai khrai	C
Oleaceae	<i>Jasminum decussatum</i> Wall. ex G.Don	Khiao ngu	C
	<i>Olea brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Ket san	ST
Opiliaceae	<i>Champerea manillana</i> (Blume) Merr.	Phak wan pa	S
	<i>Cansjera rheedei</i> J.F.Gmel.	Nang chum	C
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia penangiana</i> (G.Don) W.J. de Wilde	Pakka	C
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i> W.T.Aiton	Sum ton	ST
Rhamnaceae	<i>Colubrina asiatica</i> L. ex Brougn.	Khan song	S
	<i>Cansjera rheedei</i> J.F.Gmel.	Nang chum	C

Table 6. (continued)

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia penangiana</i> (G.Don) W.J. de Wilde	Pakka	C
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i> W.T.Aiton	Sum ton	ST
Rhamnaceae	<i>Colubrina asiatica</i> L. ex Brougn.	Khan song	S
	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (L.) Mill.	Lep yiao	S
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Carallia brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Chiang phra nang ae	ST
Rubiaceae	<i>Catunaregam tomentosa</i> (Blume ex DC.) Tirveng.	Ma khet	S
	<i>Chassalia curviflora</i> (Wall.) Thwaites	khem phra ram	S
	<i>Guetarda speciosa</i> L.	Kongkang hu chang	S
	<i>Gynochthodes sub lanceota</i> Miq.	Phan samo	C
	<i>Hydnophytum formicarum</i> Jack	Hua roi ru	H
	<i>Hydrophylax maritima</i> L.f.	-	H
	<i>Ixora javanica</i> (Blume) DC.	Khem thong	S
	<i>Ixora cibdela</i> Craib	Khem pa	S
	<i>Lucinaea morindae</i> DC.	Yo yan	C
	<i>Morinda elliptica</i> Ridl.	Yo thuean	S
	<i>Oxyceros longiflora</i> (Lam.) T. Yamaz.	Khao ngua phueak	S
	<i>Prismatomeris tetrandra</i> (Roxb.) K.Schum.	Ta lai	S
	<i>Psychotria sarmentosa</i> Blume	Duk kai yan	C
	<i>Psydrax nitida</i> (Craib) K.M. Wong	Kapa	S
	<i>Tarenna adangensis</i> (Ridl.) Ridl.	Khem khao dam	S
	<i>Tarenna wallichii</i> (Hook.f.) Ridl.	Chan thana bai lek	S
	<i>Acronychia pedunculata</i> (L.) Miq.	Ka uam	ST
	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i> (DC.) Correa	Manao phi	ST
	<i>Micromelum minutum</i> (G.Forst.) Wight & Arn.	Hatsa khun	ST
Santalaceae	<i>Dendrotrophe buxifolia</i> (Blume) Miq.	Ti mia muea yang	PaS
	<i>Dendrotrophe varians</i> (Blume) Miq.	Yan ti mia	PaS
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Raeusch	To sai	S
	<i>Guioa pleuropteris</i> (Blume) Radlk.	Som ling	ST
	<i>Lepisanthes rubiginosa</i> (Roxb.) Leenh.	Ma huat	ST
	<i>Mischocarpus sundaicus</i> Blume	Khao kwang	ST
	<i>Dodonae viscosa</i> Jacq.	Chumhet le	S
Sapotaceae	<i>Pouteria obovata</i> (R.Br.) Baehni	Nga sai	ST
Simaroubaceae	<i>Brucea javanica</i> (L.) Merr.	Ratchadat	S
	<i>Eurycoma longifolia</i> Jack	Pla lai phueak	S

Table 6. (continued)

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Stemonaceae	<i>Stemona tuberosa</i> Lour.	Mueat kliang	C
Symplocaceae	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) S. Moore	Mueat Dong	S/ST
Taccaceae	<i>Tacca integrifolia</i> Ker Gawl.	Wan phangphon	H
Theaceae	<i>Schima wallichii</i> (DC.) Korth.	Mangtan	ST
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Wikstroemia ridleii</i> Gamble	Po fan	S
Tiliaceae	<i>Microcos tomentosa</i> Sm.	Phlapphla	ST
	<i>Triumfetta grandidens</i> Hance	Po yan	HC
Verbenaceae	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (L.) Greene	Ya klet pla	H
Viscaceae	<i>Viscum articulatum</i> Burm.f.	Kafak tin pu	Pa

Habit: C= Climber, CrS= Creeping Shrub, F= Fern, G= Grass, H= Herb, HC= Herbaceous Climber, O= Orchid, Pa= Parasite, S= Shrub, ST= Shrubby Tree, T= Tree, TerO= Terrestrial Orchid

**Table 7.** List of monocotyledonous species on sandbars along the coast of the peninsular Thailand.

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Crinum northianum</i> Baker	Phlueng le	H
Araceae	<i>Alocasia</i> sp.	-	H
Colchicaceae	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Dong dueng	HC
Commelinaceae	<i>Cyanotis cristata</i> Roem. & Schult.	Ya hua rak noi	H
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Ya hao mu	H
	<i>Cyperus stoloniferus</i> Retz.	Kok sai	H
	<i>Fimbristylis sericea</i> R.Br.	Kok chai hat	H
	<i>Remirea maritima</i> Aubl.	Kok mari	H
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L.	Wan phra chim	HC
	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	Man khan khao	C
Gramineae	<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i> A.Camus	Ya phung chu	G
	<i>Ischaemum muticum</i> L.	Ya wai tham	G
	<i>Spinifex littoreus</i> Merr.	Ya loi lom	G
	<i>Zoysia matrella</i> (L.) Merr.	Ya nuan noi	G
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella ensifolia</i> (L.) DC.	Ya nu ton	H
Orchidaceae	<i>Acriopsis indica</i> Wight	Chuk phram	O
	<i>Acriopsis ridleyi</i> Hook.f.	-	O
	<i>Arachnis flosaeris</i> (L.) Rchb.f.	Ueang malaeng po	O
	<i>Bromheadia finlaysonian</i> (Lindl.) Rchb.f.	Kluai mai din	TerO
	<i>Bulbophyllum planibulbe</i> Ridl.	-	O
	<i>Cleisomeria lanatum</i> (Lindl.) Lindl. ex G.Don	Kor kwang	O
	<i>Cymbidium findlaysonianum</i> Lindl.	Kare karon pak pet	O
	<i>Dendrobium crumenatum</i> Sw.	Wai tamoi	O
	<i>Dendrobium indivisum</i> (Blume) Miq.	Tan sian mai	O
	<i>Dendrobium pachyphyllum</i> (Kuntze) Bakh.f.	Ueang noi	O
	<i>Dendrobium secundum</i> (Blume) Lindl.	Ueang praeng si fun	O
	<i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> Lindl.	Ma wing	TerO
	<i>Eria affinis</i> Griff.	Ueang nim	O
	<i>Eria lasiopetala</i> (Willd.) Ormerod	Ueang bai si	O
	<i>Eria pulchella</i> Lindl.	Nuan phong	O
	<i>Eulophia andamanensis</i> Rchb.f.	Mu kling	TerO
	<i>Habenaria khasiana</i> Hook.f.	-	O
	<i>Liparis downii</i> Ridl.	-	O

**Table 7. (continued)**

Family	Species	Vernacular	Habit
Orchidaceae	<i>Luisia curtisii</i> Seidenf.	Kho sing	O
	<i>Oxystophyllum carnosum</i> Blume	-	O
	<i>Pachystoma pubescens</i> Blume	Hao cha khru	TerO
	<i>Thrixspermum calceolus</i> (Lindl.) Rchb.f.	-	O
	<i>Trichotosia velutina</i> (Lodd. ex Lindl.) Kraenzl.	Sam phram	O
	<i>Vanilla aphylla</i> Blume	Thao ngu khiao	O
Pandanaceae	<i>Pandanus odoratissimus</i> L.f.	Lam chiak	S

Habit: C= Climber, CrS= Creeping Shrub, F= Fern, G= Grass, H= Herb, HC= Herbaceous Climber, O= Orchid, Pa= Parasite, S= Shrub, ST= Shrubby Tree, T= Tree, TerO= Terrestrial Orchid

Table 9. List of plant species found in each study sites.

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Acanthaceae	<i>Thunbergia fragrans</i> Roxb.	C	X	X									X			-
Aizoaceae	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i> (L.) L.	H											X	X	X	Laongpol 866
Amaranthaceae	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart.	H				X	X	X	X	X	X					Laongpol 703,475
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Crinum northianum</i> Baker	H		X							X		X	X	X	-
Anacardiaceae	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					-
	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			-
Ancistrocladaceae	<i>Ancistrocladus tectorius</i> (Lour.) Merr.	C	X	X		X						X	X			-
Annonaceae	<i>Polyalthia evecta</i> (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep.	S			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Laongpol 504,353
Apocynaceae	<i>Aganosma marginata</i> (Roxb.) G.Don	C	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 521,359

Habit: C= Climber, CrS= Creeping Shrub, F= Fern, G= Grass, H= Herb, HC= Herbaceous Climber, O= Orchid, Pa= Parasite, S= Shrub, ST= Shrubby Tree, T= Tree, TerO=Terrestrial Orchid

Study Site: 1= Ban Bangboet, Pathio district; 2= Ao Phanang Tak, Mueang Chumphon district; 3= Ban Pak Nam Tako, Thung Tako district; 4= Ban Laem Santi, Lamae district, Chumphon province; 5= Ban Takrop; 6= Ban Plongmai; 7= Ban Laem Pho 1; 8= Ban Nuca, Chaiya district, Sarat Thani province; 10= Ban Nathup, Chana district, Songkhla province; 11= Hat Thai mueang, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province; 12= Hat Thung Tale, Ko Lanta district, Krabi province; 13= Hat Yong Ling, Sikao district, Trang province.

Voucher: No voucher is available for many plant species due to incomplete collections (Without flowers or fruits) or damage during transportation or during processing. (In such case, photographs were used for reference).

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Apocynaceae	<i>Alyxia reinwardtii</i> Blume	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 718
	<i>Cerbera manghus</i> L.	ST												X		-
	<i>Cerbera odollam</i> Gaertn.	ST		X									X	X	X	Laongpol 576
	<i>Holarrhena curtisii</i> King & Gamble	S		X		X							X	X		Laongpol 727
	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) W.T. Aiton	C								X						-
Aquiforiaceae	<i>Spirolobium cambodianum</i> Baill.	S			X	X					X			X	X	Laongpol 535
	<i>Willughbeia coriacea</i> Wall.	C	X						X	X			X	X		Laongpol 997
	<i>Ilex cymosa</i> Blume	ST									X	X	X			Laongpol 365, 384
	<i>Alocasia</i> sp.	H								X						-
	<i>Dischidia major</i> (Vahl) Merr.	CrH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Hoya diversifolia</i> Blume	C										X				-
	<i>Hoya parasitica</i> (Roxb.) Wall. ex Traill	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
	<i>Streptocaulon juvenas</i> (Lour.) Merr.	C				X				X						Laongpol 781
	<i>Polycarpaea corymbosa</i> (L.) Lam.	H	X													-
	<i>Euonymus cochinchinensis</i> Pierre	ST	X	X									X			-
Celastraceae	<i>Pleurostylia opposita</i> (Wall.) Alston	ST		X									X			Laongpol 660, 661
	<i>Salacia chinensis</i> L.	S	X	X												Laongpol 522, 588
	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	HC	X				X	X				X				Laongpol 998, 351

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	T	X	X									X	X	X	-
Commelinaceae	<i>Cyanotis cristata</i> Roem. & Schult.	H											X			-
Connaraceae	<i>Connarus semidecandrus</i> Jack	C	X										X			Laongpol 1001, 355
Convolvulaceae	<i>Argyreia mollis</i> (Burm.f.) Choisy	HC	X										X			-
	<i>Ipomoea imperati</i> (Vahl) Griseb.	CrH	X	X									X		X	Laongpol 994
	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i> (L.) R.Br.	CrH	X	X									X	X	X	Laongpol 833
	<i>Merremia hirta</i> Blume	HC											X			-
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Scopellaria marginata</i> (Blume)	C												X		-
	W.J. de Wilde & Duyfjes															
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	H		X												-
	<i>Cyperus stoloniferus</i> Retz.	H	X	X												Laongpol 995
	<i>Fimbristylis sericea</i> R.Br.	H	X	X												Laongpol 638, 771, 854
	<i>Remirea maritima</i> Aubl.	H		X												-
Davalliaceae	<i>Davallia denticulata</i> (Burm.f.) Mett. ex Kuhn	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 557
	<i>Davallia solida</i> (G. Forst.) Sw.	F										X				Laongpol 557
	<i>Humata heterophylla</i> (Smith) Desv.	F											X	X	X	Laongpol 758
	<i>Humata pectinata</i> (Sw.) Desv.	F											X	X	X	Laongpol 757



Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Dilleniaceae	<i>Tetracera indica</i> (Christm. & Panz.) Merr.	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 623
	<i>Tetracera loureiri</i> (Finet & Gagnep.) Pierre ex Craib	C	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			Laongpol 582
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L.	HC		X												-
	<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	C		X												-
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Anisoptera costata</i> Korth.	T				X										-
	<i>Cotylelobium lanceolatum</i> Craib	T	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Laongpol 474,383
	<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i> Roxb. ex G.Don	T		X						X	X	X				-
	<i>Dipterocarpus chartaceus</i> Symington	T								X	X					-
	<i>Dipterocarpus obtusifolius</i> Teijsm. ex Miq.	T										X				Laongpol 560
	<i>Hopea odorata</i> Roxb.	T		X		X	X	X	X	X						-
Ebenaceae	<i>Shorea roxburghii</i> G.Don	T		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				-
	<i>Vatica harmandiana</i> Pierre	T	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 721
	<i>Diospyros areolata</i> King & Gamble	ST											X		X	Laongpol 834
	<i>Diospyros ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh.	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 652
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus robustus</i> Roxb.	T											X			Laongpol 836
Epacridaceae	<i>Styphelia malayana</i> (Jack) Spreng	S										X	X	X	X	Laongpol 741,382

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium bracteatum</i> Thunb.	S			X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 804
Erythroxylaceae	<i>Erythroxylum cuneatum</i> (Miq.) Kurz	S	X	X				X	X				X			Laongpol 642
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Antidesma ghaesembilla</i> Gaertn.	S		X									X			Laongpol 525
	<i>Aporosa</i> sp.	S								X						-
	<i>Breynia glauca</i> Craib	S										X				-
	<i>Breynia racemosa</i> (Blume) Mull.Arg.	S	X	X			X	X								-
	<i>Chaetocarpus castanocarpus</i> (Roxb.) Thwaites	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 617
	<i>Cleistanthus</i> sp.	S		X												-
	<i>Euphorbia atoto</i> G. Forst.	H		X												-
	<i>Glochidion rubrum</i> Blume	S	X													-
	<i>Hymenocardia wallichii</i> Tul.	S					X	X								Laongpol 723
	<i>Microstachys chamaelea</i> (L.) Müll. Arg.	S	X	X								X				-
	<i>Phyllanthus oxyphyllus</i> Miq.	S	X													-
	<i>Shirakiopsis indica</i> (Willd.) Esser	ST											X			-
	<i>Suregada multiflorum</i> (A.Jass.) Bail.	S	X	X		X	X					X	X			Laongpol 663, 357
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Casearia grewiaefolia</i> Vent.	ST		X												-
	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	S					X	X								-

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Gentianaceae	<i>Fagraea fragrans</i> Roxb.	T		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			-
Gesneriaceae	<i>Aeschynanthus fulgens</i> Wall. ex R.Br.	H											X			-
Gnetaceae	<i>Gnetum</i> sp.	C	X													-
Goodeniaceae	<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	S	X	X									X		X	Laongpol 630
Gramineae	<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i> A.Camus	G	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 632
	<i>Ischaemum muticum</i> L.	G	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 477
	<i>Spinifex littoreus</i> Merr.	G	X	X									X			Laongpol 639
	<i>Zoysia matrella</i> (L.) Merr.	G		X									X			Laongpol 581
Guttiferae	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.	T		X											X	-
	<i>Calophyllum pulcherrimum</i> Wall.	T	X	X		X	X	X				X	X			Laongpol 849
	<i>Cratogeomys cochinchinense</i> (Lour.) Blume	ST						X					X	X		Laongpol 724
	<i>Garcinia cowa</i> Roxb. ex DC.	ST		X		X						X	X	X		Laongpol 722
	<i>Garcinia hombroniana</i> Pierre	T		X		X						X	X			Laongpol 759
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella ensifolia</i> (L.) DC.	H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 572
Labiatae	<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertn.	S		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Laongpol 369
	<i>Leucas zeylanica</i> (L.) R.Br.	H											X			-
	<i>Platostoma cochinchinense</i> (Lour.) A.J. Paton	H													X	-
	<i>Premna obtusifolia</i> R.Br.	C		X						X	X	X	X	X		-

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Labiatae	<i>Vitex pinnata</i> L.	T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
Lauraceae	<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i> L.f.	CrS		X										X	X	Laongpol 999
	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	C	X	X									X			Laongpol 631
	<i>Neolitsea zeylanica</i> (Nees) Merr.	ST					X	X			X	X	X	X		Laongpol 818
	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i> (Lour.) C.B.Rob	ST							X							Laongpol 843
	<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz	ST		X						X		X				Laongpol 558
Leguminosae-	<i>Sindora siamensis</i> Teijsm. & Miq.	S	X													Laongpol 629
Caesalpinoideae																
Leguminosae-	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb.	C		X										X		Laongpol 370
	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	C		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X			Laongpol 773
Papilionoideae																
Loranthaceae	<i>Canavalia rosea</i> (Sw.) DC.	HC		X	X								X		X	Laongpol 828
	<i>Derris indica</i> Bennet	ST	X	X									X			Laongpol 839, 371
	<i>Dicerna biarticulatum</i> (L.) DC.	H											X			Laongpol 356
	<i>Dunbaria bella</i> Prain	C	X													Laongpol 597
	<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> L.	S		X												Laongpol 785
	<i>Vigna marina</i> (Burm.) Merr.	H	X	X									X			Laongpol 830, 373
	<i>Amylothea dulhieana</i> (King)	H											X			-
	Danser															-
	<i>Dendrophthoe pentandra</i> (L.) Miq.	Pa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study Site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Loranthaceae	<i>Macrosolen cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) Tiegh												X			-
Malvaceae	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L.	ST		X									X	X	X	Laongpol 960
	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Soland. ex Corr.	ST		X									X	X	X	-
Melastomataceae	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L.	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 565
	<i>Melastoma sanguineum</i> Sims	S		X									X			Laongpol 913
	<i>Memecylon edule</i> Roxb.	S				X							X			-
	<i>Memecylon ovatum</i> Sm.	S				X							X			-
	<i>Memecylon scutellatum</i> Naudin	S/ST				X							X			-
Menispermaceae	<i>Tiliacora triandra</i> (Colebr.) Diels	S/ST											X			-
Moraceae	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	ST		X		X	X	X								-
Myristicaceae	<i>Knema globularia</i> (Lam.) Warb.	ST	X	X	X	X		X					X			-
Myrsinaceae	<i>Ardisia crenata</i> Sims	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			Laongpol 542, 713
	<i>Ardisia elliptica</i> Thunb.	S											X			Laongpol 520
Myrtaceae	<i>Rapanea porteriana</i> (A.DC.) Mez	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 985
	<i>Rhodamnia cinerea</i> Jack	S	X										X	X	X	Laongpol 646, 662, 358, 337

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Myrtaceae	<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i> (Alton) Hassk.	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 545, 801
Orchidaceae	<i>Syzygium grande</i> (Wight) Walp.	T	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	<i>Syzygium gratum</i> (Wight) S.N. Mitra	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 559, 847
	<i>Acropsis indica</i> Wight	O											X	X		Pattarakulpisutti 25
	<i>Acropsis ridleyi</i> Hook.f.	O	X													Laongpol 539
	<i>Arachnis flosaeris</i> (L.) Rehb.f.	O											X			Laongpol 738
	<i>Bromheadia finlaysonianana</i> (Lindl.) Rehb.f.	TerO											X			-
	<i>Bulbophyllum planibulbe</i> Ridl.	O											X			-
	<i>Cleisomeria lanatum</i> (Lindl.) Lindl. ex G.Don	O											X			Laongpol 458
	<i>Cymbidium finlaysonianum</i> Lindl.	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			Laongpol 720
	<i>Dendrobium crumenatum</i> Sw.	O	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 805
	<i>Dendrobium indivisum</i> (Blume) Miq.	O											X	X		Laongpol 739, 806, 810
	<i>Dendrobium pachyphyllum</i> (Kuntze) Bakh.f.	O						X					X			Laongpol 744, 753

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Orchidaceae	<i>Dendrobium secundum</i> (Blume) Lindl.	O													X	-
	<i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> Lindl.	TerO			X	X		X	X				X	X	X	Laongpol 751
	<i>Eria affinis</i> Griff.	O											X			-
	<i>Eria lasiopetala</i> (Willd.) Ormerod	O											X			Pattarakulpisutti 26
	<i>Eria pulchella</i> Lindl.	O											X			-
	<i>Eulophia andamanensis</i> Rehb.f.	TerO				X	X									Pattarakulpisutti 1, 16
	<i>Habenaria khasiana</i> Hook.f.	O										X				Laongpol 811
	<i>Liparis downii</i> Ridl.	O											X			Laongpol 750
	<i>Luisia curtisii</i> Seidenf.	O						X					X			Pattarakulpisutti 15
	<i>Oxystophyllum carnosum</i> Blume	O											X			Laongpol 740, 808
	<i>Pachystoma pubescens</i> Blume	TerO												X		Laongpol 485
	<i>Thrixspermum calceolus</i> (Lindl.) Rehb.f.	O											X			Laongpol 742
	<i>Trichotosia velutina</i> (Lodd. ex Lindl.) Kraenzl.	O			X								X			Laongpol 752
Ochnaceae	<i>Vanilla aphylla</i> Blume	O				X							X			-
	<i>Ochna integerrima</i> (Lour.) Merr.	S			X	X	X	X			X		X			-
	<i>Brackenridgea palustris</i> Bartell.	S			X											Laongpol 848

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Oleaceae	<i>Olex psittacorum</i> (Willd.) Vahl	C		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	-
Oleaceae	<i>Jasminum decussatum</i> Wall. ex G. Don	C		X		X				X		X	X			Laongpol 490
Opiliaceae	<i>Olea brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 534, 715
	<i>Champereia manillana</i> (Blume) Merr.	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 940
Pandanaaceae	<i>Cansjera rheedei</i> J.F. Gmel.	C	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	Laongpol 621
	<i>Pandanus odoratissimus</i> L.f.	S	X	X								X	X	X	X	-
Passifloraceae	<i>Adenia penangiana</i> (G. Don) W.J. de Wilde	C													X	-
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i> W.T. Aiton	ST	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			Laongpol 851
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus neriiifolius</i> D. Don.	T											X			Laongpol 930
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i> (L.) Sm.	F					X									Laongpol 956
	<i>Drynaria sparsisora</i> (Desv.) S. Moore	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	:
	<i>Microsorium punctatum</i> (L.) Copel	F											X			-
	<i>Microsorium scolopendria</i> (Burm.f.) Copel.	F				X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 552
Pyrosia	<i>Pyrosia adnascens</i> (G. Forst.) Ching	F										X	X			
	<i>Pyrosia longifolia</i> (Burm.f.) Morton	F										X	X	X		Laongpol 556



Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Polypodiaceae	<i>Pyrrosia piloselloides</i> (L.) M.G.Price	F	X			X		X		X		X	X	X	X	Laongpol 561, 674
Rhamnaceae	<i>Colubrina asiatica</i> L. ex Brougn.	S		X												Laongpol 502
	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (L.) Mill.	S		X												Laongpol 507
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Carallia brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	ST	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 494, 484
Rubiaceae	<i>Catunaregam tomentosa</i> (Blume ex DC.) Tirveng.	S				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 543, 568
	<i>Chassalia curviflora</i> (Wall.) Thwaites	S		X							X					Laongpol 531, 555
	<i>Guettarda speciosa</i> L.	S		X							X		X		X	Laongpol 577
	<i>Gynochthodes sublanceola</i> Miq.	C								X	X	X	X			Laongpol 564
	<i>Hydnophytum formicarum</i> Jack	H		X					X			X				-
	<i>Hydrophylax maritima</i> L.f.	H										X				Laongpol 755, 832
	<i>Ixora javanica</i> (Blume) DC.	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Laongpol 816
	<i>Ixora cibdela</i> Craib	S	X													Laongpol 1000
	<i>Lucinaea morindae</i> DC.	C												X		-
	<i>Morinda elliptica</i> Ridl.	S		X	X					X	X	X				-

Table 9. (continued)

Family	Species	Habit	Study site													Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Rubiaceae	<i>Oxyceros longiflora</i> (Lam.) T.Yamaz.	S	X									X				-
	<i>Prismatomeris tetrandra</i> (Roxb.) K.Schum.	S	X	X		X	X	X				X	X			Laongpol 533, 602, 636
	<i>Psychotria sarmentosa</i> Blume	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 547
	<i>Psydrax nitida</i> (Craib) K.M.Wong	S											X	X	X	Laongpol 586
	<i>Tarenna adangensis</i> (Ridl.) Ridl.	S		X									X			-
	<i>Tarenna wallichii</i> (Hook.f.) Ridl.	S		X								X	X			Laongpol 587
Rutaceae	<i>Acronychia pedunculata</i> (L.) Miq.	ST	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Laongpol 551
	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i> (DC.) Correa	ST	X	X						X		X	X			Laongpol 840
	<i>Micromelum minutum</i> (G.Forst.) Wight & Arn.	ST	X	X		X						X	X			Laongpol 583
	<i>Dendrotrophe buxifolia</i> (Blume) Miq.	PaS									X					Laongpol 549
Sapindaceae	<i>Dendrotrophe varians</i> (Blume) Miq.	PaS						X								-
	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Raeusch	S	X	X									X	X		Laongpol 488
	<i>Guioa pleuropteris</i> (Blume) Radlk.	ST		X					X	X		X	X			-
	<i>Lepisanthes rubiginosa</i> (Roxb.) Leenh.	ST				X					X		X			-
	<i>Mischocarpus sundaicus</i> Blume	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Laongpol 553
Sapotaceae	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Jacq.	S		X									X	X	X	Laongpol 379, 362, 379
	<i>Pouteria obovata</i> (R.Br.) Baehni	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Laongpol 653

Table 9. (continued)

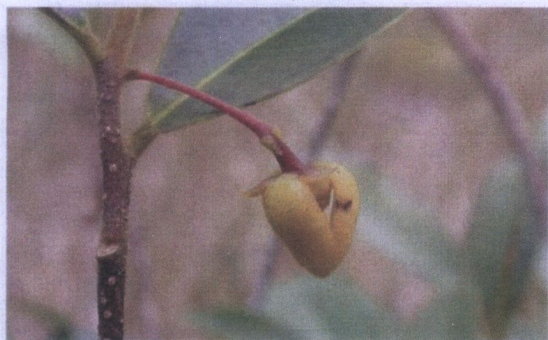
Family	Species	Habit	Study site											Voucher
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Schizaeaceae	<i>Schizaea dichotoma</i> (L.) Sm.	F	X		X	X				X	X			<i>Laongpol 575</i>
	<i>Schizaea digitata</i> (L.) Sw.	F	X		X	X				X	X			<i>Laongpol 574</i>
Simaroubaceae	<i>Brucea javanica</i> (L.) Merr.	S				X								-
	<i>Eurycoma longifolia</i> Jack	S	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Laongpol 563</i>
Stemonaceae	<i>Stemona tuberosa</i> Lour.	C	X									X		<i>Laongpol 503, 592</i>
Symplocaceae	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) S. Moore	S/ST				X								-
Taccaceae	<i>Tacca integrifolia</i> Ker Gawl.	H		X							X			<i>Laongpol 702</i>
Theaceae	<i>Schima wallichii</i> (DC.) Korth.	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		-
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Wikstroemia ridleyi</i> Gamble	S			X					X	X	X	X	<i>Laongpol 747, 375</i>
Tiliaceae	<i>Microcos tomentosa</i> Sm.	ST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		-
	<i>Triumfetta grandidens</i> Hance	HC		X							X			-
Verbenaceae	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (L.) Greene	H	X									X		-
Viscaceae	<i>Viscum articulatum</i> Burm.f.	Pa			X					X	X	X		-



*Thunbergia fragran* Roxb.



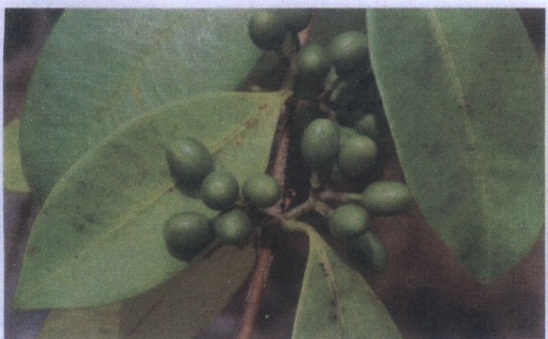
*Gomphrena celosioides* Mart.



*Polyalthia evecta* (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep.



*Aganosma marginata* (Roxb.) G. Don



*Alyxia reinwardtii* Blume



*Cerbera manghas* L.



*Cerbera odollam* Gaertn.



*Holarrhena curtisii* King & Gamble





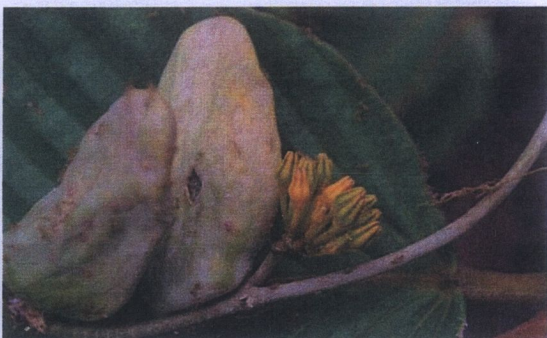
*Spirolobium cambodianum* Baill.



*Willughbeia coriacea* Wall.



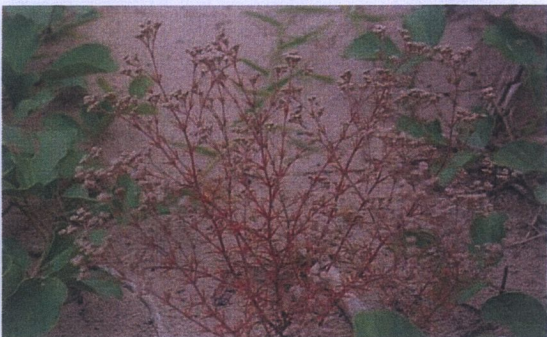
*Ilex cymosa* Blume



*Dischidia major* (Vahl.) Merr.



*Hoya parasitica* (Roxb.) Wall. ex Traill



*Polycarpha corymbosa* (L.) Lam.



*Euonymus cochinchinensis* Pierre



*Salacia chinensis* L.





*Connarus semidecandrus* Jack



*Argyreia mollis* (Burm.f.) Choisy



*Ipomoea imperati* (Vahl) Griseb



*Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R.Br.



*Merremia hirta* (L.) Merr.



*Scopellaria marginata* (Blume) W.J. de Wilde & Duyfjes



*Tetracera indica* (Christm. & Panz.) Merr.



*Tetracera loureiri* (Finet & Gagnep.) Pierre ex Craib





*Cotylelobium lanceolatum* Craib



*Dipterocarpus chartaceus* Symington



*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* Teijsm. ex Miq.



*Vatica harmandiana* Pierre



*Diospyros areolata* King & Gamble



*Diospyros ferrea* (Willd.) Bakh.



*Styphelia malayana* (Jack) Spring

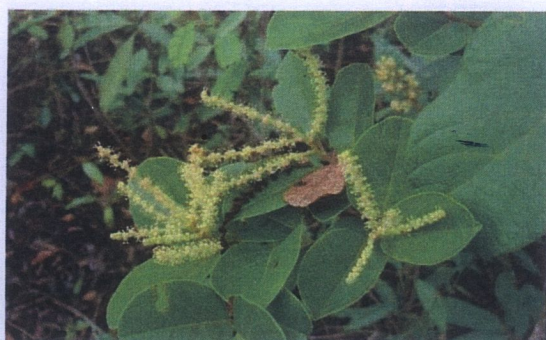


*Vaccinium bracteatum* Thunb.

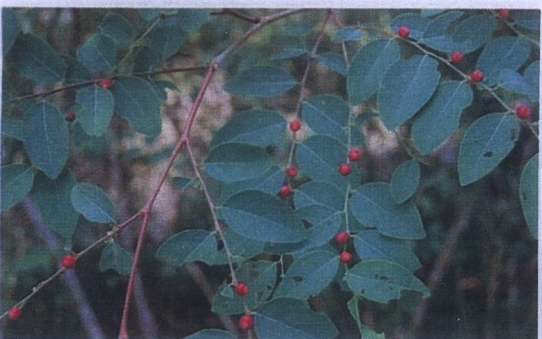




*Erythroxylum cuneatum* (Miq.) Kurz



*Antidesma ghaesembilla* Gaertn.



*Breynia racemosa* (Blume) Müll. Arg.



*Microstachys chamaelea* (L.) Müll. Arg.



*Chaetocarpus castanocarpus* (Roxb.) Thwaites



*Euphorbia atoto* G. Forst.



*Hymenocardia wallichii* Tul.

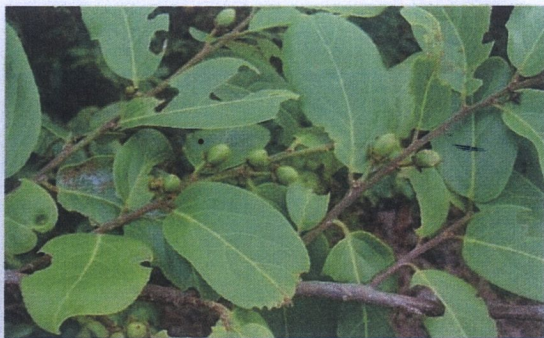


*Suregada multiflorum* (A. Juss.) Baill.





*Flacourtia indica* (Burm.f.) Merr.



*Scolopia macrophylla* (Wight & Arn.) Clos



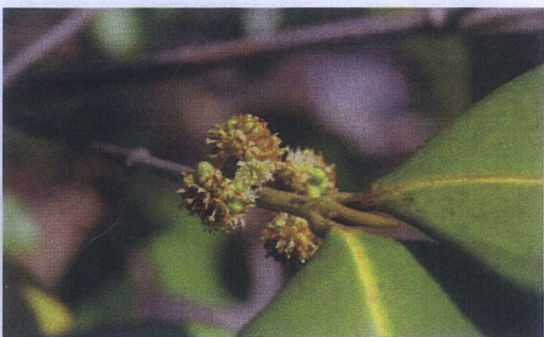
*Aeschynanthus fulgens* Wall. ex R.Br.



*Calophyllum inophyllum* L.



*Cratoxylum cochinchinense* (Lour.) Blume



*Garcinia hombroniana* Pierre



*Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn.



*Platostoma cochinchinense* (Lour.) A.J. Paton





*Vitex pinnata* L.



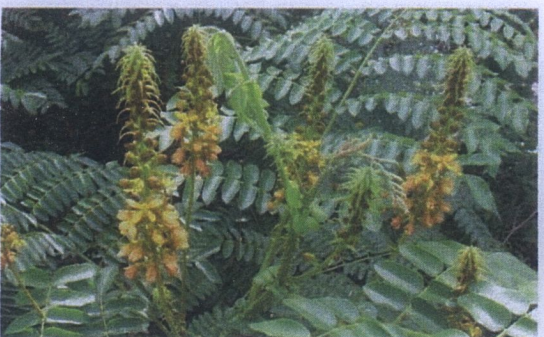
*Vitex rotundifolia* L.f.



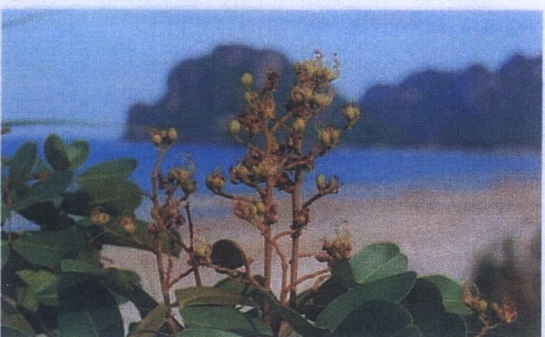
*Neolitsea zeylanica* (Nees) Merr.



*Litsea glutinosa* (Lour.) C.B. Rob.



*Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb.



*Sindora siamensis* Teijsm. & Miq.



*Abrus precatorius* L.



*Canavalia rosea* (Sw.) DC.





*Dunbaria bella* Prain



*Sophora tomentosa* L.



*Vigna marina* (Burm.) Merr.



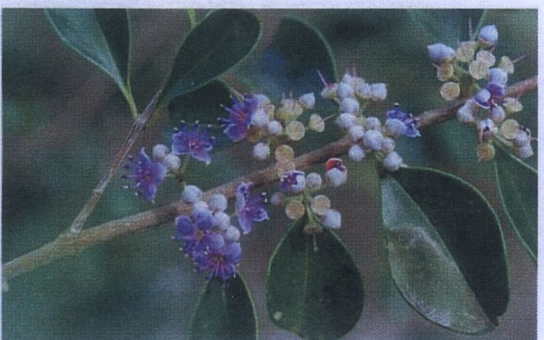
*Amylotheca duthieana* (King) Danser



*Macrosolen cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Tiegh.



*Hibiscus tiliaceus* L.



*Memecylon scutellatum* Naudin



*Melastoma malabathricum* L.





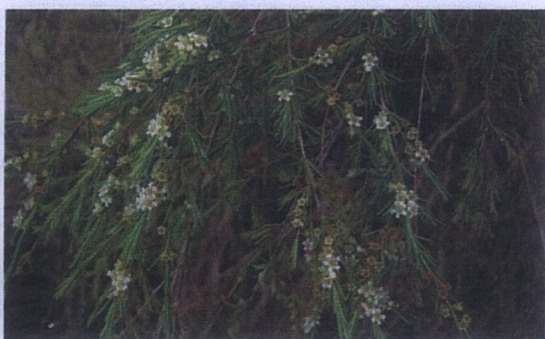
*Knema globularia* (Lam.) Warb.



*Ardisia crenata* Sims



*Ardisia elliptica* Thunb.



*Baeckea frutescens* L.



*Rhodamnia cinerea* Jack



*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hassk.



*Syzygium grande* (Wight) Walp.



*Syzygium gratum* (Wight) S.N. Mitra





*Ochna integerrima* (Lour.) Merr.



*Brackenridgea palustris* Bartell.



*Olax psittacorum* (Willd.) Vahl



*Olea brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.



*Pittosporum ferrugineum* W.T. Aiton



*Colubrina asiatica* L. ex Broun.



*Catunaregam tomentosa* (Blume ex DC.) Tirveng.



*Chassalia curviflora* (Wall.) Thwaites





*Guettarda speciosa* L.



*Hydrophytum formicarum* Jack



*Hydrophylax maritima* L.f.



*Ixora cibdela* Craib



*Ixora javanica* (Blume) DC.



*Prismatomeris tetrandra* (Roxb.) K. Schum.



*Psydrax nitida* (Craib) K.M. Wong

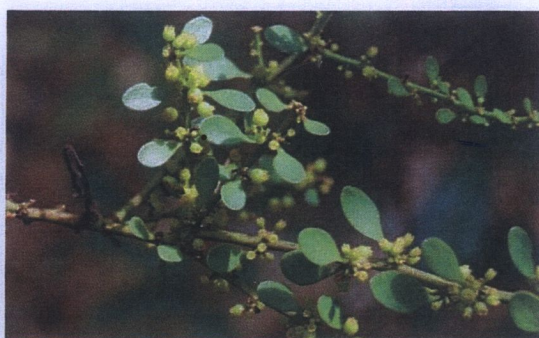


*Tarenna adangensis* (Ridl.) Ridl.





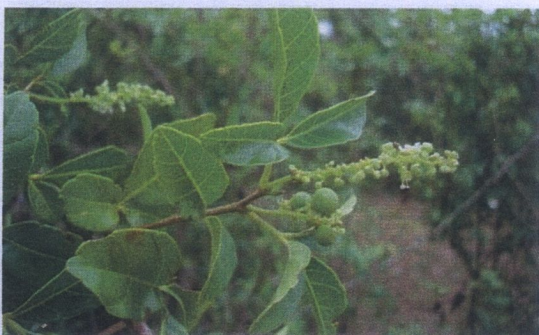
*Acronychia pedunculata* (L.) Miq.



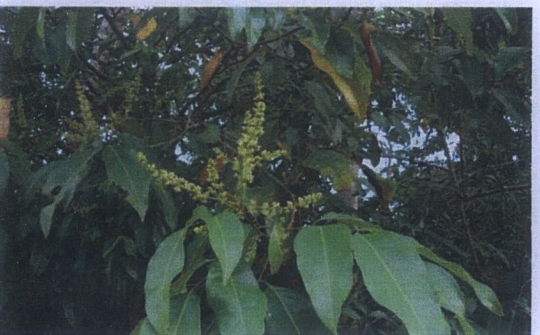
*Dendrotrophe buxifolia* (Blume) Miq.



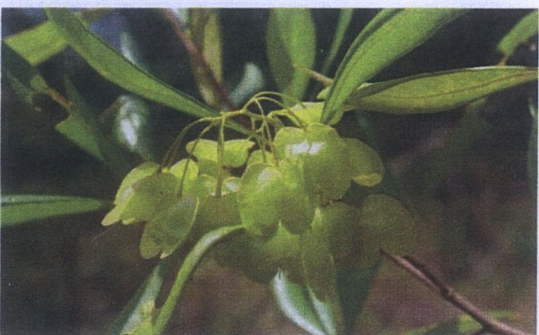
*Dendrotrophe varians* (Blume) Miq.



*Allophylus cobbe* (L.) Raeusch



*Mischocarpus sundaicus* Blume



*Dodonaea viscosa* Jacq.

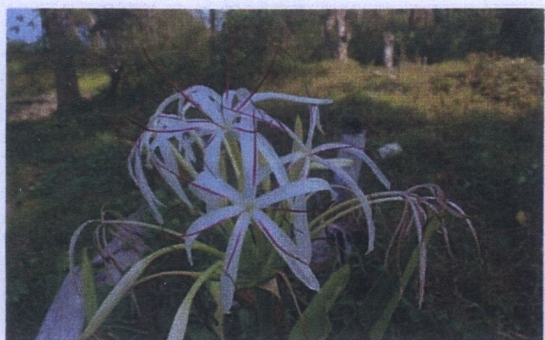


*Wikstroemia ridleyi* Gamble



*Triumfetta grandidens* Hance





*Crinum northianum* Baker



*Gloriosa superba* L.



*Cyanotis cristata* Roem. & Schult.



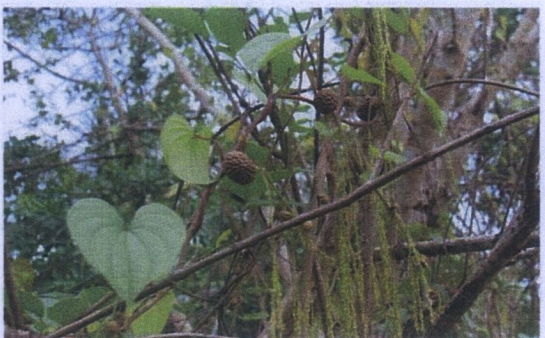
*Cyperus rotundus* L.



*Fimbristylis sericea* R.Br.



*Remirea maritima* Aubl.



*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.

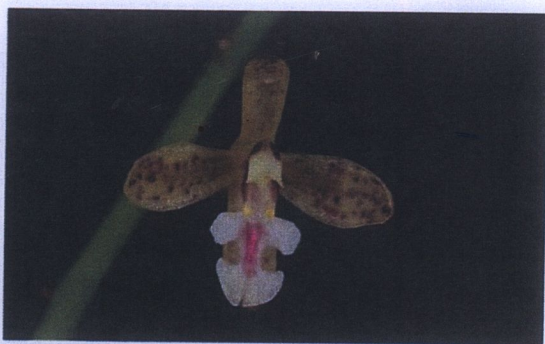


*Dianella ensifolia* (L.) DC.





*Acriopsis indica* Wight



*Acriopsis ridleyi* Hook.f.



*Arachnis flosaeris* (L.) Rchb.f.



*Cleisomeria lanatum* (Lindl.) Lindl. ex G.Don



*Dendrobium crumenatum* Sw.



*Dendrobium indivisum* (Blume) Miq.



*Dendrobium pachyphyllum* (Kuntze) Bakh.f.



*Dendrobium secundum* (Blume) Lindl.





*Doritis pulcherrima* Lindl.



*Eria lasiopetala* (Willd.) Ormerod



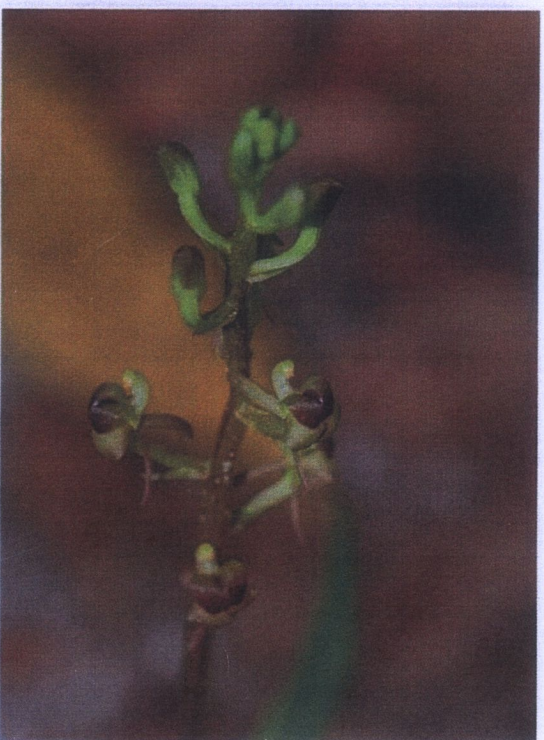
*Eria pulchella* Lindl.



*Eulophia andamanensis* Rehb.f.



*Habenaria khasiana* Hook.f.



*Liparis downii* Ridl.





*Luisia curtisii* Seidenf.



*Oxystophyllum carnosum* Blume



*Pachystoma pubescens* Blume



*Thrixspermum calceolus* (Lindl.) Rchb.f.



*Trichotosia velutina* (Lodd. ex Lindl.) Kraenzl.



*Vanilla aphylla* Blume





*Davallia denticulata* (Burm.f.) Mett. ex Kuhn



*Davallia solida* (G.Forst) Sw.



*Humata heterophylla* (Smith) Desv.



*Humata pectinata* (Sm.) Desv.



*Drynaria quercifolia* (L.) Sm.



*Microsorium scolopendria* (Burm.f.) Copel.

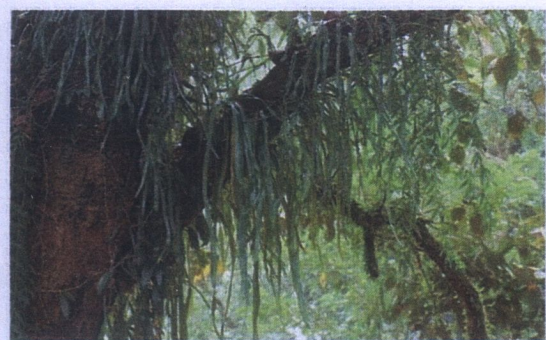


*Pyrrosia adnascens* (G.Forst.) Ching



*Pyrrosia piloselloides* (L.) M.G.Price





*Pyrrosia longifolia* (Burm.f.) Morton



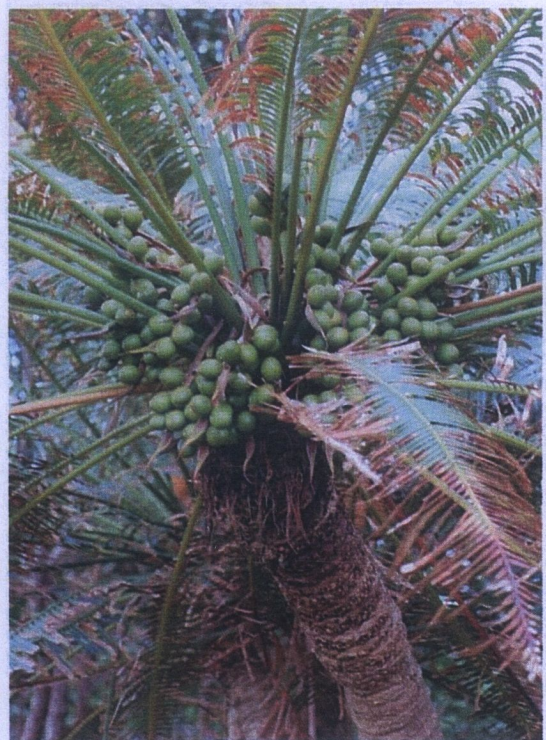
*Microsorium punctatum* (L.) Copel.



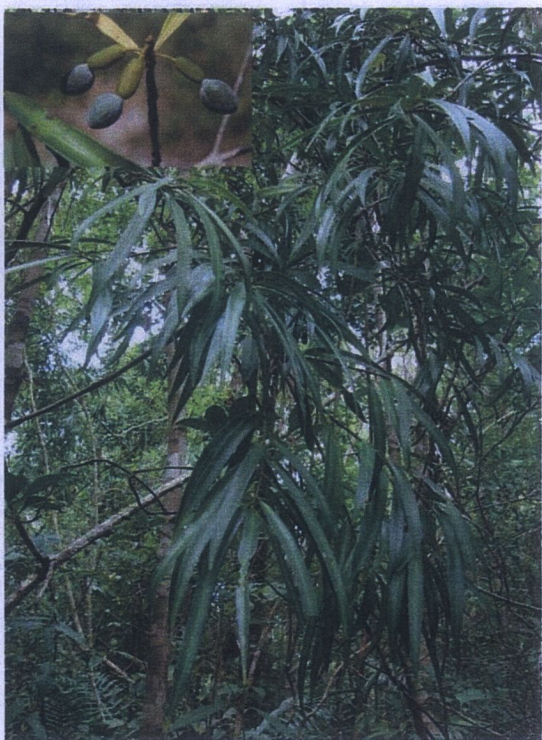
*Schizaea dichotoma* (L.) Sm.



*Schizaea digitata* (L.) Sw.



*Cycas rumphii* Miq.



*Podocarpus neriifolius* D. Don.



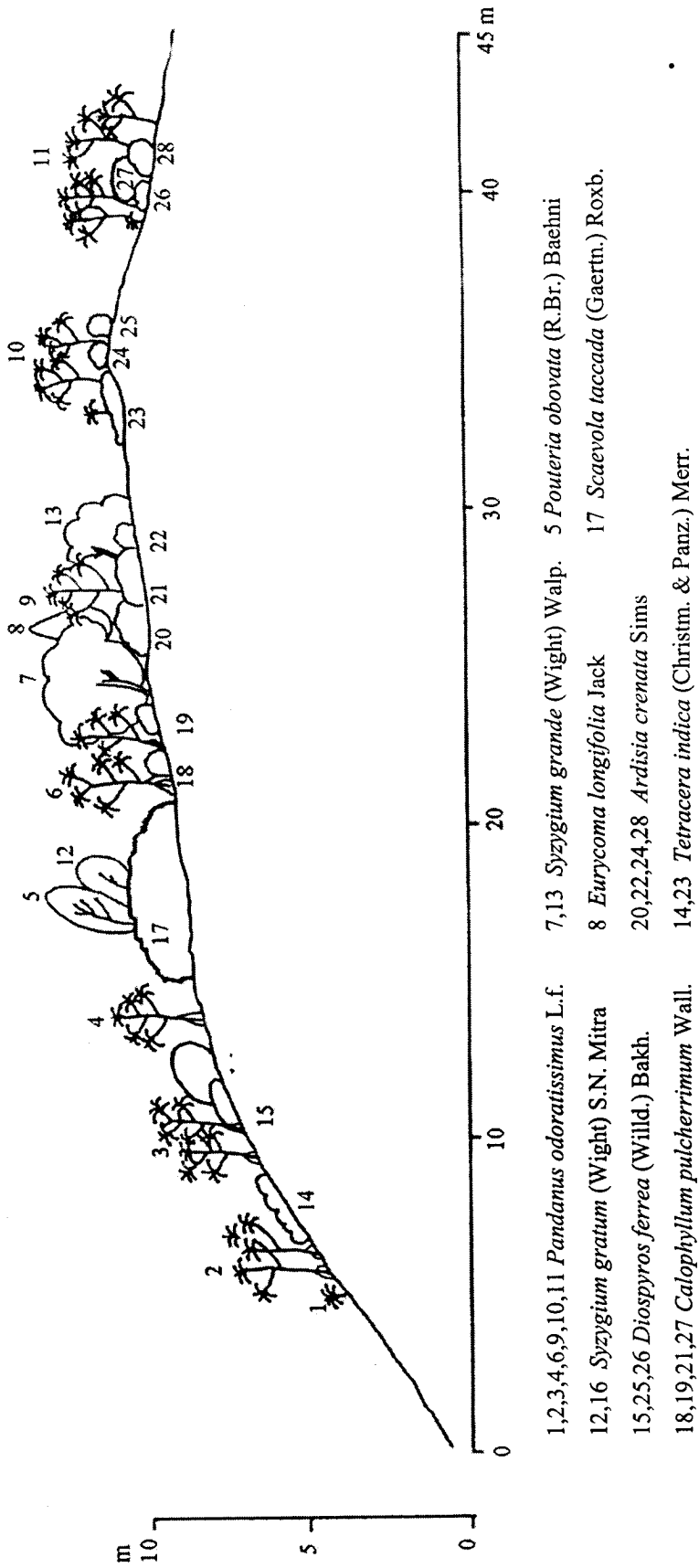
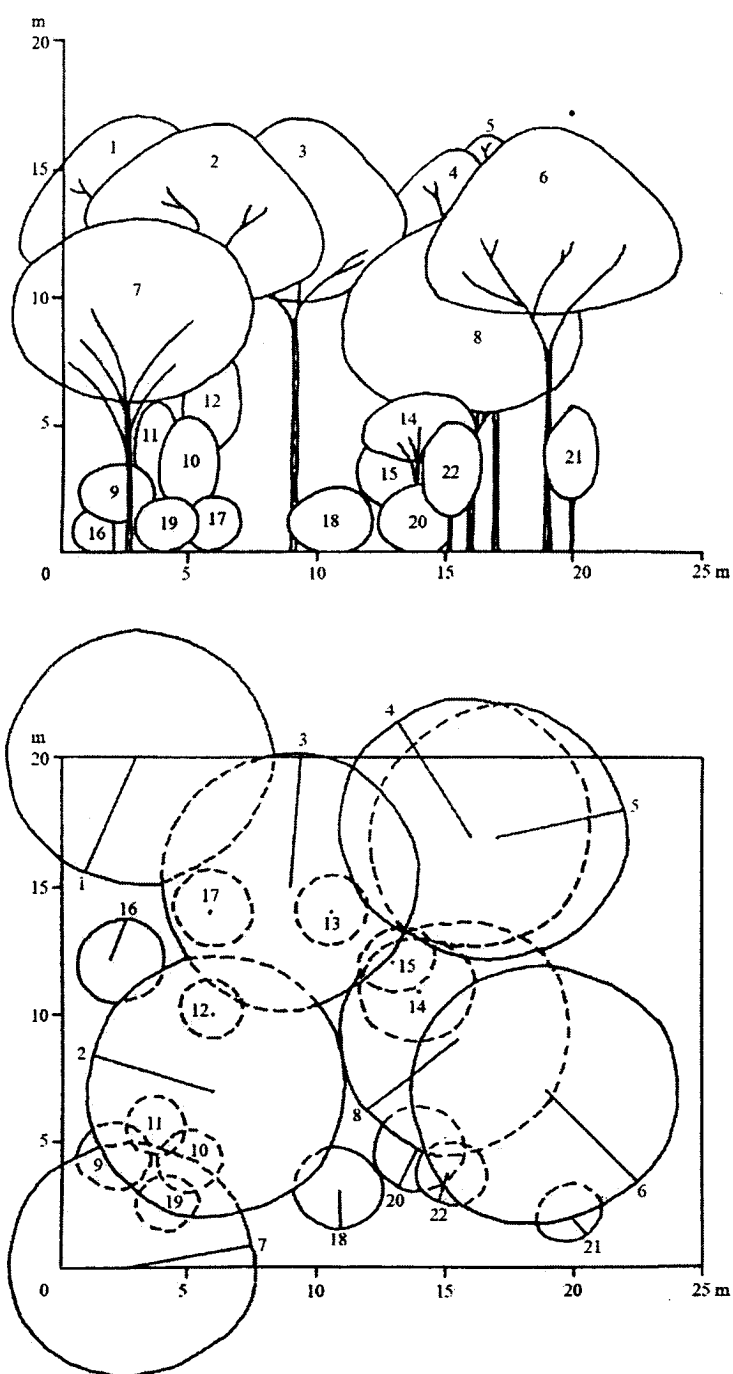


Figure 7. Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Ban Bangboet (study site 1), Pathio district, Chumphon province.



1,2,3,4,5,6,10 *Dipterocarpus alatus* Roxb. ex G.Don.

7,8,14 *Carallia brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.

9,22 *Syzygium grande* (Wight) Walp.

11 *Pouteria obovata* (R.Br.) Baehni

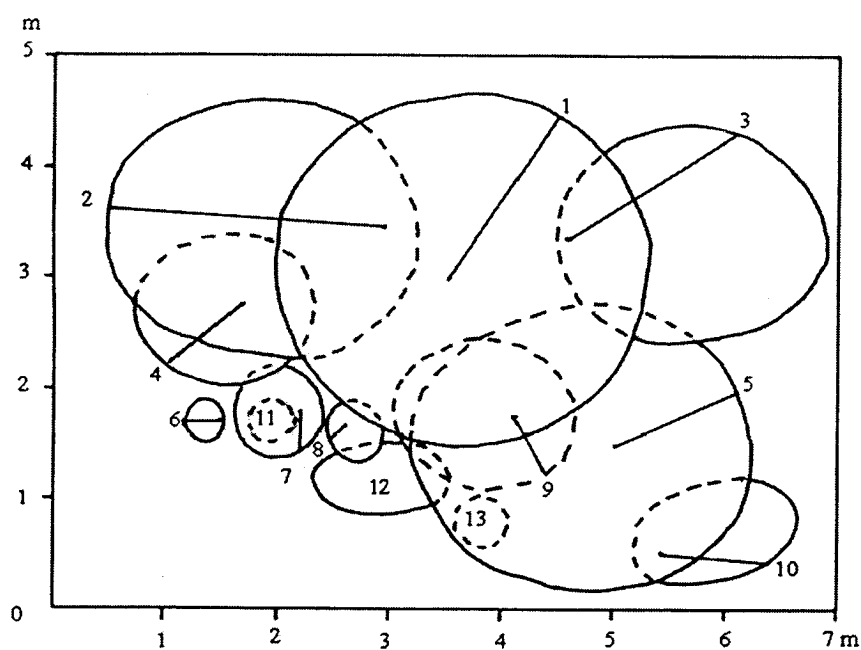
12,21 *Vatica harmandiana* Pierre

13 *Microcos tomentosa* Sm.

15 *Champerea manillana* (Blume) Merr.

16,17,18 *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hassk. 19,20 *Breynia racemosa* (Blume) Mull. Arg.

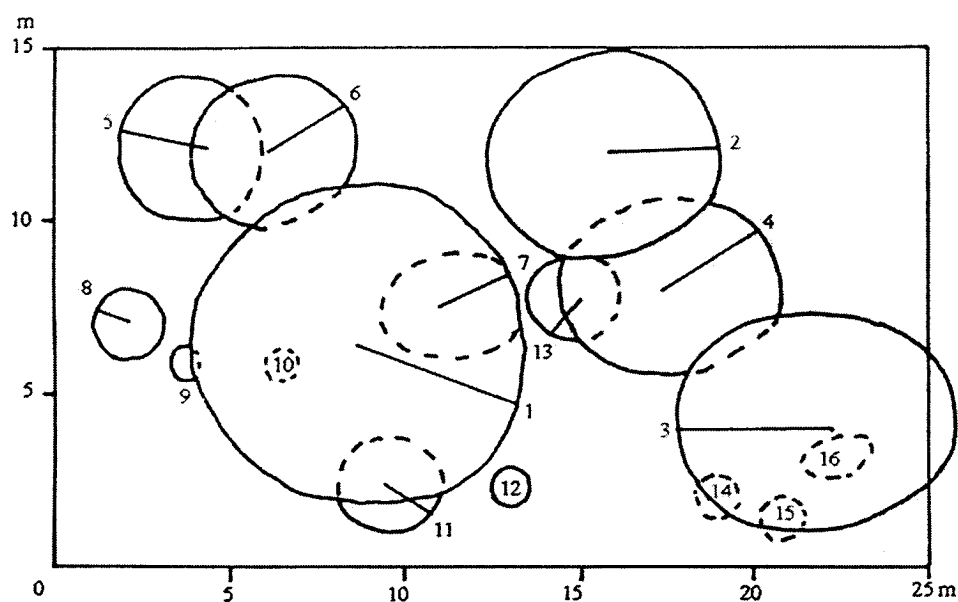
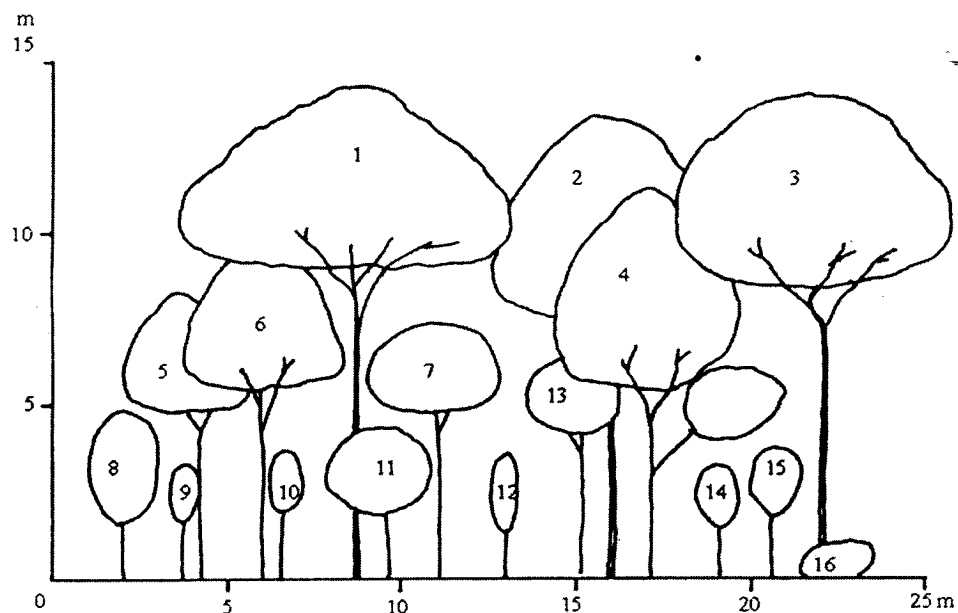
**Figure 8.** Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ao Panang Tak (study site 2), Pathio district, Chumphon province.



- 1,4,5,10 *Vatica harmandiana* Pierre    2,3,9 *Syzygium gratum* (Wight) S.N.Mitra.  
 6,7,8 *Eurycoma longifolia* Jack    11,13 *Dianella ensifolia* (L.) DC.  
 12 *Tetracera indica* (Christm. & Panz.) Merr.

**Figure 9.** Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 1 (study site 7), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.





1,2,3,4,5,6 *Shorea roxburghii* G.Don

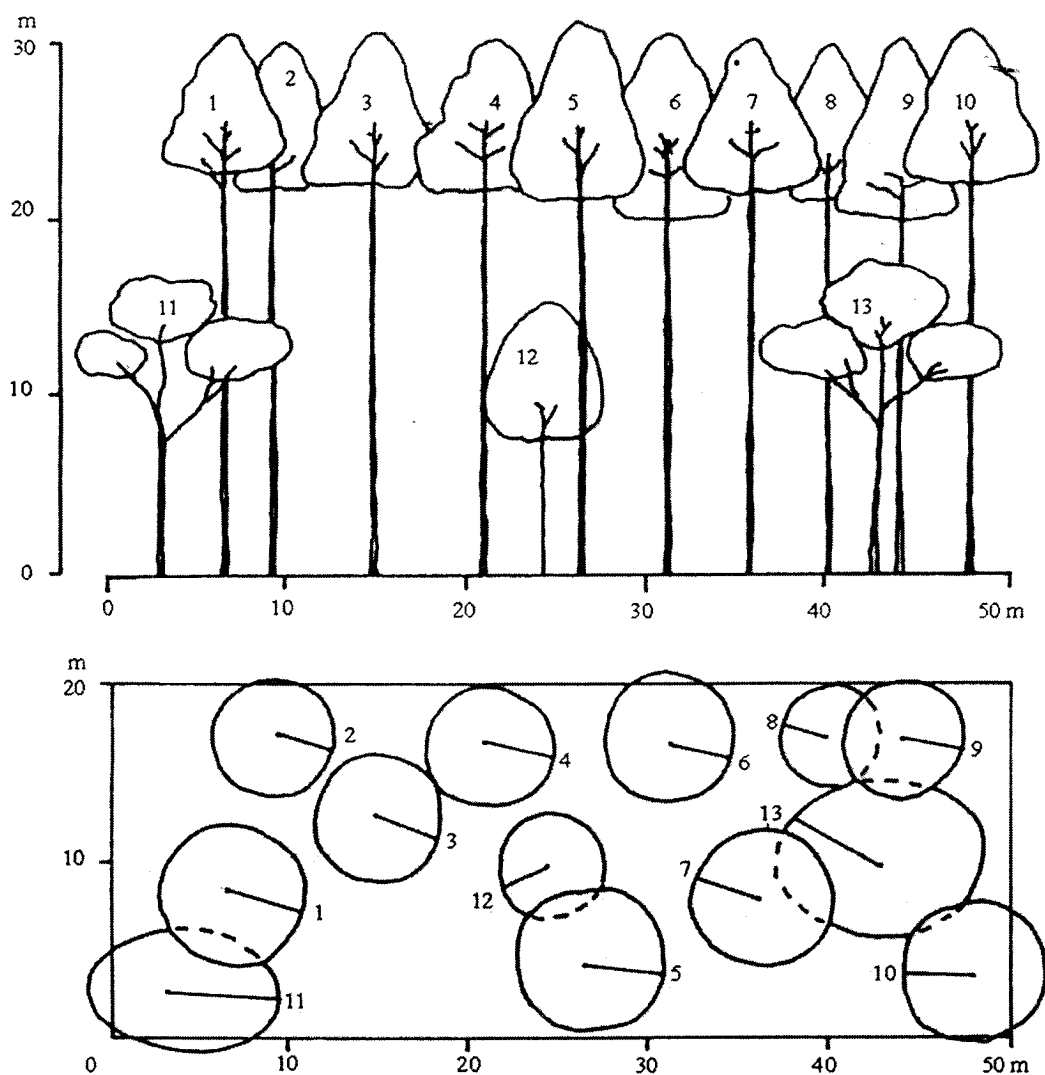
7,8 *Vatica harmandiana* Pierre

9,10,12,14,15 *Eurycoma longifolia* Jack

13 *Vitex pinnata* L.

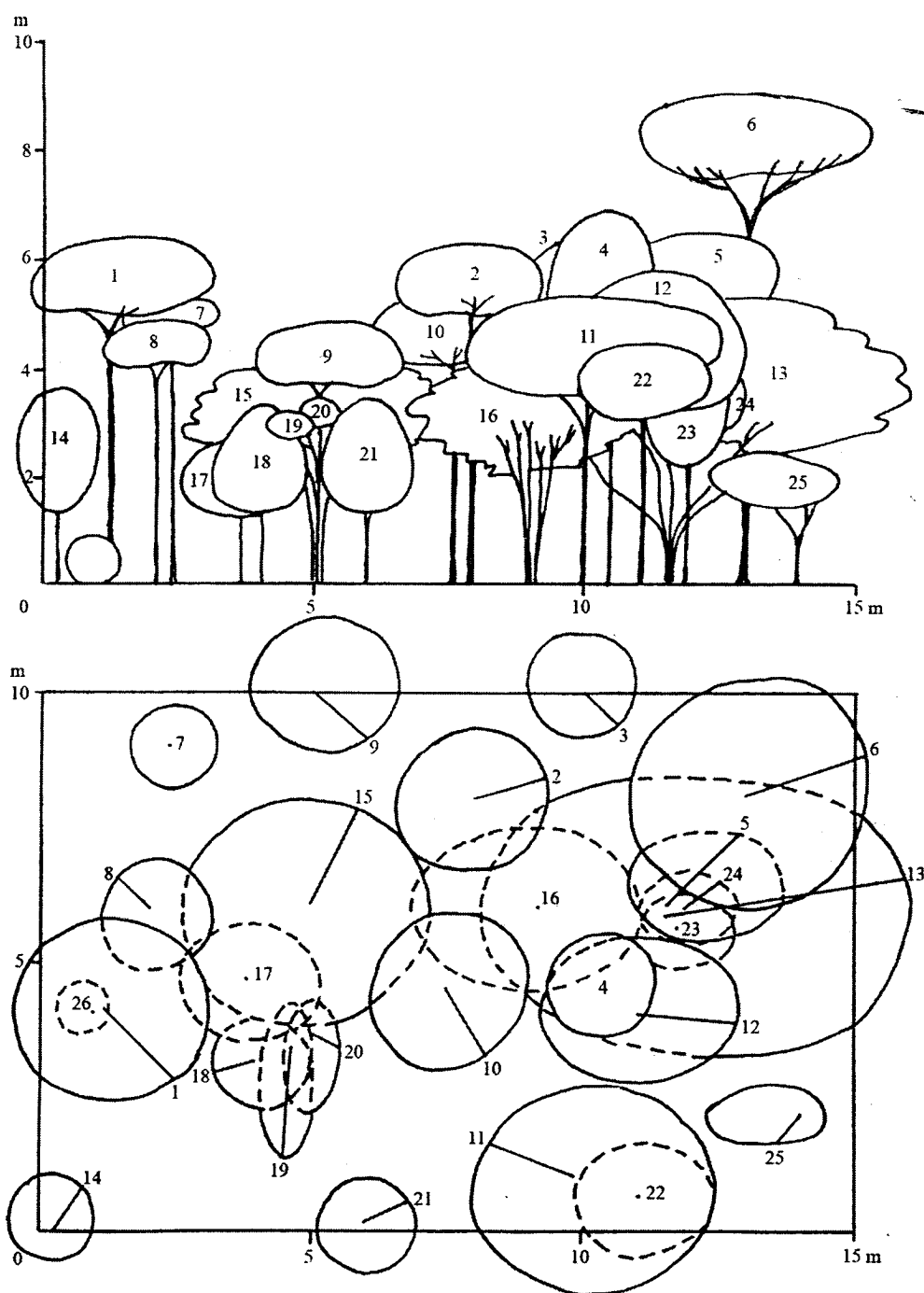
16 *Tetracera indica* (Christm. & Panz.) Merr. 11 *Pouteria obovata* (R.Br.) Baehni

**Figure 10.** Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 2 (study site 8), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.



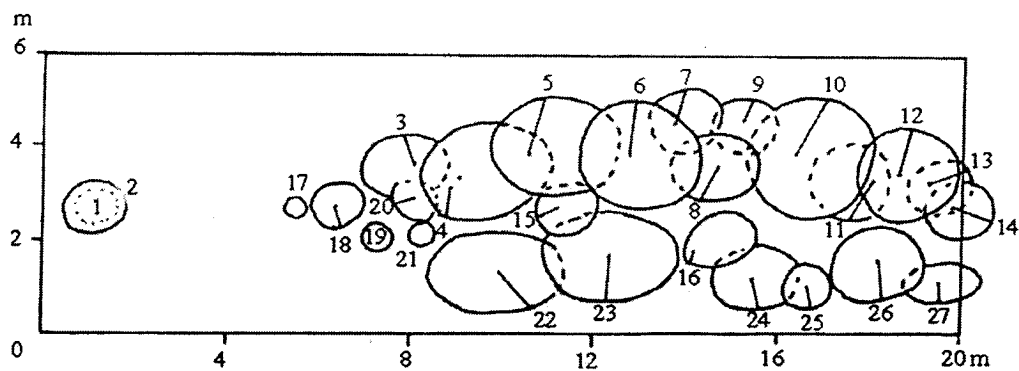
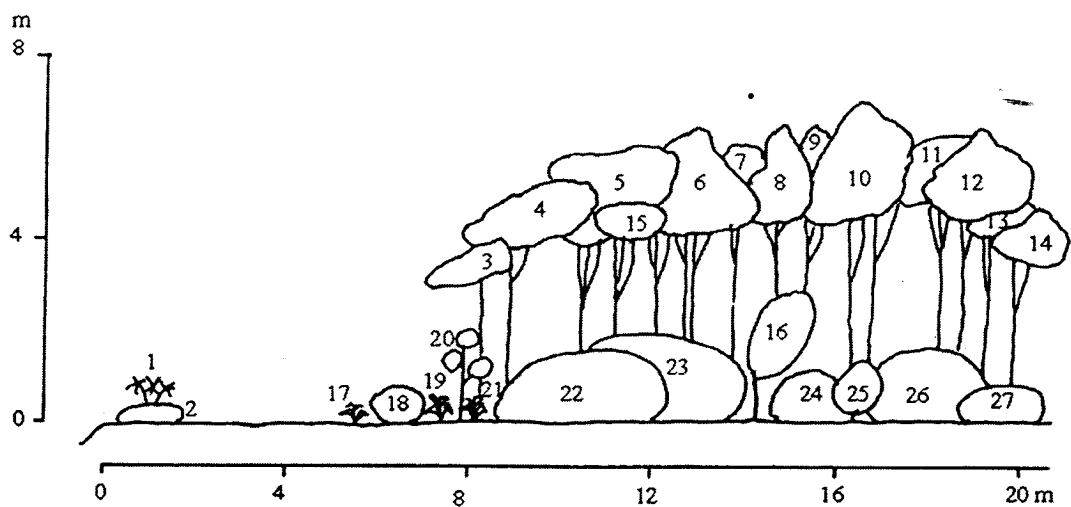
1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 *Dipterocarpus alatus* Roxb. ex G.Don 11,13 *Shorea roxburghii* G.Don  
 12 *Mangifera indica* L. 2 *Dipterocarpus chartaceus* Symington

**Figure 11.** Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Nuea (study site 9), Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.



- 1,2,3,7,8,9,10,11,14,17,19,20,22 *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* Teijsm. ex Miq.  
 4,5,6,12,24 *Syzygium grande* (Wight) Walp. 18,21,23 *Olea brachiata* (Lour.) Merr.  
 13 *Chaeticarpus castanocarpus* (Roxb.) 15,16 *Syzygium gratum* (Wight) S.N.Mitra.  
 25 *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* Wall. 26 *Prismatomeris tetranda* (Roxb.) K.Schum.

**Figure 12.** Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Ban Natap (study site 10), Chana district, Songkhla province.



17,19,21 *Crinum northianum* Baker

16 *Diospyros areolata* King & Gamble

18 *Diospyros ferrea* (Willd.) Bakh.

24 *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hassk

2,22,23,26 *Scaevola taccada* (Gaertn.) Roxb

3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15 *Pouteria obovata* (R.Br.) Baehni

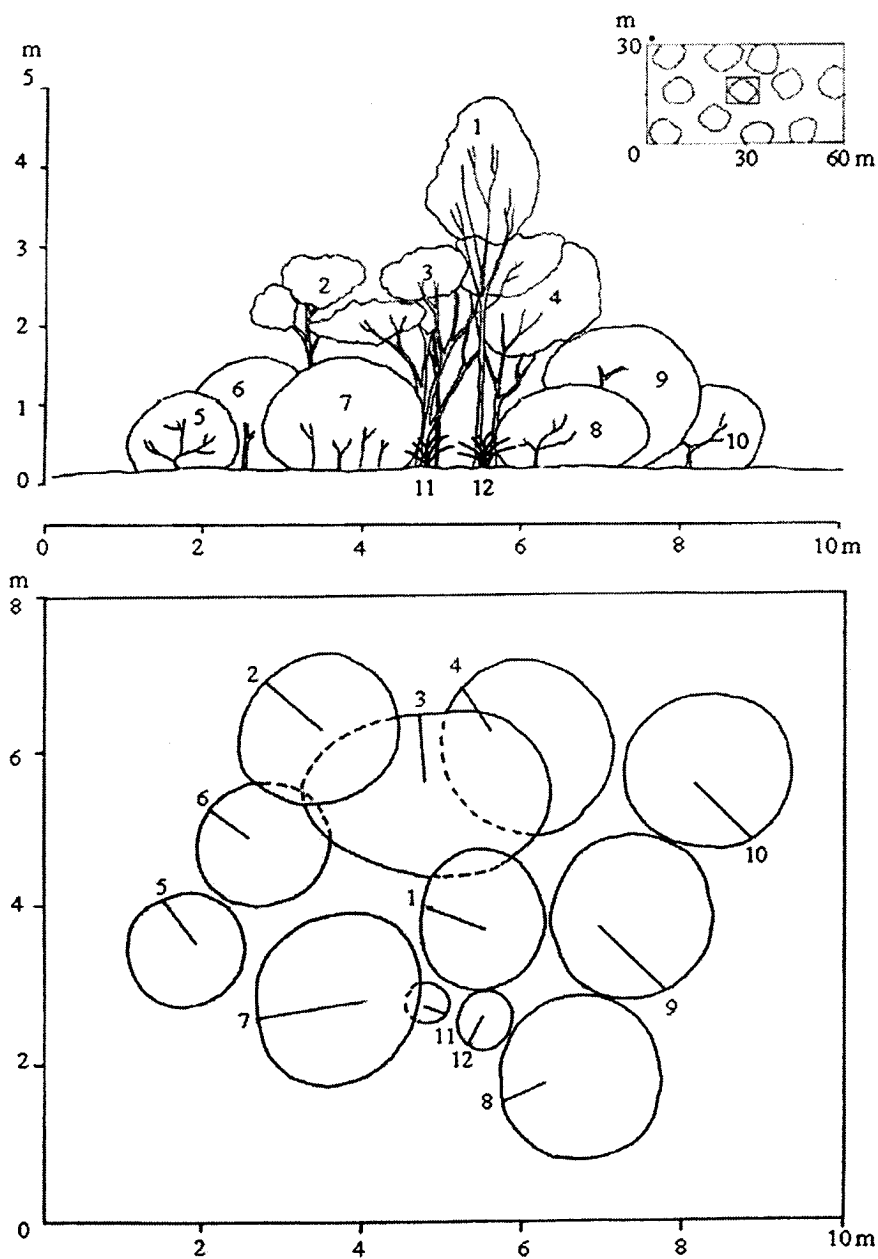
1 *Pandanus odoratissimus* L.f.

20 *Guettarda speciosa* L.

27 *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* Wall.

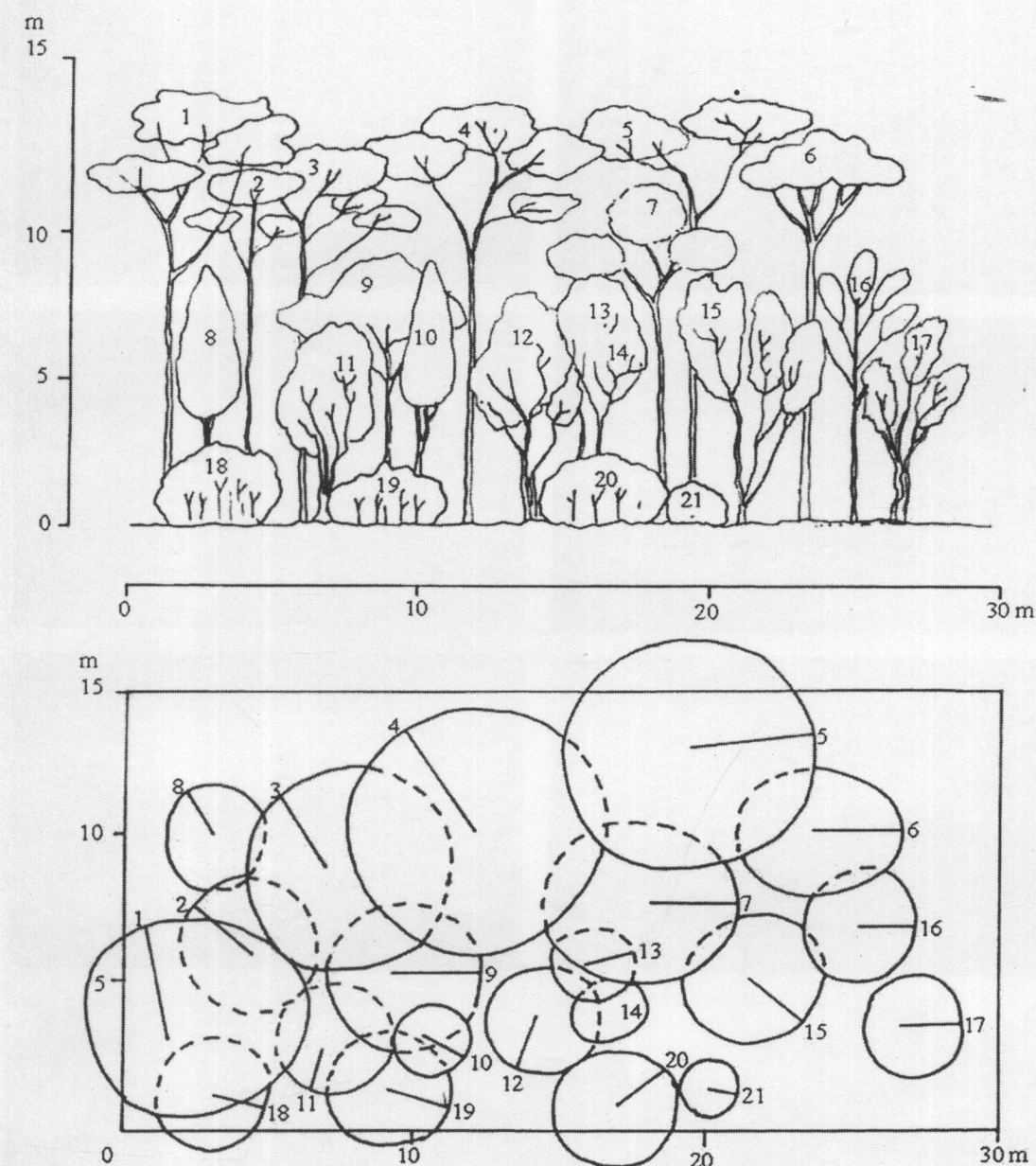
25 *Atalantia monophylla* (DC.) Correa

**Figure 13.** Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.



- 1 *Rapania porteriana* (A.DC.) Mez      2,3,4 *Syzygium gratum* (Wight) S.N.Mitra  
 5,8 *Styphelia malayana* (Jack) Spring      7 *Rhodamnia cinerea* Jack  
 6,9,10 *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hassk.      11,12 *Dianella ensifolia* (L.) DC.

**Figure 14.** Profile of coastal scrub vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.



1,2,3,4,5 *Shorea roxburghii* G.Don

7 *Vitex pinnata* L.

9 *Acronychia pedunculata* (L.) Miq.

21 *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hassk.

11,12,13,14,15,16,17 *Syzygium gratum* (Wight) S.N. Mitra

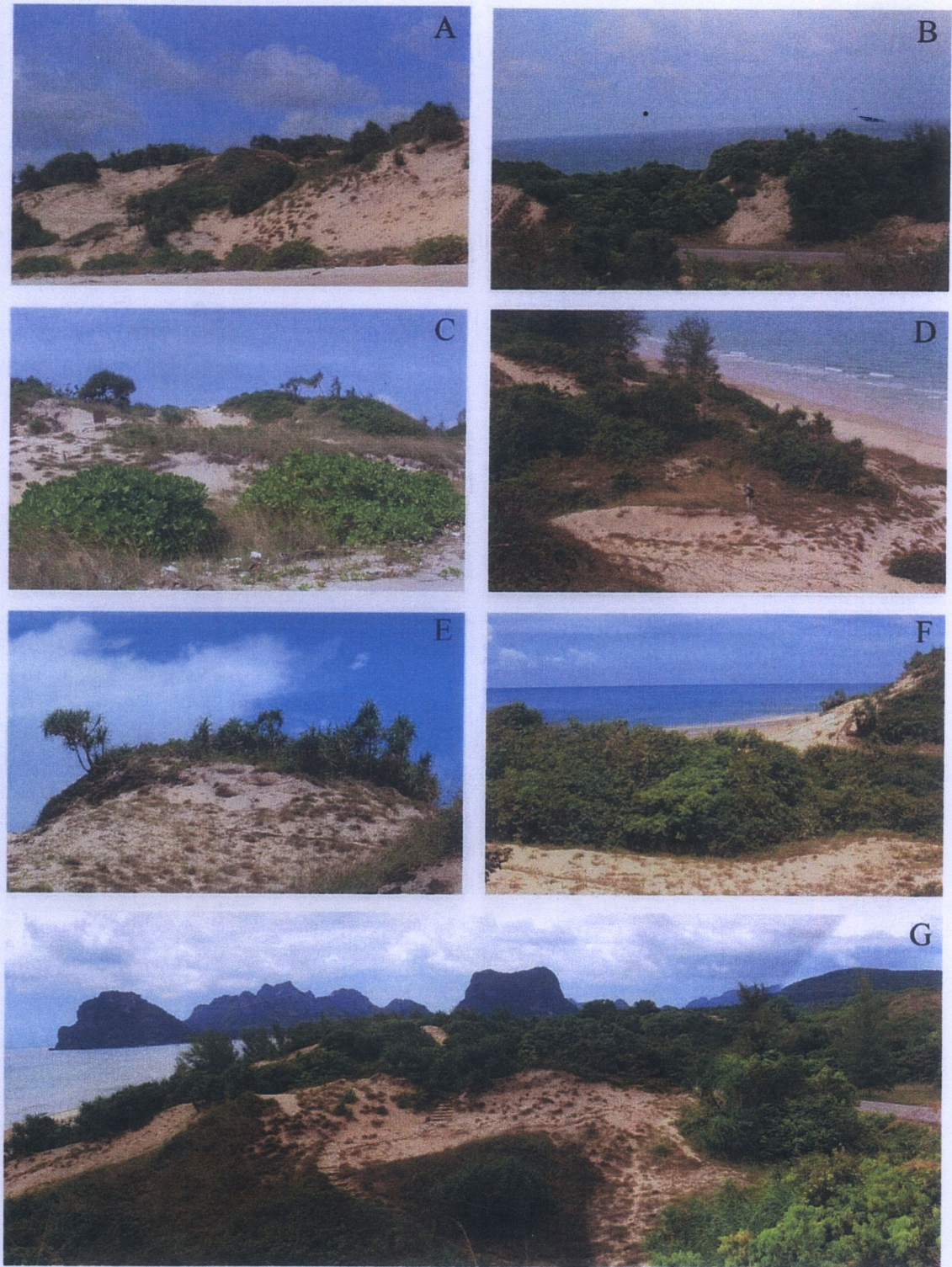
6 *Syzygium grande* (Wight) Walp.

8,10 *Vatica harmandiana* Pierre

18,19,20 *Rhodamnia cinerea* Jack

**Figure 15.** Profile of coastal woodland vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang (study site 11), Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.





**Plate 19.** A-G Coastal vegetation at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.  
(study site 1)





**Plate 20.** A-G Coastal vegetation at Ao Phanang Tak, Mueang Chumphon district, Chumphon province. (study site 2)





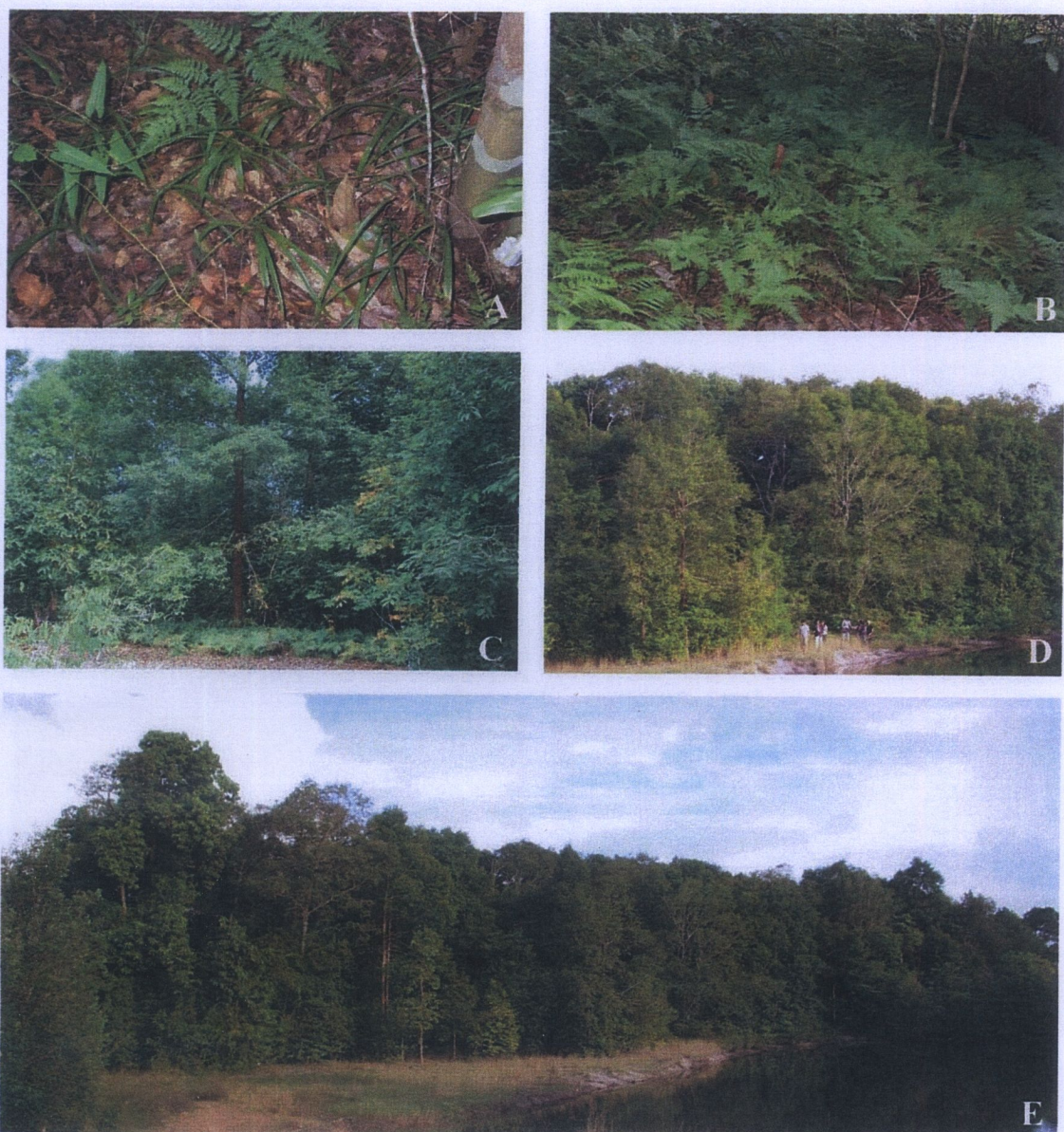
**Plate 21.** A-H Coastal vegetation at Ban Pak Nam Tako, Thung Tako district, Chumphon province. (study site 3)





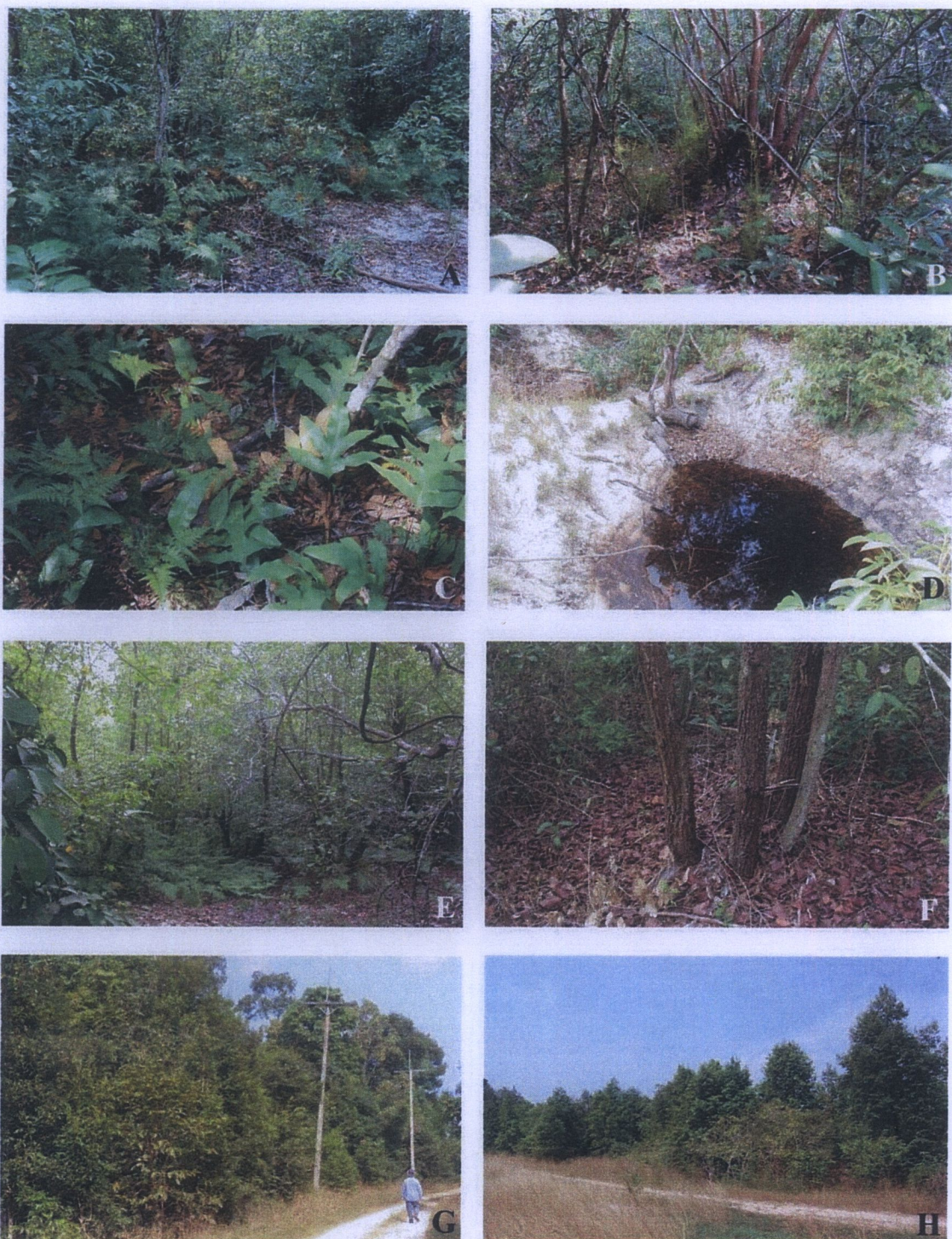
**Plate 22.** A-G Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Santi, Lamae district, Chumphon province. (study site 4)





**Plate 23.** A-E Coastal vegetation at Ban Takrop, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.  
(study site 5)





**Plate 24.** A-H Coastal vegetation at Ban Plongmai Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.  
(study site 6)





**Plate 25.** A-H Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 1, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province. (study site 7)





**Plate 26.** A-H Coastal vegetation at Ban Laem Pho 2, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province. (study site 8)





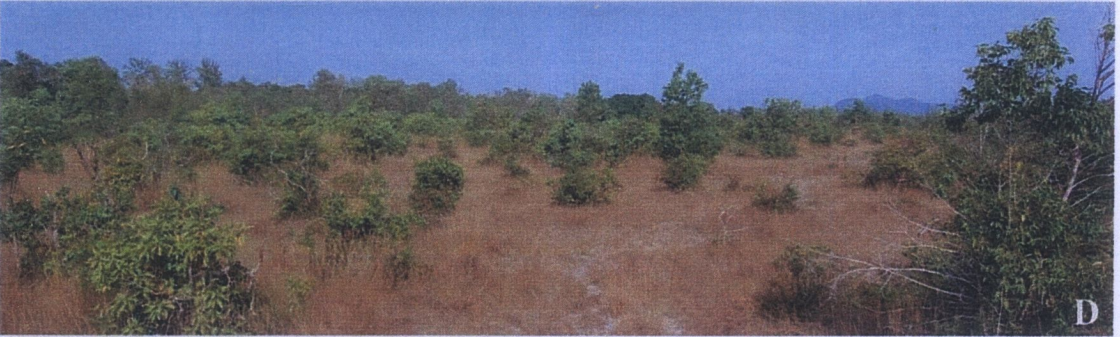
**Plate 27.** A-E Coastal vegetation at Ban Nuea, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.  
(study site 9)





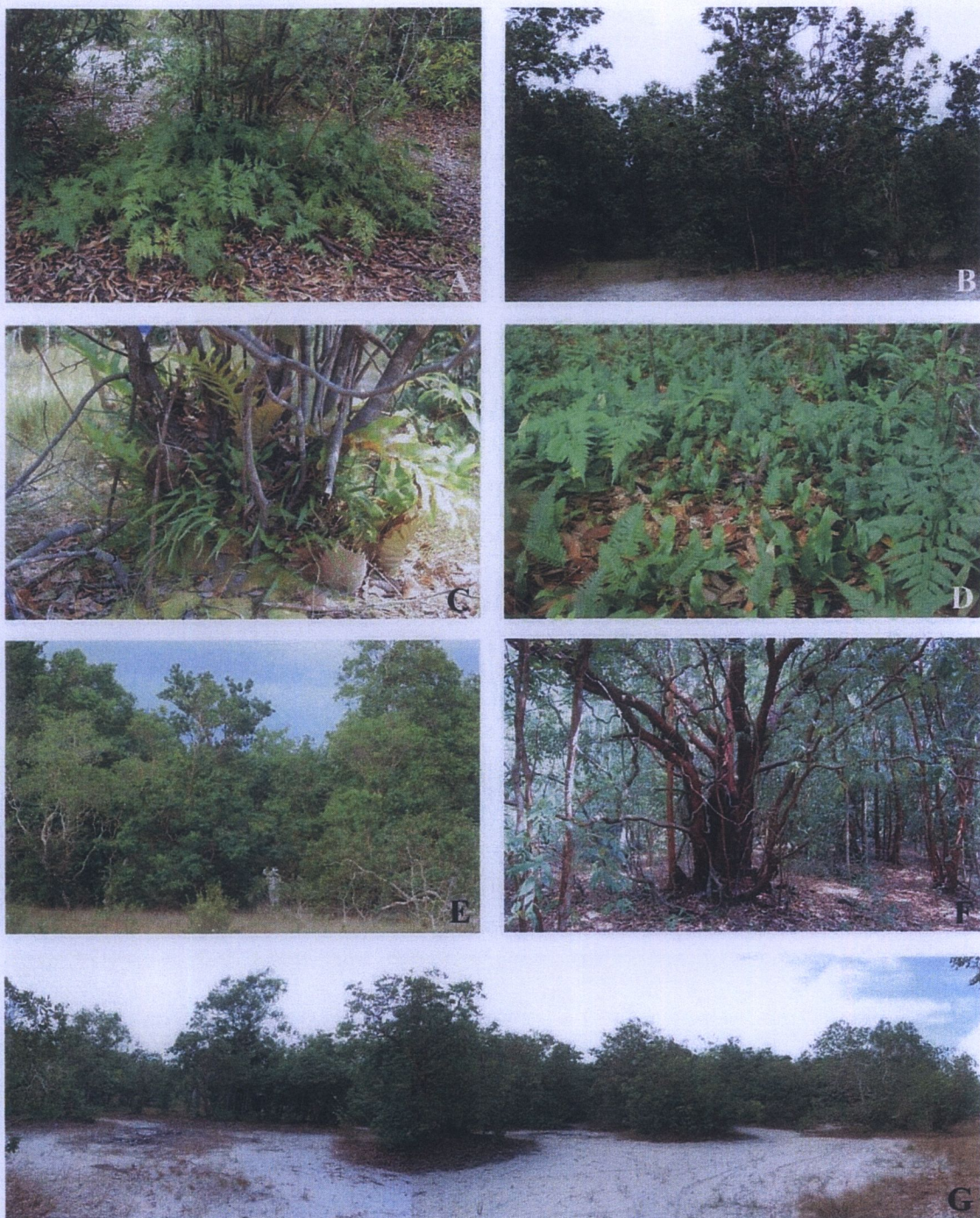
**Plate 28.** A-E Coastal vegetation at Ban Na Thap, Chana district, Songkhla province.  
(study site 10)





**Plate 29.** A-E Coastal vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang, Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang National Park, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province. (study site 11)

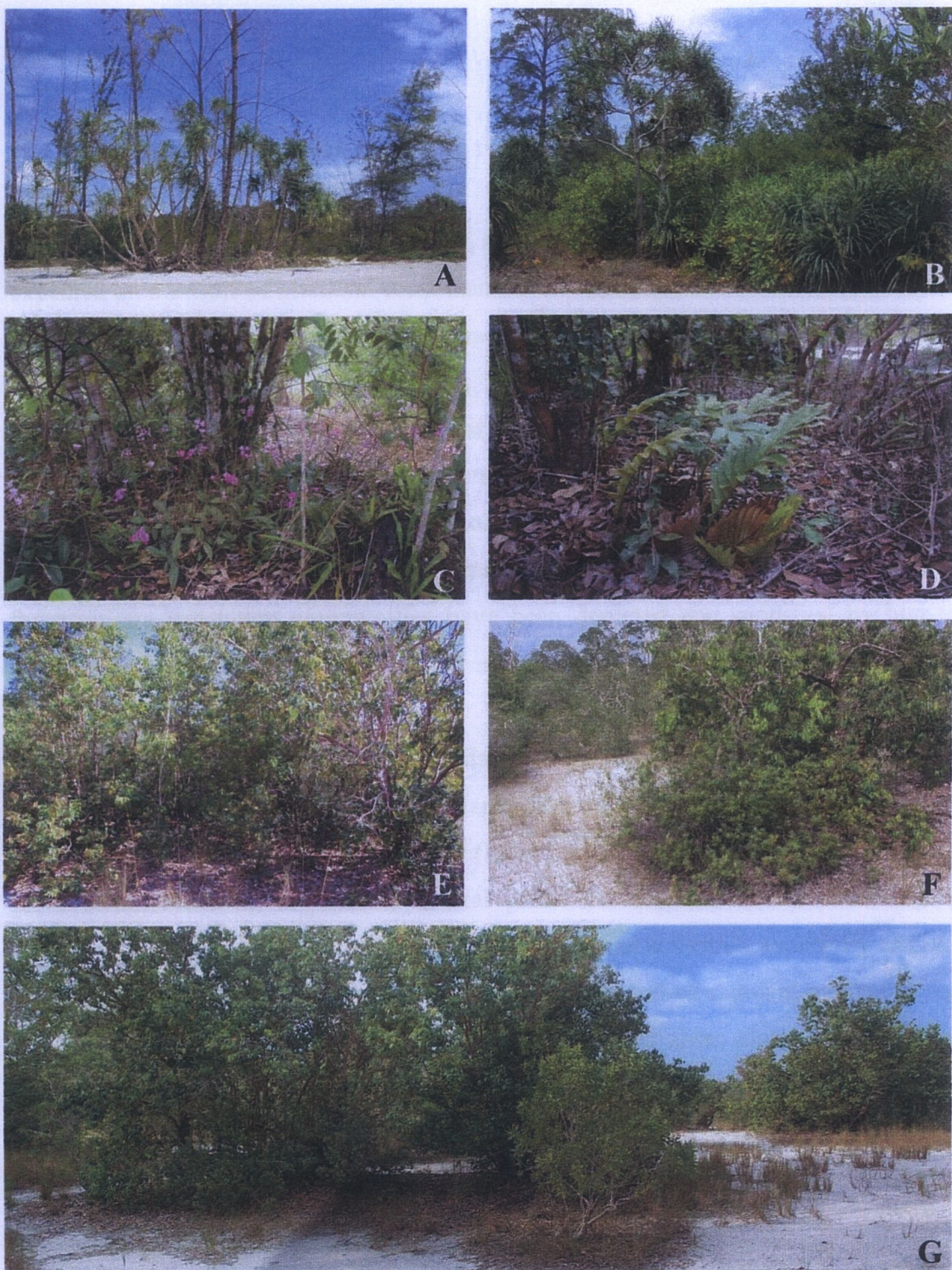




**Plate 30.** A-G Coastal vegetation at Hat Thung Thale, Thung Tale Non-hunting Areas, Ko Lanta district, Krabi province. (study site 12)

Plate 31. A-G Coastal vegetation at Hat Chao Mai National Park, Sikao district, Trang province. (study site 13)





**Plate 31.** A-G Coastal vegetation at Hat Chao Mai National Park, Sikao district, Trang province. (study site 13)



## DISCUSSION

### 1. Coastal plant communities areas on the sandbars/dunes/beach in peninsular Thailand

More remnants of the peninsular natural coastal plant communities can be expected on the Gulf of Thailand coast than on the Andaman Sea coast because of the wider coastal plain of the former characterized by an emergent shoreline from Chumphon to Narathiwat (Figure 2).

The shoreline along the Gulf of Thailand is rather straight and smooth deposited sediments form many sandbars and offshore bars (Pongsaputra, 1991). On these long sandbars parallel to the coastline, unique plant communities have developed in a continuous strip from Chumphon to Narathiwat. However, most of these unique vegetation communities have been depleted and modified by human activities. As a consequence, many fragmentary remnants of those plant communities can be encountered along the coastline.

Unlike the eastern coast, the Andaman Sea coast is a submergent shoreline characterized by narrow coastal plains flanked by steep slopes, and in certain parts, sea cliffs are common in the landscape (Pongsaputra, 1991). However, the unique plant communities on the narrow coastal plains of the Andaman Sea are highly threatened or have even disappeared as a result of human activities, especially tourism and urban development. Only a few healthy or less disturbed remnant patches of the natural coastal vegetation can be witnessed in protected areas along the Andaman coast, either in national parks or non-hunting areas.

### 2. The Abundance of the plant species in the study areas

#### 2.1 Flowering plants

The biggest group among dicotyledonous species is the family Rubiaceae (Table 6). Sixteen species had been recorded. The richest group in monocotyledon species is the orchids (Table 7). Twenty-four species in eighteen genera of orchid family had been found. The interested groups of the monocotyledons are Cyperaceae and Poaceae, respectively (Table 7). They occur in the area next to the tidal zone.

## 1.2 Non flowering plants

On the ground layer (forest floor), there are fern species. A dominant group in the study area is the family Polypodiaceae (Table 8). There are seven species that recorded, i.e., *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Drynaria sparsisora*, *Microsorium scolopendria*, *Microsorium punctatum*, *Pyrrosia adnascens*, *Pyrrosia piloselloide* and *Pyrrosia longifolia*. Three gymnosperms were recorded in the study site, i.e., *Cycas rumphii*, *Gnetum* sp. and *Podocarpus neriifolius* (Table 8).

## Species composition of the coastal plant communities on the sandbars and sand dune in peninsular Thailand

The species composition at the selected sites varies slightly from site to site according to local factors and the topography of the shoreline. However, all of the selected sites have quite a number of plant species in common. The most common species characterising the coastal plant communities on sandbars are tree species in the family Myrtaceae, i.e., *Syzygium grande* and *S. gratum* (Table 6). These two dominant species of the coastal vegetation on sandbars have also been reported by Congdon (1982), Sridith (2002), Sridith & Laongpol (2003), and Laongpol *et al.* (2005). The characteristically xeromorphic features of these plant species, such as sclerophyllous/succulent thick leaves, render them able to withstand the unfavourable environment of the coastal sandbars. In addition, there are many more plant species which can be found in common, e.g., tree species: *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Olea brachiata*, *Shorea roxburghii*; shrub species: *Melastoma malabathricum*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*; climber species: *Aganosma marginata*, *Hoya parasitica*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Tetracera indica* (table 6); herbaceous species: *Dianella ensifolia*, orchids: *Dendrobium crumenatum*, *Doritis pulcherima*, *Cymbidium findlaysonianum* and fern species: *Davallia denticulata*; *Drynaria sparsisora* (table 7). The term coastal heath forest mentioned by Congdon (1982) and Whitmore (1985) can also be applied to this coastal vegetation type. There is no doubt that this type of vegetation once occurred luxuriantly in a continuous strip along the coastal sandbars. Though all the remnant patches of the coastal vegetation on the sandbars, dunes and beaches on both sides of the peninsula harbour many plant species in common, only a



few are distributed on just one coast. *Hydrophylax maritima* (Rubiaceae) and *Styphelia malayana* (Epacridaceae) (Table 6), a Malesian element, for example, are distributed along the western coast of Thai-Malay peninsula to the northernmost limit in Thai Mueang beach, Phangnga province. On the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand, some Indo-Chinese elements have a southernmost limit at Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province, such as *Sindora siamensis* (Fabaceae) (Table 6). It is interesting to note that *Podocarpus neriifolia* (Podocarpaceae) (Table 8), a rare gymnosperm species which is normally found in Thailand as a lower montane element above 600 m elevation, is for the first time recorded here near sea level on the coastal sandbar at Thai-Mueang beach, Phangnga province.

### **Vegetation profiles along the coastal sandbars in peninsular Thailand**

The profiles of actual plant communities in the study areas (Figure 7–15) clearly exhibit various structures of the unique vegetation and typical floristic composition on the coastal sandbars. The vegetation can be divided into two main categories according to the topographic features of the sandbars.

#### **1. Vegetation on coastal sandbars due to the sedimentation from sea currents**

Twelve selected sites (No. 2–13) fall into this category. The vegetation of this kind, in general, can be subdivided into three main zones in accordance with previous studies of such vegetation on the eastern coast of the peninsular Thailand (Suzuki *et al.*, 2005), i.e., dune grassland communities; dune scrub communities and dune woodland communities. However, some features represent the transition between the various vegetation zones on the western coast and the eastern coast of the peninsula.

##### ***1.1 Vegetation on the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand*** (Figure 7–12, Plate 20–28)

The natural vegetation on the coastal sandbars of the east is likely to have extended from the North of the peninsula in Chumphon province and run continually throughout peninsular Malaysia. However, most of the natural vegetation on the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand has been depleted for a long time. Only the

remnants of the natural vegetation left in isolated patches along the coast can be recognized in some places. The remnants of such vegetation at "Chaiya sandbar" in Surat Thani province are typical of natural sandbar vegetation. In Chaiya district, many remnant patches of natural sandbar vegetation can be seen in fragmented patches along the Chaiya sandbars from Ban Takrop to Ban Nuea (Figure 9–11). The dune grassland communities, which lie next to the shoreline, consist of *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Ipomoea imperati*, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *Remirea maritima*, *Chrysopogon orientalis*, *Ischaemum muticum*, *Spinifex littoreus*, *Zoysia matrella*, *Vitex rotundifolia*, *Canavalia rosea* and *Vigna marina*. The next zone to the dune grassland is dune scrub communities (Figure 9) (site 7, Ban Laem Pho 1), which is the most distinct type and comprises many stunted shrubby tree species 5–8 m in height, e.g., *Vatica harmandiana*, *Syzygium gratum*, *Eurycoma logifolia*, *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Rapanea portेरiana*, *Olea brachiata*, *Acronychia pedunculata* and *Pouteria obovata*, shrub species such as *Salacia chinensis*, *Breynia racemosa*, *Suregada multiflorum*, *Melastoma malabathricum*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Catunaregam tomentosa*, *Atalantia monophylla*, *Micromelum minutum*. The ground cover consists of *Dianella ensifolia*, *Wikstroemia ridleyi*, orchids such as *Doritis pulcherrima*, ferns like *Davallia denticulata*, *Drynaria sparsisora* and vines such as *Cansjera rheedei*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Dischidia major* and *Hoya parasitica* are scattered. The last zone is the dune woodland communities (Figure 8, 10, 11, 12). At Ban Laem Pho 2 (site 8) (Figure 10) which are three-storied. The canopy layer is 13–15 m in height and consists of *Shorea roxburghii*. The lower storey is 10–12 m in height and constituted by smaller trees such as *Vatica harmandiana* and *Vitex pinnata*. The undergrowth is composed of shrub species such as *Eurycoma longifolia*, *Pouteria obovata*, *Rapanea portेरiana*, *Ochna integerrima*, *Ardisia crenata*, *Olea brachiata*, *Champereia manillana*, *Carallia brachiata*, *Ixora javanica*, *Micromelum minutum*, *Microcos tomentosa*, climbers such as *Tetracera indica*, *Ancistrocladus tectorius*, *Dischidia major*, *Hoya parasitica*, *Cansjera rheedei*, *Psychotria sarmentosa* and ferns such as *Davallia denticulata*, *Drynaria sparsisora*. Herbs such as *Dianella ensifolia* are also abundant. However, at the gulf at Ao Panang Tak (site 2) (Figure 8) and at the inland sanddunes at Ban Nuea (site 9) (Figure 11) and Ban Na Thap (site 10) (Figure 12), the woodland



communities possess three layers and differ slightly from the above. At Ao Panang Tak (site 2), the topmost storey there is 15-18 m in height and consists of *Dipterocarpus alatus*. The lower storey is 7-12 m in height, consists of *Carallia brachiata*, *Vatica harmandiana* and *Pouteria obovata*. At Ban Nuea, the topmost storey there is 25-30 m in height, consisting of *Dipterocarpus chartaceus* and *D. alatus*. The lower layer is 15-20 m in height, comprising *Mangifera indica* and *Shorea roxburghii*. At Ban Na Thap the canopy layer is 7-9 m in height and consists of *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, *Syzygium grande*. The lower storey is 4-5 m in height and consists of *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, *Olea brachiata*, *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Syzygium gratum* and *Calophyllum pulcherimum*. The undergrowth of woodland vegetation has been disturbed by human activities, but there are some native species such as *Memecylon ovatum*, *Ardisia crenata*, *Ochna integerrima*, *Champereia manillana*, *Morinda elliptica*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Prismatomeris tetranda* and *Eurycoma longifolia*.

### 1.2 Vegetation on the western coast of the peninsular Thailand (Figures 13-15, plates 29-31)

Unlike the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand, the western coastal vegetation has developed on the narrow sandbars in small fragmented patches according to the topographic features of each coastal sandbar. However, almost all natural vegetation along the western coast of peninsular Thailand had been already destroyed or modified as a result of the tourism business, especially sea resorts. There are a few remnants of natural sandbar vegetation left in some protected areas along the coastline, such as Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang National Park (site 11), Thung Thale non-hunting areas (site 12) and Hat Chao Mai National Park (site 13). The profiles of remnant patches at Hat Thai Mueang (site 11) seem to be typical representatives of sandbar vegetation along the western coast of the peninsular Thailand. Though some parts of the vegetation at Hat Thai Mueang were destroyed by the "Tsunami" tidal waves in 2005, the remaining fragmented patches left along the sandbar coast still exhibit typical sandbar vegetation along the western coast of the peninsula. The profile diagrams illustrate the structure of the plant communities in the areas from the tidal zone towards the innermost zone of the sandbar, i.e., coastal scrub (Figure 13).

The first area of coastal dune scrub community is composed of *Hydrophylax maritima*, *Ischaemum muticum*, *Crinum northianum*, *Scaevola taccada*, *Pandanus odoratissimus*, *Diospyros areolata*, *D. ferrea*, *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Atalantia monophylla* and *Pouteria obovata*. On the inner dunes the coastal scrub community is scattered and separated by small patches of other plant communities (Figure 14; plate 29 D). They are formed by characteristic species of the sandbar vegetation on the western coast that differ from those on the eastern coast. Each small coastal dune scrub community is composed of tree or shrubby tree species, e.g., *Cotylelobium lanceolatum* and *Rapania porteriana* surrounded by other shrubby trees or shrub species, e.g., *Syzygium gratum*, *Styphelia malayana*, *Rhodamnia cinerea*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* and some orchids, e.g., *Doritis pulcherrima*, *Dendrobium crumenatum*, *Dendrobium indivisum* and *Dendrobium pachyphyllum*. The coastal dune woodland communities (Figure 15) occur in a continual narrow strip according to the length of the dune, and possess three storeys. The canopy layer is 15–18 m in height and dominated by dipterocarp tree species, e.g., *Shorea roxburghii*. The lower tree layer is 8–10 m in height, comprising shrubby tree species, e.g., *Vatica harmandiana*, *Acronychia pedunculata*, *Pouteria obovata* and *Syzygium gratum*. The undergrowth consists of *Rhodamnia cinerea*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* and *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* (for example); ferns are also frequent, such as *Drynaria sparsisora*, *Davallia denticulata*, *D. heterophylla*, *D. pectinata*, *Pyrrosia piloselloides*, *Schizaea dichotoma* and *S. digitata*.

The natural vegetation profiles along the coastal sandbars of peninsular Thailand (Figure 16) may differ slightly from place to place in some details such as vegetation structure and floristic composition. However the profile of the vegetation on the sandbars along the coast shows that the gradient begins next to the tidal zone with coastal grassland in zone 2 (Figure 16), coastal scrub vegetation in zone 3 and woodland vegetation in zone 4 were found on the sandbars next to the shoreline while on the inland sandbars only woodland vegetation occurs which have also been reported by Sridith & Laongpol (2003). The establishment of the coastal dune grassland and coastal shrub communities, apart from edaphic factors, seem to be governed by strong winds from the open sea. Unlike the noticeably changeable zonations of the mangrove swamp community, the development and establishment of

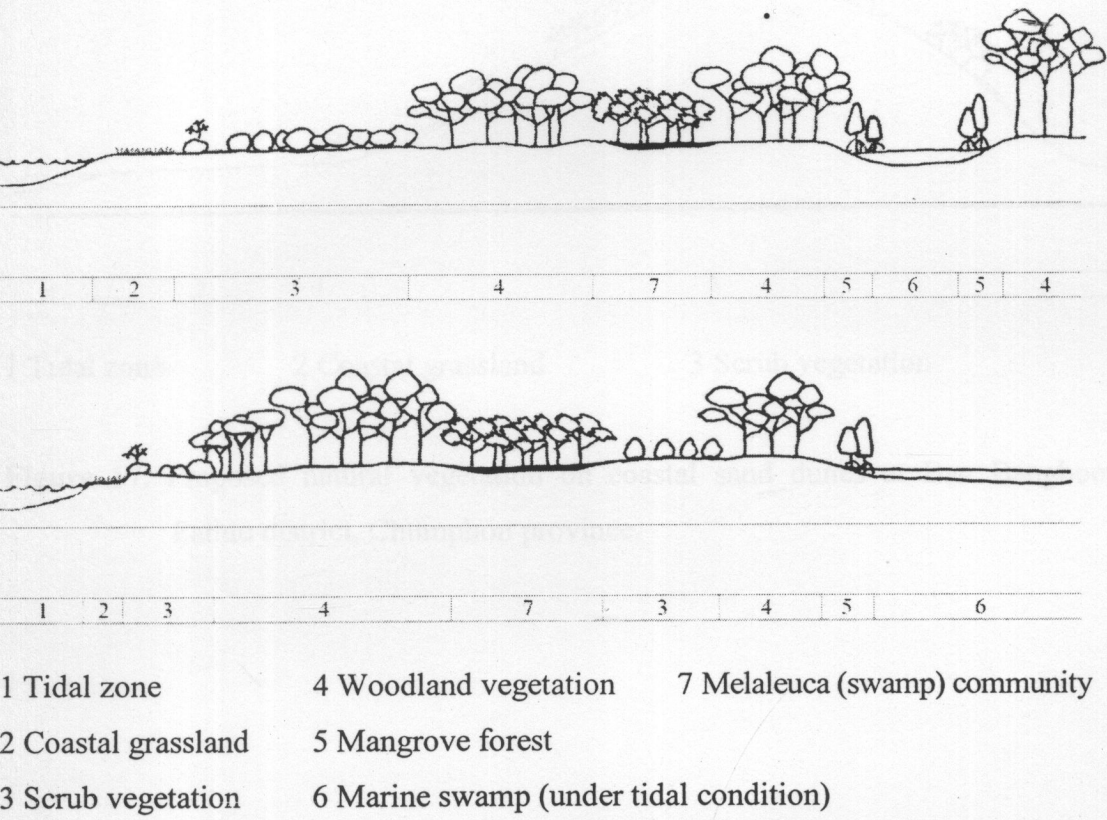


coastal sandbar vegetation in term of species distribution are quite stable. In certain localities, mangrove and coastal sandbar vegetation are interrupted by a secondary swamp community dominated by pure stands of *Melaleuca cajuputi* Powell. in zone 7.

## 2. Vegetation on the coastal sandbars due to wind storms.

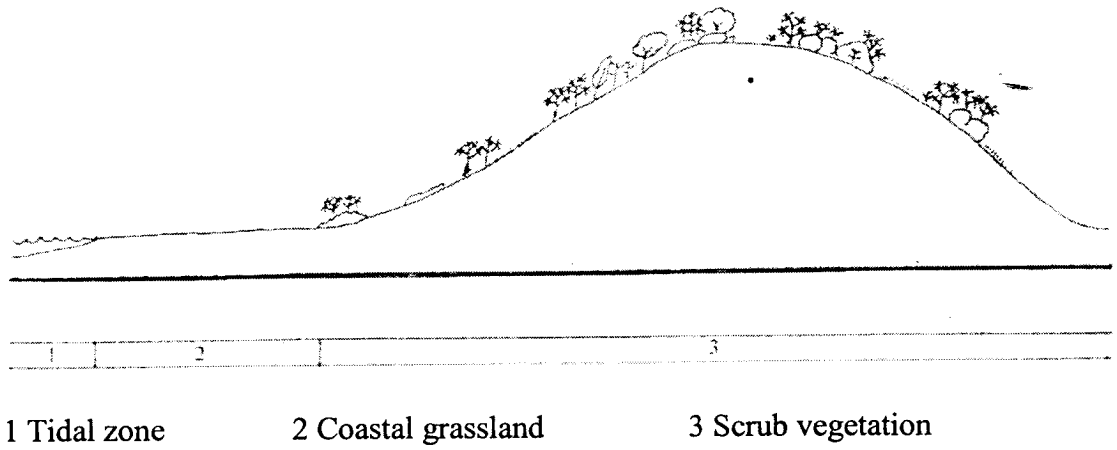
Only one site on the northernmost part of the peninsula is recognized (site 1). This is a characteristic community and unique on the plain of the eastern coast of peninsular Thailand. The site is located at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province (Plate 19) characterized by the coastal sand dunes resulting from strong winds. The dune features are always subjected to change by the wind. In some places where the existing dunes are less affected by strong winds, the natural vegetation will develop quickly, as soon as the dunes are stable. Therefore, the possible and actual communities found on these unique topographic features are due to the unstable nature of the dunes. There are coastal dune grassland and coastal scrub communities. The coastal dune grassland is composed of *Ipomoea imperati*, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *Fimbristylis sericea* and *Cyperus stoloniferus*. Coastal scrub communities (Figure 7) are composed of shrubby tree and shrub species such as *Syzygium gratum*, *Eurycoma longifolia*, *Pouteria obovata*, *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*, *Sindora siamensis*, *Scaevola taccada*, *Pandanus odoratissimus*, *Diospyros ferrea*, *Ardisia crenata*. There are also climbers and herbs such as *Tetracera indica*, *Dunbaria bella* and *Dianella ensifolia*.

From these studies a profile of the natural vegetation on coastal sand dunes is presented (Figure 17). Sandbars were found only on the seashore, begins next to the tidal zone with narrow strip of coastal grassland and coastal scrub vegetation cover on sand dune.



**Figure 16.** Proposed natural vegetation on the coastal sandbars of the peninsular Thailand: A. on the eastern coast at “Chaiya sandbars”, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province; B. on the western coast at Hat Thai Mueang, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province.





**Figure 17.** Proposed natural vegetation on coastal sand dunes at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.

## CHAPTER 4

### PHYTOSOCIOLOGY

#### RESULTS

The phytosociological data of the terrestrial vegetation along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand were collected from thirteen study sites from December 2006 to December 2008. The mentioned sites had been marked (Figure 2). Plant community types in each study site were analyzed according to the Braun-Blanquet Method (Zülich-Montpellier School) (Table 10-19).

Twenty-eight items of plant communities in three vegetation types, i.e., the Coastal Grassland Vegetation; the Coastal Scrub Vegetation and the Coastal Woodland Vegetation were identified including *Cyperus stoloniferus*, *Vignopomoetum pedis-caprae* community (*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community), *Ischaemum mutricum* community, *Hydrophyllus maritima* community, *Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei* (*Spinifex littoreus* community), *Fimbristylis sericea* community, *Dunbaria bella* community, *Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae* (*Vitex rotundifolia* community), *Scaevola taccada* community, *Pandanus odoratisimus* community, *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* community, *Sindora siamensis* community, *Diospyros ferrea* community, *Polyalthia evacta* community, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* community, *Syzygium gratum* community, *Vacinum brateaum-Olea brachiata* sub-community, *Styphelia malayana-Rhodonia cinerea* sub-community, *Micromelum minutum-Allophyllus cobbe* community, *Psychotria sarmentosa-Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community, *Symplocos cochinchinensis-Lannea coromandelica* community, *Polyalthia evecta* sub-community, typical sub-community, *Memecylon scutellatum* sub-community, *Davallia denticulata-Vatica harmandiana* community *Rhodonia cinerea-Syzygium gratum* community, Typical sub-community and *Styphelia malayana* sub-community.



### A. Coastal Grassland Vegetation (Plate 32)

Seven plant community types belong to a Dune Grassland Vegetation category:

#### 1. *Cyperus stoloniferus* community (Table 10, Plate 33)

This is the farthest terrestrial plant community along the shoreline that occurring next to the tidal zone. It is dominated by *Cyperus stoloniferus* which are growing in dense extensive continual patches. This community had been analyzed at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province and Ao Panang Tak, Mueang chumphon district, Chumphon province. The component species in this community are *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Canavalia rosea*. The total number of the species ranges from 1-3.

#### 2. Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community) (Table 11, Plate 34)

This type of plant community are very common and be able to be found in all study sites of the present study. It is dominated and characterized by *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Canavalia rosea*, the common plant species in an open areas on the higher part (ridges) of the sandy beach or on the low dune plateau. The community height is  $\pm$  5-15 cm with 70-100 % coverage. Some other plant species which could be found are *Ischaemum muticum* and *Sessuvium portulacastrum*. The total number of plant species is 2-4.

This Vigno-Ipomoetum pedis-caprae occurs throughout the world both on the tropical and subtropical sand dunes (Suzuki *et al.* 2005). It is to be noted here also that the *Ipomoea pes-caprae* dominated community in Tropical Asia was also classified into the Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae-association (Miyawaki and Suzuki, 1976).

#### 3. *Ischaemum muticum* community (Table 12, Plate 34)

This community has been occurring widely in all study sites next to the Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community) and is dominated by *Ischaemum muticum*. Other component species in the community are *Canavalia rosea*, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *I. imperati*, *Vitex rotundifolia*;

*Chrysopogon orientalis* and *Cyperus stoloniferus*. The total number of plant species ranges from 2-4.

#### 4. *Hydrophyllex maritima* community (Table 12, Plate 34)

The *Hydrophyllex maritima* community was found only at the east coast of the peninsular Thailand at Hat Thai Mueang, Thai mueang district in Phangnga province. It is very exclusive and, therefore rare. The community had formed small patches in the same vegetation zone as *Ischaemum muticum* community in other places. The companion species of the community are *Ipomoea pes-caprae*; *Canavalia rosea* and *Ischaemum muticum*. The total numbers of plant species of this community are 2-4.

#### 5. *Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei* (*Spinifex littoreus* community) (Table 13, Plate 34)

This plant community is dominated and characterized by *Spinifex littoreus* which form a distinct large patch along the coasts where it occurred. It terminated the zone of coastal grassland vegetation (next to this mentioned community, the coastal vegetation would change to the coastal scrub one). The total coverage of the community could be 80-90 % and the height is 15-60 cm. Other species of this community are *Zoysia matrella*; *Ipomoea pes-caprae*; *Vitex rotundifolia* and *Sessuvium portulacastrum*. The total numbers of plant species of this community are 2-4.

According to the phytosociological comparison (Miyawaki and K. Suzuki, 1976), the *Spinifex*-dominated community can be summarized into the association of *Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei*.

#### 6. *Fimbristylis sericea* community (Table 14, Plate 35)

This community was found only once on the slope of a dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district in Chumphon province. The dominant species is *Fimbristylis sericea*. Other species found are *Ipomoea imperati* and *Ipomoea pes-caprae*. The community height is 30-40 cm with 70-100 % coverage. The total number of plant species ranges from 1-3.



7. *Dunbaria bella* community (Table 14, Plate 35)

This community is characterized by *Dunbaria bella* which was found only on the slope and top of sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district in Chumphon province. The companion species are *Chrysopogon orientalis*; *Cyanotis cristata* and *Polycarpaea corymbosa*. The community height is 25-30 cm with 60-70% coverage. The total numbers of plant species are 2-3.

## B. Coastal Scrub Vegetation

Nine plant community types belong to a Dune Scrub Vegetation category:

8. Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae (*Vitex rotundifolia* community) (Table 15, Plate 36)

The Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae is characterized and dominated by *Vitex rotundifolia*, which is 30-40 cm tall and covers 50-90 %. This community was found at the edge between the Dune Grassland and the Dune Scrub Vegetation. Other species that occur in this community are *Spinifex littoreus* and *Zoysia matrella*. The total numbers of plant species are 2-4.

It is pertinent to note that the main species in this community, *Vitex rotundifolia* is a cosmopolitan one, since it is found throughout the tropical and subtropical coasts all over the world. The *Vitex rotundifolia* scrub community in the tropical Asia was classified into the Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae (Ohba, Miyawaki and Tüxen, 1973).

9. *Scaevola taccada* community (Table 17, Plate 36)

The *Scaevola taccada* community is characterized and dominated by *Scaevola taccada* and *Pandanus odoratisimus*. The total number of plant species range from 2-10. Other plant species found are *Tetracera indica*; *Ipomoea pes-caprae*; *Cassytha filiformis* and *Vigna marina* and grass species, e.g., *Chrysopogon orientalis* and *Ischaemum mutucum*. This is composed as a dominant plant community of the first zone of coastal scrub community, next to the coastal grassland vegetation.

10. *Pandanus odoratissimus* community (Table 16, Plate 37)

This plant community is characterized by *Pandanus odoratissimus*. They were found scattering on the (wind-blown) sand dune of Ban Bangboet, Pathio in Chumphon province. The Other species are *Dianella ensifolia*; *Tetracera loureiri* and *Chrysopogon orientalis*. The total numbers of species are 3-4.

11. *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* community (Table 16, Plate 37)

This community is characterized by *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*. They were found, in the present study, only on the (wind-blown) sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio in Chumphon province. Other species associated are *Dunbaria bella*, *Commelina* sp. etc. The total numbers of plant species are 3-4.

12. *Sindora siamensis* community (Table 16, Plate 37)

This community was found on sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio in Chumphon province. This community characterize by a noticeable *Sindora siamensis*, which forms a low-open crowned community on the sand dune. This is rather characteristic as such community has never been recorded any where else in the peninsular Thailand or the adjacent areas both on the mainland South-East Asia and Islands in the same region. Other species found in the community are *Dunbaria bella* *Commelina* sp. etc. The total number of plant species ranges from 3-4.

13. *Diospyros ferrea* community (Table 16, Plate 37)

This community characterize by *Diospyros ferrea*. They were found only on the (wind-blown) sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio in Chumphon province. Other species found are *Chrysopogon orientalis* and *Cyanotis cristata*. The total numbers of plant species are 3-4.

14. *Polyalthia evacta* community (Table 16, Plate 37)

This community is characterized by *Polyalthia evacta*. Other species that could be found are *Chrysopogon orientalis*, *Cyanotis cristata* and *Cassytha filiformis*. This is the dominant plant community type that occurred in the zone of coastal scrub vegetation on sand dune. The total number of plant species ranges from

2-4.

15. *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* community (Table 17, Plate 37)

This might be one of rather common (secondary) plant community on the coastal sand dunes/bars. It is characterized by *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*. Other species found are *Erythroxylum cuneatum*; *Cassytha filiformis*; *Chrysopogon orientalis* and *Fimbristyrus sericea*. This is the dominant plant community, occurring in separated patches in the coastal scrub vegetation on sand dune. The total number of plant species ranges from 4-11.

16. *Syzygium gratum* community (Table 18, Plate 36)

This community is characterized and dominated by *Syzygium gratum*, which was found at the innermost zone along the coastal areas of peninsular Thailand. The vegetation height is 2.5-10 m. The total number of plant species ranges from 10-17. The plant community was classified into two sub-community: a. *Vaccinium bracteatum*-*Olea brachiata* sub-community and b. *Styphelia malayana*-*Rhodamnia cinerea* sub-community. The *Vaccinium bracteatum*-*Olea brachiata* sub-community is characterized by *Vaccinium bracteatum* and *Olea brachiata*. The total numbers of plant species is 10-17. Other species found in this sub-community are *Eurycoma longifolia*; *Cotylelobium lanceolatum*; *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*; *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*; *Mischocarpus sandiacus* etc. The *Styphelia malayana*-*Rhodamnia cinerea* sub-community is characterized by *Styphelia malayana*, supposed to be a rare species in Thailand and *Rhodamnia cinerea*. The total numbers of plant species are 10-16. Other plant species that could be found in this sub-community are *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*; *Memecylon edule*; *Doritis pulcherrima* *Psychotria sarmentosa* etc.

17. *Micromelum minutum*-*Allophyllus cobbe* community (Table 18, Plate 36)

This community is characterized by *Micromelum minutum*; and *Allophyllus cobbe*. The total number of plant species ranges from 9-11. Other plant species that could be found in this community are *Erythroxylum cuneatum*; *Casearia grewiaefolia*; *Streblus asper*; *Lanea coromendelica*; *Microcos tomentosa* etc.



### C. Coastal Woodland Vegetation (Coastal Forest Vegetation)

Most of the coastal areas in the peninsula Thailand were originally forested, with mangroves backed by swamp forests and terrestrial forest. However, most of the original vegetation has been cleared. But the forest vegetation on the coastal sandbars of the peninsula Thailand is slightly developed. The local people have maintained some natural coastal natural forests and trees for a long time. The forested areas serve as windbreaks and protection from blowing sand, and provide sites for a public cemetery, and other sacred places (Suzuki, Laongpol, and Sridith, 2005). The forest vegetation on the sandbars are now restricted to isolated small patches. All of the forests are similar in structure and physiognomy to lowland dipterocarp evergreen rain forest but with fewer component species per unit area and a lower canopy (maximum ca.30 meters). On the canopy layer, many tree species appear, among which *Dipterocarpus obtusifolia*, *Cotylelobium lanceolatum*, *Shorea roxburghii* and *Syzygium gratum* are most widely distributed. The forests are characterized by epiphytes (as many ferns and orchids) and climbers.

#### 18. *Psychotria sarmentosa*-*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community (Table 19, Plate 38)

On the sandy dry habitat of the coastal dune area, the dipterocarp forests are developed. Data on vegetation at 2 sites were collected at Ban Na Thap (Chana district, Songkla province). The forests are summarized as a *Psychotria sarmentosa*-*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community. The community is characterized by the dominant *Dipterocarpus obtusifolia* and *Dendrotrophe buxifolia*. The tree-1 layer has a height of 15 m and 90 % coverage, the tre-2 layer has a height of 10 m and 80 %, the shrub layer has a height of 6 m and 60 % coverage, and the herb layer has a height of 1 m and 60-70 % coverage. The total number of species is 39 to 40. The main tree species, except the differential species, are *Dischidia major*, *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*, *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Rapanea porteriana*, *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Syzygium grande*, *Syzygium gratum*, *Olea brachiata*, *Dipterocarpus alatus* and *Ilex cymosa*. The shrub layer, meanwhile, consists of *Prismatomeris tetrandra*, *Davallia denticulata*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Vaccinium bracteatum* and *Garcinia hombroniana*. The herb layer consists of *Ardisia crenata*, *Hoya parasitica*,

*Doritis pulcherrima* and *Dianella ensifolia*.

The *Dipterocarpus obtusifolia*-dominated forests were one of the common types of natural vegetation on the coastal lowland areas of peninsular Thailand in the old days, but, nowadays, the community is not distributed as widely along the coastline, and it occupies only small areas. Although the *Psychotria sarmentosa*-*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community at Ban Na Thap is strongly influenced by human activities such as agriculture, it is a fragmentary natural forest from the phytosociological viewpoint.

This community occurs on the inland sand dune, which is close to the swamp areas (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community). There is a thick litter (leaf litter) on the ground and a thick fibrous root system near the soil surface.

This study site is rather small. It is a local public cemetery (in Thai belief, the plants and trees in the cemetery should not be cut as they believe that there are spirits who protect those trees, and this is why the natural plant community patches have been kept in rather good shape). In addition, there are oil palm and rubber plantations in the surrounding areas.

#### 19. *Symplocos cochinchinensis*-*Lannea coromandelica* community (Table 19, Plate 39)

The typical forest vegetation of the coastal sand bars in the northern part of peninsular Thailand is united into the *Symplocos cochinchinensis*-*Lannea coromandelica* community with *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Chassalia curviflora*, *Breynia glauca* and *Schima wallichii* being the differential species.

The community with rich in broad-leaved tree species, is composed of: a) tree layer-1, having a height of 15–30 m; b) tree layer-2, having a height of 10–15 m; c) a shrub layer having 4–8 m; and d) an herb layer having 1–1.5 m. The total number of component species in the association ranges from 54 to 70 based on the data collected from the 5 stations. The surveyed area of each station is 225–400 square meters. The main species of tree-1 and tree-2 layers are *Lannea coromandelica*, *Cotylelobium lanceolatum*, *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Mischocarpus sundaicus*, *Vatica*

*harmandiana*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Garcinia cowa*, *Eurycoma longifolia*, *Aporosa symplocoides*, *Schima wallichii*, *Cansjera rheedei*, *Memecylon ovatum* and *Pleurostyliia opposita*. The shrub layer, meanwhile, consists of *Champereia manillana*, *Prismatomeris tetrandra*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Viscum articulatum*, *Davallia denticulate*, *Ochna integrissima*, *Vaccinium bracteatum*, and *Garcinia hombroniana*. The herb layer is mainly composed of *Chassalia curviflora*, *Ardisia crenata*, *Tetracera indica*, *Dianella ensifolia* and *Doritis pulcherrima*.

From the phytosociological viewpoint, the *Symplocos cochinchinensis*-*Lannea coromandelica* community is divided into three sub-communities: a. sub-community of *Polyalthia evecta*, b. typical sub-community, and c. sub-community of *Memecylon scutellatum*.

#### a. Sub-community of *Polyalthia evecta* (Table 19)

The sub-community of *Polyalthia evecta* is dominated by *Shorea roxburghii* (Dipterocarpaceae) and characterized by *Polyalthia evecta*, *Shorea roxburghii*, *Tacca integrifolia*, *Bridelia ovate*, *Vatica harmandiana*, *Leucas zeylanica*, *Triumfetta grandidens* and *Amorphophallus* sp. The *Polyalthia evecta* sub-community is composed of 4 layers. The tree-1 layer has an 18–30 m and 90–95 % coverage. The main tree species are *Shorea roxburghii*, *Vatica harmandiana* and *Lannea coromandelica*. The main species in the tree-2 layer is *Eurycoma longifolia*. The main species in the shrub layer are *Symplocos cochinchinensis*, *Champereia manillana* and *Garcinia hombroniana*. The main species in the herb layer are *Chassalia curviflora*, *Polyalthia evecta*, *Dianella ensifolia*, *Tacca integrifolia*, *Dioscorea pentaphylla* and *Amorphophallus* sp. Total number of component species is 54 to 63. Data on vegetation at 4 sites were collected at Ban Nuea and Ban Laem Pho 2, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.

This community occurs on the fore-dune and inland sand dune. It is a dry habitat close to the swamp areas (*Melaleuca cajututi* community) and mangrove forest. These areas have been disturbed by local people for a long time. They use the land for sedimentation and agricultural purposes. Most of the big trees, such as *Shorea roxburghii*, have been cut for charcoal making.



b. Typical sub-community (Table 19)

The typical sub-community of the *Symplocos cochinchinensis-Lannea coromandelica* community is dominated by *Cotylelobium lanceolatum* and is composed of 3-4 layers. The tree-1 layers have a 15–20 m and 80-90 % coverage. The main tree species are *Cotylelobium lanceolatum*, *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Mischocarpus sundaicus*, *Canjera rheedei*, *Vatica harmandiana*, *Garcinia cowa*, *Hopea odorata*, *Garcinia hombroniana* and *Mangifera* sp. The shrub layer has a height of 6 m and 40-60 % coverage. The dominant species in this layer are *Champereia manillana*, *Abrus precatorius* and *Davallia denticulata*. The dominant species in the herb layer are *Dianella ensifolia*, *Ardisia crenata* and *Eulophia andamanensis*. Total number of component species is 65 to 70. Data on vegetation at 2 sites were collected at Ban Takrop and the forest reserve at Ban Plongmai, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.

This community occurs at the fore-dune areas, which is close to the swamp areas (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community) and mangrove forest. It is the secondary forest on a sandy habitat that has a thin litter layer on the ground. The local people use big trees such as *Cotylelobium lanceolatum* and *Vatica harmandiana* for wood and charcoal making. Ground covers are still common in dense thickets; therefore, many epiphytes such as orchids (e.g., *Doritis pulcherrima*) as well as ferns (e.g., *Drynaria* spp.) are quite common on the ground.

c. Sub-community of *Memecylon scutellatum* (Table 19)

The sub-community of *Memecylon scutellatum* is the mixed forest vegetation with rich in broad-leaved tree species, and it is characterized by *Memecylon scutellatum*, *Guioa pleuropteris* and *Ancistrocladus tectorius*. The *Memecylon scutellatum* sub-community is composed of 3–4 layers. The tree layers have a 15–20 m and 40–70 % coverage. The rate which covers the upper layer is low. The main tree species are *Cotylelobium lanceolatum*, *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Schima wallichii*, *Memecylon scutellatum*, *Pittosporum ferrugineum*, *Cansjera rheedei*, *Chaetocarpus castanocarpus*, *Mischocarpus sundaicus*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Garcinia cowa*, *Aporosa symplocoides*, *Pleurostyliia opposita*, *Memecylon ovatum* and *Ilex cymosa*. The shrub layer has a height of 5–8 m and 30-90% coverage. The dominant species in this layer are *Champereia manillana*, *Prismatomeris tetrandra*

and *Symplocos cochinchinensis*. The herb layer has a height of 1.5 m and 60–80 % coverage. The dominant species in the herb layer are *Chassalia curviflora*, *Abrus precatorius* and *Vaccinium bracteatum*. Total number of component species is 54 to 67. Data on vegetation at 6 sites were collected at Ban Laem Santi, Lamae district, Chumphon province.

This sub-community the areas behind the beach (coastline). It is the secondary forest on a sandy habitat which has a thin litter layer on the ground. Most tall trees and shrubs have been cut for woods and charcoals, but in spite of that, some interesting ground covers, e.g., orchids, could be seen in some parts of the areas.

20. *Davallia denticulata*–*Vatica harmandiana* community (Table 19, Plate 40)

Secondary forests in the coastal areas at Ban Laem Pho 1 station are summarized into a *Davallia denticulata*–*Vatica harmandiana* community. The *Davallia denticulata*–*Vatica harmandiana* community is dominated by *Vatica harmandiana* of about 10–15 m in height. The community is composed of: a) a tree layer having a height of 10–15 m and 5–95 % coverage; b) a shrub layer having 8–10 m and 4–95 % coverage; and c) an herb layer having 0.5–1 m and 10–50 % coverage. The main species in the tree layer are *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Olea brachiata*, *Syzygium gratum*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Vatica harmandiana* and *Cratoxylum cochinchinense*. The dominant species in the shrub layer is *Davallia denticulata*. The dominant species in the herb layer is *Dianella ensifolia*. Total number of component species is 51 to 52. Data on vegetation at 3 sites were collected at Ban Laem Pho 1, Chaiya district, Surat Thani province.

This community occurs at the foredune which is close to the swamp area (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community). It is a dry habitat with very low nutrients. There is almost no organic layer on the ground.

21. *Rhodamnia cinerea*–*Syzygium gratum* community (Table 19)

Secondary mixed forest vegetation with rich in broad-leaved tree species in the coastal areas at Hat Thai Mueang station are summarized into the

*Rhodamnia cinerea*–*Syzygium gratum* community. The *Rhodamnia cinerea*–*Syzygium gratum* community is characterized by *Rhodamnia cinerea*, *Arachnis flosaeris*, *Podocarpus neriifolius*, *Cycas rumphii*, *Dendrobium pachyphyllum* and *Dracaena* sp. Total number of component species is 46 to 61. The community is composed of: a) a tree layer having a height of 10–15 m; b) a shrub layer having 3–10m; and c) an herb layer having 0.4–1 m. The main species of tree layer are *Arachnis flosaeris*, *Podocarpus neriifolius*, *Syzygium gratum*, *Vatica harmandiana*, *Drynaria quercifolia*, *Psychotria sarmentosa*, *Eurycoma longifolia*, *Mischocarpus sundaicus*, *Dischidia major* and *Acronychia pedunculata*. The dominant species in the shrub layer are *Rhodamnia cinerea*, *Micromelum minutum*, *Alyxia reinwardtii* and *Memecylon ovatum*. The dominant species in the herb layer are *Dianella ensifolia*, *Doritis pulcherrima*, *Rhodamnia cinerea*, *Ardisia crenata*, *Thrixspermum calceolus*, *Doritis pulcherrima* and *Shizaea dichotoma*.

Data on vegetation at 5 sites were collected at Hat Thai Mueang (Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang National Park, Thai Mueang district, Pangnga province, Thailand). From the phytosociological viewpoint, the community is divided into two sub-communities: a. the typical sub-community and b. the sub-community of *Styphelia malayana*. The typical sub-community is dominated by *Syzygium gratum* and *Vatica harmandiana*. The sub-community of *Styphelia malayana* is characterized by *Styphelia malayana*, *Eria affinis*, *Dendrobium indivisum*, *Bulbophyllum planibulbe*, *Hydrophytum formicarum* and *Thrixspermum calceolus*. The species richness of the epiphytes as many ferns and orchids, is the outstanding characteristic of the sub-community.

It is the primary coastal forest occurring on the sand dune. It is situated at the last zone concerning the coastline between the swamp area (*Melaleuca cajuputi* community) and the mangrove forest. It is rather humid (in the dry season), compared with other sites. There is a thick litter layer. There are noticeable orchids and bryophyte species on the ground in this site.



## DISCUSSION

The terrestrial plant community along the coast of the peninsular Thailand could be divided into three main types according to the habits of the dominant plants species and the vegetation height: 1. Coastal Grassland Vegetation 2. Coastal Scrub Vegetation and 3. Coastal Woodland Vegetation.

### 1. Coastal Grassland Vegetation.

The coastal grassland vegetation established on the seashore next to the tidal zone.

In general, the coastal grassland vegetation on both sites of the Peninsular are not different. Some common plant communities could be detected on both sites ie: *Ischaemum mutricum* community Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei (*Spinifex littoreus* community) and Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community). However, slightly differences on two sites, depending on the topographic of sandbars and distribution pattern, were recorded as followed:

#### *The Ban Bangboet (wind-blown) sand dune*

At sand dunes resulting from strong wind at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district Chumphon (east coast). There are plant communities such as *Fimbristylis sericea* community which developed especially at the steep slope facing the strong wind from the east. This community dominate by *Fimbristylis sericea*, *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ipomoea imperatia*. The community at the middle and top of the dunes which dominated by *Dunbaria bella*.

#### *The west coast sandy beach*

On the sandy beach sites of the west coast of the peninsula, *Hydrophyllax maritime* community which dominate by *Hydrophyllax maritima* were recorded in only one site at Hat Thai mueang, Thai mueang Phangnga province.

## 2. Coastal Scrub Vegetation

There is not much difference among the coastal scrub vegetation all over the both sites of the peninsular Thailand. This common coastal scrub vegetation is composed of plant communities, i.e., Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae (*Vitex rotundifolia* community) *Scaevola taccada* – *Pandanus odoratisimus* community *Pandanus odoratisimus* community *Syzygium gratum* community etc.

In any case, the coastal scrub of the sand dune at Ban Bang Boet, which is the only biggest wind-bowled sand dune found on the east coast of the peninsular Thailand, is slightly different from the other sites. These communities are among those, i.e., *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* community *Sindora siamensis* community *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* community and *Polyalthia evacta* community (see also in the result part).

## 3. Coastal Woodland Vegetation

Among researches that have been carried on at the Asian tropical zones and adjacencies (except Mangroves), we can cite Anderson (1963), Whitmore (1984), Miyawaki, Suzuki, Huhg and Kuo (1981), Nakamura and Suzuki (1984, 1986), Clifford and Specht (1979), Phengklai, Niyomdham et al. (1991). The report to be released now is about the coastal littoral forests, which consists of a dry forest vegetation, instead of a swampy one. There are no other phytosociological studies on this vegetation except for the ones published by the above-cited authors.

The coastal forest vegetation of the peninsula Thailand could be expected to be found in greater abundance on the Gulf of Thailand coast than on the Andaman Sea coast, due to the wider coastal plain of the East that is characterized by an emergent shoreline from Chumphon to Narathiwat, and continuing to Malaysia southwards.

On the eastern coast of the Peninsula Thailand, which has long sandbars parallel to the coastline, unique plant communities have developed in a continuous strip from Chumphon to Narathiwat. However, most of the natural vegetation on the eastern coast of the peninsula Thailand has been depleted for a long time. The remnants of the natural vegetation left in isolated patches along the coast can be recognized in only a few places. The remnants of such vegetation at Ban Laem Santi (Lamae district, Chumphorn province), the “Chaiya sandbar” (Chaiya district, Surat

Thani province), and Ban Na Thap (Chana district, Songkla province) represents the typical plant communities on the sandbars. Especially in Chaiya district, many remnant patches of more-or-less natural sandbar vegetation could be seen in fragmented patches along the Chaiya sandbars from Ban Takrop to Ban Nuea (Figure 1). The forest vegetation patches at some selected sites are different from site to site, according to some local factors, such as soil properties, the topographic of the shoreline, and human activities. In general, this vegetation might be classified into 6 categories: the *Psychotia sarmentosa*–*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community, the *Symplocos cochinchinensis*–*Lannea coromandelica* community, the Sub-community of *Polyalthia evecta*, the typical sub-community, the Sub-community of *Polyalthia evecta*, and the *Davallia denticulata*–*Vatica harmandiana* community.

On the western coast of peninsular Thailand, there are unique plant communities on the narrow coastal plains of the Andaman Sea coast left as separated patches at Hat Thai Mueang (Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang National Park, Thai Mueang district, Phangnga province) where a *Rhodamnia cinerea*–*Syzygium gratum* community is occurring at the back of the sand dunes. The establishment of this plant community, apart from other edaphic factors. It might due to the distribution ranges of some elements e.g. as *Styphelia malayana*, a Malaysian element which distributed northwards along the western coast of Thai-Malay peninsula to its northernmost limit in Thai Mueang beach, Phangnga province.

However, the relationship between environmental factors and the actual plant communities should be analyzed and discussed in order to achieve a systematic site classification of the coastal sandbar vegetation of the peninsular Thailand.



Table 10. Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (1)  
1-15: *Cyperus stoloniferus* community

No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Relevé no.:	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	139	140	141	115	116	117
Location:	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
Height of vegetation (cm.):	15	15	15	10	15	10	15	15	10	10	10	10	15	15	15
Cover of vegetation (%):	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	80	70	100	100	90	100	100	100
Quadrat size (qm.):	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1
Total no. of species:	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	1
Differential species of comm.:															
<i>Cyperus stoloniferus</i>	4.3	3.3	3.3	2.3	2.3	1.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	5.5	5.5	2.2	2.3	5.5	5.5
Companions:															
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprea</i>	3.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	+	2.2	2.2	+	2.2	.	.	3.2	.	.	.
<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	1.2	1.2	3.3	2.2	3.3	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.2	.	.	.	.	.	.

Location: 1: Ban Bangboet, 2: Ao Panang Tak, Pathio in Chumphon province.

Table 11. Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (2)

1-16: Vigno-Ipomoetum pedis-caprae (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pescaprae* community)  
17-21 *Hydrophyllex maritima* community

No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Relevé no.:	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	102	103	104	127	128	197	198	151	152	153	154	155
Location	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	2	2	11	11	1	1	1	1	1
Height of vegetation (m.):	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Cover of vegetation (%):	70	60	70	70	80	80	80	80	80	80	70	80	80	80	100	90	70	70	70	70	70
Quadrat size (qm.):	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3	3x3
Total no. of species:	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3
<u>Differential species of comm.:</u>																					
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprea</i>	3.2	2.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.3	2.2	3.3	3.3	5.5	4.4	+	.	+	1.2	.
<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	3.2	3.3	4.3	3.2	3.2	4.4	3.2	3.3	4.3	3.3	+	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.2	3.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
<i>Ischaemum muticum</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.2	1.2	+	2.2	2.2	2.2	.	.	+	1.2	+	+	1.2	2.2	2.2	1.2	+	3.2
<i>Zoysia matrella</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	2.2	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Differential species of comm.:</u>																					
<i>Hydrophyllex maritima</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.2
<u>Companions:</u>																					
<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Location: 1: Ban Bangboet, 2: Ao Panang Tak, Pathio in Chumphon province, 6: Ban Plongmai, Chiya in Surat Thani province, 11: Hat ThaiMueang, Thai Mueang in Phangnga province.

**Table 12. Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (3)**

1-18: *Ischaimum muticum* community

No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Relevé no.:	1	2	3	5	129	130	131	132	133	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	105	106	107	199	200	201
Location:	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	11	11	11
Height of vegetation (m.):	50	50	50	50	30	40	40	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Cover of vegetation (%):	90	90	90	95	70	80	80	80	90	80	70	80	70	80	80	80	70	80	80	80	80	70
Quadrat size (qm.):	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1	1x1
Total no. of species:	4	5	5	5	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2

Differential species of comm.:

<i>Ischaimum muticum</i>	4.4	4.4	2.2	4.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.4	1.2	2.2	3.3	4.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.2	2.2	3.3	2.3	4.4	2.2
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Companions:

<i>Spinifex littoreus</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	3.3	2.2	2.2	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	.	.	.	1.1	2.2	3.3	1.2	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.2	2.2	1.2	1.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprea</i>	.	.	.	.	2.2	.	3.3	3.3	1.2	.	.	.	.	1.2	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	2.2
<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i>	.	3.2	4.4	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	+	1.2	3.3	2.3	.	.
<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	2.2	2.2	.	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	1.2	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cyperus stoloniferus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	2.2	.	.	.	.

Location: 1: Ban Bangboet, 2: Ao Panang Tak, Pathio in Chumphon province, 6: Ban Plongmai, Chiya in Surat Thani province,

11: Hat Thai Mueang, Thai Mueang in Phangnga province.





**Table 14. Coastal Grassland-Vegetation (5)**1-6: *Fimbristylis sericea* community7-11: *Dunbaria bella* community

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Relevé no.	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177
Location:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Height of vegetation (cm.):	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	40	30	40	30	30
Cover of vegetation (%)	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	60	60	70	60	60
Quadrat size (qm.):	1X1	1X1	1X1	1X1	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2	2x2
Total no. of species:	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
<u>Differential species of comm.:</u>														
<i>Fimbristylis sericea</i>	3.3	2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ipomoea imperati</i>	.	.	.	2.2	2.2	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ipomoea pes-paprae</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	2.2	2.2	.	.	.	.	.
<u>Differential species of comm.:</u>														
<i>Dunbaria bella</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.3	3.3	4.4	2.3	3.3
<u>Companions:</u>														
<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	2.2	1.2	+	1.2
<i>Cyanotis cristata</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	.	1.2	.	.
<i>Polycarpaea corymbosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Location: 1: Ban Bangboet, Pathio district in Chumphon province.





Table 16. Coastal Scrub-Vegetation (2)

1-3: *Pandanus odoratissimus* community  
 4-7: *Calophyllum pulsherimum* community  
 8-10: *Cindora siamensis* community  
 11-15: *Diospyros ferrea* community  
 16-19: *Polyalthia evecta* community

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Relevé no.	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196
Location:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Height of vegetation (m.):	3	4	3	1.5	1.5	0.6	2	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3
Cover of vegetation (%)	90	90	90	95	80	80	95	60	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	70
Quadrat size (qm.):	5x5	5x5	5x5	3x3	3x3	3x3	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4
Total no. of species:	5	4	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2
<u>Differential species of comm.:</u>																			
<i>Pandanus odoratissimus</i>	4.1	4.1	4.1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Calophyllum pulsherimum</i>	.	.	.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sindora siamensis</i>	+	.	.	.	+	+	.	4.1	4.1	4.1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Diospyros ferrea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.1	3.1	.	.	.	.
<i>Polyalthia evecta</i>	.	.	.	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	4.1	3.1	4.1	4.1
<u>Companions:</u>																			
<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i>	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
<i>Cyanotis cristata</i>	.	.	.	.	1.2	2.2	.	.	+	1.2	.	.	+	2.2	2.2	1.2	1.2	.	.
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.
<i>Tetracera indica</i>	2.2	3.3	2.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Dilanella ensifolia</i>	1.2	1.2	1.2	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Location: 1: Ban Bangboet, Pathio in Chumphon province.

Table 17. Coastal Scrub- Vegetation (3)

1-5: *Rhodomirtus tomentosa* community6-21: *Scaevola taccada* community

No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Releve no.:	97	92	94	96	93	43	44	42	41	45	287	48	46	47	21	20	286	50	51	52	49
Location:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21	1	1	1	2	2	21	1	1	1	1
Height of shrub layer (m.):	1	1	1	1	1	5-8	4-6	5-8	4-6	4-6	6	1.5	3	3	10	10	7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.5
Cover of shrub (%)	90	90	90	90	95	70	80	100	95	90	95	70	80	90	90	90	80	90	95	95	90
Height of herb layer (m.):	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cover of herb (%)	10	15	15	10	10	10	10	15	10	10	3	10	15	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	15
Quadrat size (qm.):	3x6	2x6	3x6	5x5	3x6	10	10	25	25	8x12	10x10	4x6	8x5	7x4	8x8	10x10	10x10	5x6	5x6	6x8	5x6
Total no. of species:	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	10	2	4	7	7	7	8	4	5	6	6	8

Differential species of community:*Rhodomirtus tomentosa**Fimbristylis sericea*Differential species of community:*Scaevola taccada**Chrysopogon orientalis**Ischaemum muticum**Pandanus odoratissimus**Tetracera indica**Vigna marina**Zoysia matrella**Fimbristylis sp.*

5.5	4.4	5.5	5.5	4.3
2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.3

4.4	4.4	4.4	3.3	3.3	5.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.2	4.4	4.4	1.2	1.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	2.2
2.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

3.2	2.1	2.1	4.4	3.3
1.2	2.4	1.2		

4.4	4.4
-----	-----

+2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2









Table 18. (continued)

<i>Rhodomystus tomentosa</i>	2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	3.3	3.3	.
<i>Champerita manillana</i>	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.2	2.2	.	.	.	1.2	+	1.2	.	1.2	2.2	1.1	2.1	2.2
<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.1	1.1	2.1
<i>Calophyllum pulcherimum</i>	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	.	.	.	1.2	.	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Mischocarpus sundaicus</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	.	.	.	+	+	+	2.2	2.2	.	+	.	1.2	.	.	.
<i>Davallia denticulata</i>	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	1.2	1.2	2.2	+	1.2	2.2	1.2	1.2	.	4.4	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rapanea portleriana</i>	.	.	1.1	.	.	.	.	2.1	.	.	.	+	.	(+)	.	1.2	.	.	.	.
<i>Pouteria obovata</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	+	.	1.2	1.2	+	1.1	1.1	2.2
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	2.2	+	3.3	.	2.2	1.1	.
<i>Styphelia malayana</i>	.	.	.	.	.	4.3	3.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	4.4	4.4	5.4	4.4	5.4	4.4	5.4
<i>Rhodamnia cinerea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2
<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	1.2	3.2	2.2
<i>Phalaenopsis pulcherrima</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	1.2	3.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
<i>Psychotria sarmentosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	1.2	+	+
<i>Memecylon edule</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	.	1.2	1.2	2.1	2.2

Differential species of community:

<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.3	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2
<i>Allophylus cobbe</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.3	1.1	2.2	2.3	3.3
<i>Erythroxylum cuneatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	3.4	2.2	2.2
<i>Casertia grewiaifolia</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.1	.	1.1	2.1	.
<i>Zoysia matrella</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	1.1	2.2	.	1.1
<i>Sireblus asper</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.2	1.1	.
<i>Guioa pleuropteris</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.2	1.1	.
<i>Oxycteros longiflora</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3.2
<i>Listia glutinosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.1
<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4.1
<i>Dioscorea</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.1	1.2	.	.	.

























**Plate 32.** Coastal grassland vegetation along the coast of peninsular Thailand: A, B. Grassland vegetation at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district; C, D. Grassland vegetation at Ao Panang Tak, Mueang district Chumphon province; E, F. grassland vegetation at Ban Plongmai, Chiya district Chumphon province; G, H. Grassland vegetation at Hat Thaimuenag, Thai muenag district Phangnga province.





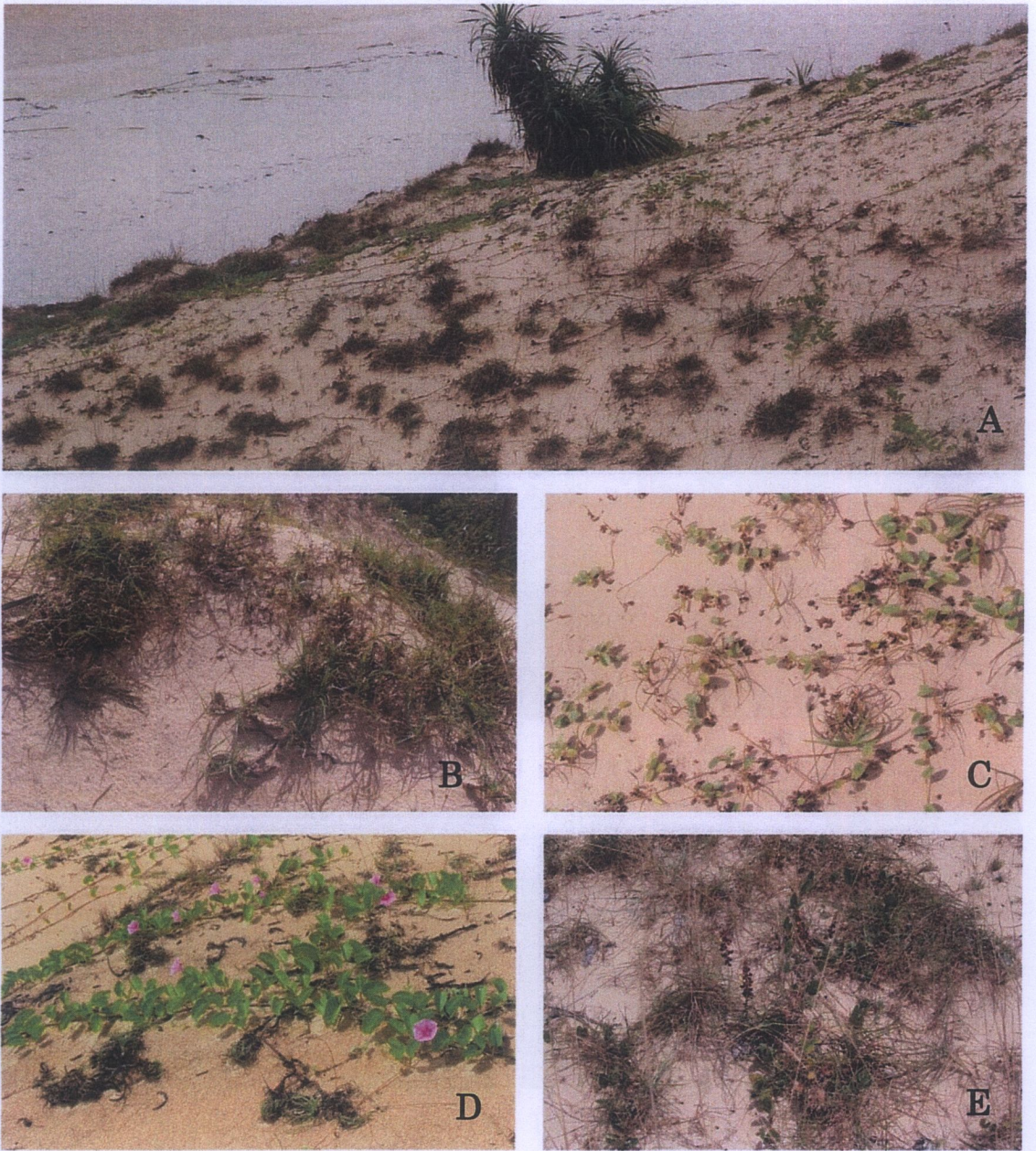
**Plate 33.** Coastal grassland vegetation: A-D. *Cyperus stoloniferus* community at Ao Panang Tak, Mueang Chumphon district, Chumphon province; E. *Cyperus stoloniferus* community at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province.





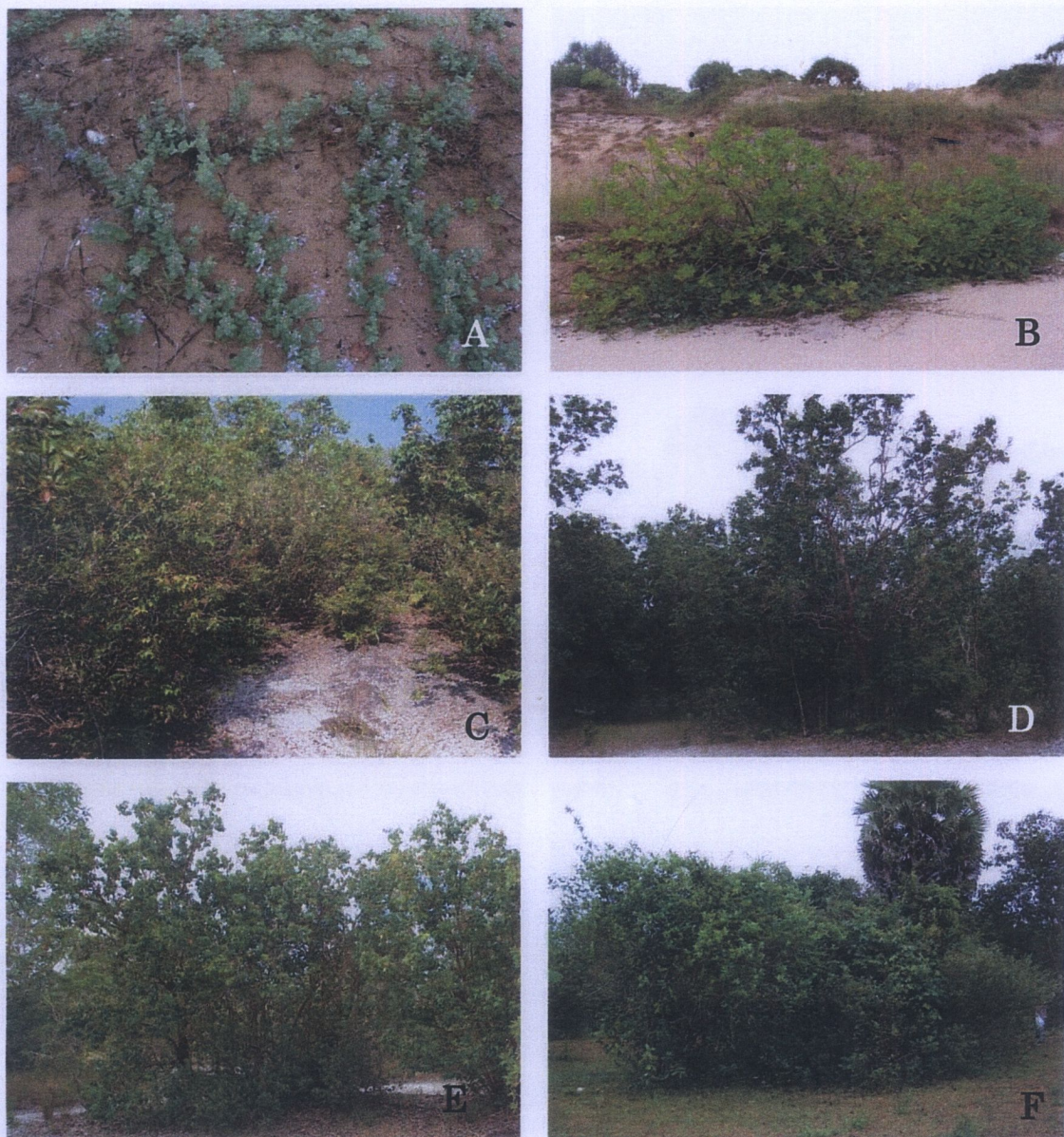
**Plate 34.** Coastal grassland vegetation. A, B. *Ischaimum mutricum* community; C, D, E. *Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae* (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community); F *Hydrophylax maritima* community; G, H. *Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei* (*Spinifex littoreus* community).





**Plate 35.** Coastal grassland vegetation on sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province: A. Coastal grassland vegetation at the slope of sand-dune; B-D. *Fimbristylis sericea* community; E. *Dunbaria bella* community.





**Plate 36.** Coastal scrub vegetation: A. *Thuareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae* (*Vitex rotundifolia* community) at Ao Panang Tak, Chumphon province; B. *Scaevola taccada* community at Banbangboet, Chumphon province; C-E. *Syzygium gratum* community at Ban Thung Tako, Chumphon province Ban Pak Khlong, Krabi province and Hat Yong Ling, Trang province. F. *Micromelum minutum-Allophylus cobbe* community at Ao Panang Tak Chumphon province.





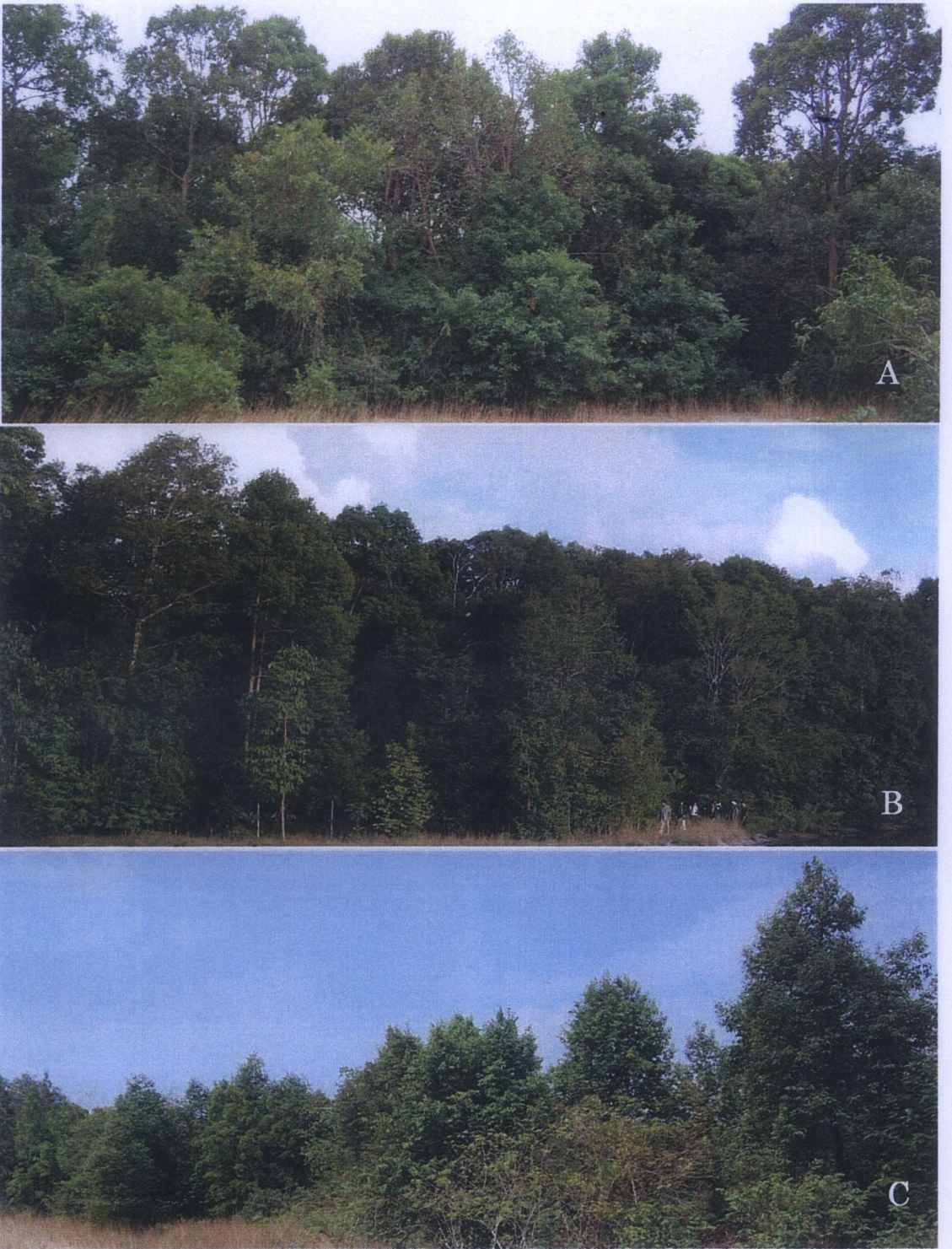
**Plate 37.** Coastal scrub vegetation on sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon province: A. *Pandanus odoratisimus* community; B. *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* community; C. *Diospyros ferrea* community; D. *Calophyllum pulcherrimum* community; E. *Polyalthia evecta* community; F. *Sindora siamensis* community.





**Plate 38.** Coastal woodland vegetation: A, B. *Psychotria saementosa*-*Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community





**Plate 39.** Coastal woodland vegetation: A-C. *Symplocos cochinchinensis*-*Lannea coromandelica* community.





**Plate 40.** Coastal woodland vegetation; A, B. *Dalvalla denticulate-Vatica harmandiana* community.





**Plate 41.** Coastal woodland vegetation: A, B. *Rhodamnia cinera*-*Syzygium gratum* community.

Hat Phe	2.0	4.2	8.7	1401/2008
Hat Phung	1.8	5.22	31.4	1401/2008
Hat Lam Thoi	1.3	6.74	19.2	1401/2008
Hat Lam Thoi 2	1			
Hat Nhon	1.5	6.09	73.3	1401/2008
Hat Nhieu	2.0	7.14	161	1401/2008
Along the coast road				
Hat Thoi Maung	1.3	6.32	19.3	1401/2008
Hat Thung Thoi	0.9	5.37	1.2	1401/2008
Hat Yung Ung	1.2	7.05	21.2	1401/2008

## CHAPTER 5

### SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS

#### RESULTS

Selected environmental parameters which might have impacts on the structure as well as the plant species composition of the terrestrial coastal vegetation on the sandbars/dunes in the Peninsular Thailand had been investigated and discussed with respect to site classification.

#### Environmental parameters:

##### 1. Ground water

The ground water levels in all sites vary from 0.3-2.0 m deep from the ground surface. The electrical conductivity ranges from 3.2 to 87.9. The pH values range from 4.9-7.1 (Table 20).

**Table 20.** Analytical data of groundwater.

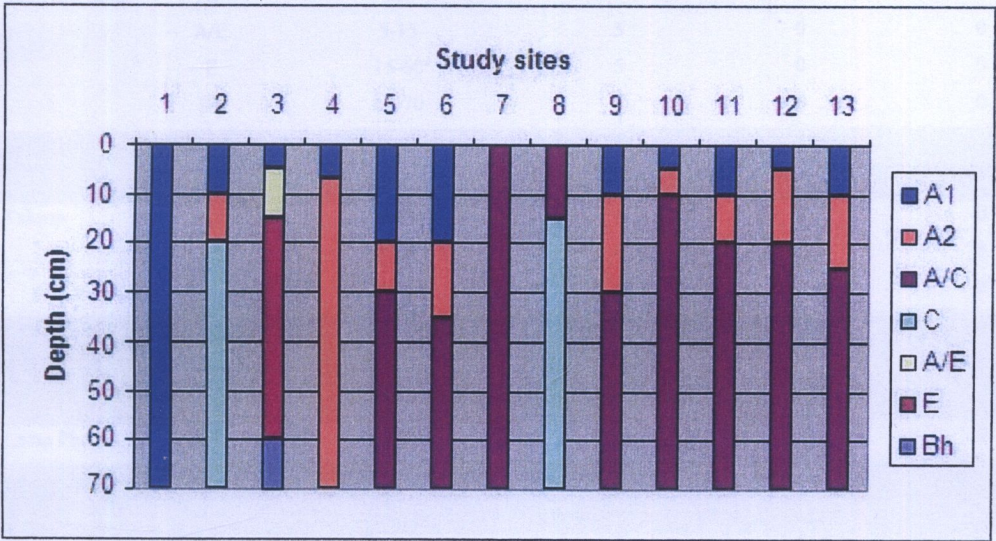
Study sites	Depth (m)	pH	Ec ( $\mu$ S/cm)	Date of collection
<i>Site on the gulf of Thailand</i>				
Ban Bangboet	1.8	6.34	87.9	12/11/2008
Ao Phanang Tak	0.3	7.05	55.8	12/11/2008
Ban Pak Nam Tako	0.5	6.24	6.4	11/11/2008
Ban Laem Santi	2.0	6.10	10.7	11/11/2008
Ban Takrop	2.0	4.90	7.7	11/11/2008
Ban Plongmai	1.8	6.28	31.4	11/11/2008
Ban Laem Pho 1	1.3	6.74	19.2	11/11/2008
Ban Laem Pho 2	-	-	-	-
Ban Nuea	1.5	6.00	73.3	11/11/2008
Ban Na Thap	2.0	7.14	16.1	24/12/2008
<i>Sites on the Andaman Sea</i>				
Hat Thai Mueang	1.5	6.32	10.3	13/11/2008
Hat Thung Thale	1.0	5.37	3.2	14/11/2008
Hat Yong Ling	1.2	7.05	21.8	19/12/2008



2. Soil

2.1 Soil profile

The soil profiles of two landforms (the coastal sandbars/ and dune) are rather different (Figure 18). The soil profile of the sandbar landform could be divided into 2-4 horizons. However, in general, there are 3 horizons, i.e., A1, A2 and C horizon. In any case, it was slightly different in study sites. At the sites of Ban Laempho 2, there are A/C and C horizon and Ban Laem Santi, there are A and A/C horizon. At only the Site of Ban Laempho 1, an A/C horizon was recognized and at the site Ban Pak Nam Tako, that A1, A/E, E and Bh horizons were recognized. Whereas the sand dune landform of Ban Bangboet, there is only an A horizon.



Study sites: 1=Ban Bangboet, 2=Ao Panang Tak, 3=Ban Thung Tako, 4=Ban Laem Santi, 5=Ban Takrop, 6=Ban Plongmai, 7=Ban Laem Pho1, 8=Ban Laem Pho 2, 9=Ban Nuea, 10=Ban Na Thap, 11=Hat Thai Mueang, 12=Hat Thung Thale, 13=Hat Yong Ling

Horizon: A=Mineral surface horizons with organic matter, A1=Topmost mineral surface horizons, A2=lower mineral surface horizon, Bh =Mineral subsurface horizon, with organic matter accumulation, C=Unconsolidated mineral material, E=Eluvial horizons.

Figure 18. Schematic profiles of surface soils.

2.2 The mineralogy

Three minerals could be identified in the soils of the present study: quartz, K-feldspar and plagioclase. All study sites are dominated by quartz. There is even pure quartz in five study sites, i.e., Ban Bangboet, Ban Pak Nam Tako, Ban



Nathap, Hat Thung Thale and Hat Thai Mueang; quartz and K-feldspar together were found in 7 study sites, i.e., Ao Panang Tak, Ban Takrop, Ban Plongmai, Ban Laem pho 1, Ban Laem Pho 2, Ban Nuea and Hat Yong Ling; quartz, K-feldspar and plagioclase together was found in only one site at Ban Laem Santi. (Table 21)

**Table 21.** Mineralogy of the soil.

Study site	Horizon	Depth (cm)	Quartz	K-Feldspar	Plagioclase
Bangboet	A	0-10	5	0	0
Ao Phanang Tak	A1	0-10	4	2	0
	A2	10-20	4	2	0
	C	20-30	4	2	0
Ban Pak Nam Tako	A1	0-5	5	0	0
	A/E	5-15	5	0	0
	E	15-60	5	0	0
	Bh	60-70	5	0	0
Ban Laem Santi	A	0-7	4	3	1
	A/C	7-25	4	2	0
Ban Takrop	A1	0-20	4	2	0
	A2	20-30	4	2	0
	C	30-40	4	2	0
Ban Plongmai	A1	0-20	4	2	0
	A2	20-35	4	2	0
	C	35-40	4	2	0
Ban Laem Pho 1	A/C	0-15	4	1	0
Ban Laem Pho 2	A/C	0-15	4	1	0
	C	15-30	4	1	0
Ban Nuea	A1	0-10	4	2	0
	A2	10-30	4	2	0
	C	30-40	4	2	0
Ban Na Thap	A1	0-5	5	0	0
	A2	5-10	5	0	0
	C	10-20	5	0	0
Hat Thai Mueang	A1	0-10	5	0	0
	A2	10-20	5	0	0
	C	20-30	5	0	0
Hat Thung Thale	A1	0-5	4	0	0
	A2	5-20	4	0	0
	C	20-25	4	0	0
Hat Yong Ling	A1	0-10	4	1	0
	A2	10-25	4	0	0
	C	25-35	4	0	0

Remark: 0 = non, 1 = trace, 2 = low, 3 = medium, 4 = high 5=pure

### **3.3 Soil physical properties**

#### **Particle sizes distribution**

The particle sizes of soil of all study sites were analyzed for six parameters, i.e., the particle size  $> 2$  mm, coarse sand (2000-630  $\mu\text{m}$ ), medium sand (630-200  $\mu\text{m}$ ), fine sand (200-63  $\mu\text{m}$ ), the coarse silt (63-20  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the particle size  $< 20$   $\mu\text{m}$ . (Table 17). The soil texture of all study sites is “sand” (Landon, 1991), consisting of sand particles 86.8-97.9 %, silt and clay particles 2.4-13.2 %. Particle larger than 2 mm were found in only 4 sites at Ban Takrop, Ban Plongmai, Ban Nuea and Ban Na Thap, rangeing from 0.1-0.5 %. (Table 22)



**Table 22.** Particle sizes distribution of the soil

Study site	Horizon	Depth (cm)	Mass (%)					Sum <20 $\mu$
			>2mm	cS	mS	fS	cSi	
Ban Bangboet	A	0-10	0.0	0.0	41.2	52.7	0.4	5.7
Ao Phanang Tak	A1	0-10	0.0	0.2	46.9	42.4	5.9	4.5
	A2	10-20	0.0	0.2	50.5	42.6	3.1	3.6
	C	20-30	0.0	0.2	49.5	44.9	3.5	1.9
Ban Pak Nam Tako	A1	0-5	0.0	0.1	8.6	84.8	2.5	4.0
	AE	5-15	0.0	0.0	9.7	85.2	0.3	4.8
	E	15-60	0.0	0.0	10.7	86.9	0.1	2.3
	Bh	60-70	0.0	0.0	10.5	80.4	0.6	8.6
Ban Laem Sanit	A	0-7	0.0	16.5	43.1	32.3	2.5	5.3
	AC	7-25	0.0	19.9	41.7	29.5	1.9	7.0
Ban Takrop	A1	0-20	0.0	36.4	58.7	1.2	0.3	3.4
	A2	20-30	0.1	35.5	60.0	1.7	0.4	2.2
	C	30-40	0.4	34.4	59.7	1.7	0.6	3.2
Ban Plongmai	A1	0-20	0.2	32.6	62.9	1.3	0.3	2.7
	A2	20-35	0.2	30.0	62.7	1.6	0.4	5.1
	C	35-40	0.3	44.7	50.3	1.4	0.3	2.9
Ban Laem Pho 1	A/C	0-15	0.0	36.4	56.5	2.0	0.2	4.9
Ban Laem Pho 2	A/C	0-15	0.0	21.1	64.3	7.0	0.5	7.2
	C	15-30	0.0	22.9	58.3	5.6	0.6	2.6
Ban Nuca	A1	0-20	1.4	13.8	51.0	23.5	3.3	6.9
Ban Nongbo	A	0-5	0.0	1.5	73.8	18.1	2.1	2.3
	AC	5-10	0.0	1.2	59.1	28.7	1.7	2.2
	C	10-20	0.0	1.1	55.0	28.2	1.7	2.2
Hat Thai Mucang	A1	0-10	0.0	0.0	66.6	29.4	0.7	3.3
	A2	10-20	0.0	0.0	69.6	28.3	0.4	1.7
	C	20-30	0.0	0.0	70.7	26.5	1.0	1.9
Hat Thung Thale	A1	0-5	0.0	0.0	7.8	86.5	4.4	1.2
	A2	5-20	0.0	0.0	7.7	84.3	7.5	0.6
	C	20-25	0.0	0.0	8.3	86.4	3.7	1.6
Hat Yong Ling	A1	0-10	0.0	0.0	5.9	83.3	6.9	3.8
	A2	10-25	0.0	0.0	5.2	89.6	3.0	2.2
	C	25-35	0.0	0.0	5.1	89.7	4.0	1.3

### 3.4 Soil chemical properties

The chemical properties of the soils from all study sites were analyzed for fourteen parameters, i.e., C ranges from 0.6-71.1 mg/g, N ranges from 0.03-1.48 mg/g, C/N ratio 6.9-144.3, pH 6.3-6.8, CEC 2.0-36.3 mmol<sub>c</sub>/kg, BS 1.1-31.3 %, Na 10-105 mg/kg, K 3-203 mg/kg, Ca 3-191 mg/kg, Mg 1-130 mg/kg, Al 1-272 mg/kg, Ca/Al 0.03-4.93, EC 3.5-71.9  $\mu$ S/cm, Cl<sup>-</sup> 1.2-114 mg/kg, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> 0-49.2 mg/kg and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> 2.5-47.2 mg/kg. (Table 23).

Table 23. Chemical properties of the soils.

Study site	Horizon	Depth (cm)	C mg/g	N mg/g	C/N ratio	pH		CEC mmol <sub>e</sub> /kg	BS [%]	Na <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	K <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Ca <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Mg <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Al <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Ca/Al molar ratio	EC μS/cm	Cl <sup>-</sup> mg/kg	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> mg/kg	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/kg
						H <sub>2</sub> O	Ex												
Bangboet (1)	A	0-10	3.6	0.19	18.5	6.7	7.7	4.6	84	13	7	3	27	0.12	7.9	44.4	0.0	18.0	
Bangboet (2)	A	0-10	11.6	0.63	18.5	6.5	10.3	7.9	105	42	12	20	21	0.26	11.0	47.6	0.0	18.4	
Ao Phanang Tak	A1	0-10	4.7	0.27	17.1	-	11.9	9.0	22	34	117	17	17	3.09	40.1	10.9	0.0	14.3	
	A2	10-20	1.2	0.08	14.3	-	6.8	4.8	19	12	54	11	10	2.37	22.3	7.3	0.0	4.2	
	C	20-30	0.8	0.11	6.9	-	5.7	5.0	17	11	45	21	4	4.93	11.2	4.3	0.0	2.5	
Ban Pak Nam Tako	A1	0-5	8.6	0.34	25.1	6.8	8.8	5.7	92	19	11	8	28	0.18	4.8	7.2	0.0	13.2	
	AE	5-15	2.4	0.13	18.0	6.8	5.7	4.8	90	14	8	2	8	0.43	3.6	5.2	0.0	10.4	
	E	15-60	0.9	0.08	10.9	6.8	3.0	2.9	52	3	9	1	1	3.30	3.5	4.8	0.0	11.2	
	Bh	60-70	14.0	0.67	20.9	6.3	36.3	5.9	97	17	20	4	272	0.03	25.8	114.0	0.0	47.2	
Ban Laem Santi	A	0-7	3.6	0.19	19.5	6.8	9.1	4.7	60	40	10	6	38	0.12	6.5	10.4	0.0	15.2	
	AC	7-25	2.2	0.11	19.3	6.7	8.5	4.8	86	21	6	3	32	0.08	5.7	9.6	0.0	14.8	
Ban Takrop	A1	0-20	3.5	0.19	18.3	-	3.8	2.6	23	19	11	7	11	0.42	12.6	2.2	6.3	5.8	
	A2	20-30	0.8	0.08	10.3	-	3.4	2.3	25	22	6	4	10	0.27	9.6	3	4.2	3.5	
	C	30-40	0.9	0.03	32.5	-	2.0	1.1	10	14	4	1	8	0.22	6.2	1.2	3.2	2.7	
Ban Plongmai	A1	0-20	2.7	0.11	23.4	-	3.5	2.0	21	22	7	2	13	0.25	8.7	1.5	6.2	3.7	
	A2	20-35	1.4	0.04	34.4	-	2.9	1.7	13	23	7	2	11	0.27	9.1	1.6	4.1	3.9	
	C	35-40	0.6	0.03	20.0	-	2.8	1.3	12	12	5	3	11	0.22	9.2	2.4	0.0	3.8	
Ban Laem Pho 1	A/C	0-15	4.8	0.19	24.7	6.6	6.0	4.1	41	46	11	7	17	0.29	6.4	10.0	0.0	12.4	
Ban Laem Pho 2	A/C	0-15	11.0	0.68	16.1	6.7	14.6	12.5	46	84	104	39	17	2.73	7.8	13.6	11.2	15.2	
	C	15-30	2.2	0.11	19.8	6.6	4.6	3.5	43	29	10	4	9	0.51	4.8	5.2	0.0	11.2	

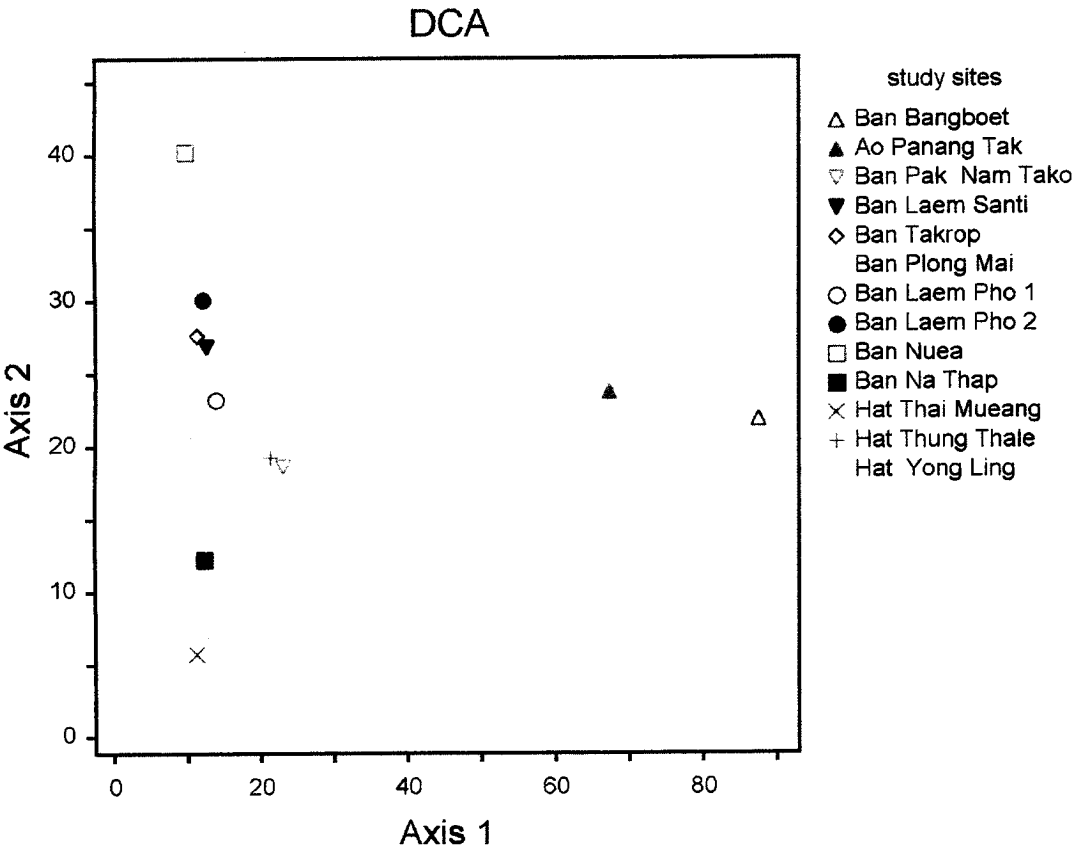


Table 23. (continued)

Study site	Horizon	Depth (cm)	C mg/g	N mg/g	C/N ratio	pH		CEC mmol <sub>e</sub> /kg	BS [%]	Na <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	K <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Ca <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Mg <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Al <sub>exch.</sub> mg/kg	Ca/Al molar ratio	EC μS/cm	Cl <sup>-</sup> mg/kg	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> mg/kg	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> mg/kg
						H <sub>2</sub> O	Ex												
Ban Nuea (1)	A1	0-10	3.4	0.23	15.0	6.7	35.2	31.3	49	1061	29	10	34	0.37	9.4	12.8	48.4	15.2	
	A2	10-30	3.4	0.16	21.6	6.7	10.2	4.8	41	93	9	3	47	0.08	7.4	8.0	28.4	14.4	
Ban Nuea (2)	A1	0-10	4.5	0.28	16.1	-	14.1	10.9	16	64	135	23	28	2.20	41.1	3.9	14.1	11.0	
	A2	10-30	4.8	0.24	20.0	-	12.9	6.5	31	63	50	13	56	0.40	24.9	2.4	9.0	6.8	
Ban Nuea (3)	C	30-40	4.3	0.25	17.1	-	11.5	6.2	15	39	74	10	47	0.70	25.9	3.1	7.8	7.0	
	A1	0-20	5.7	0.33	17.3	-	15.4	9.4	14	77	101	22	51	0.89	56.7	3.3	17.3	12.6	
	A2	20-25	3.1	0.17	17.7	-	8.1	2.6	15	39	11	4	49	0.10	17.8	1.8	7.0	5.6	
	C	25-40	4.1	0.15	28.0	-	11.1	2.3	18	35	7	3	79	0.04	34.2	1.8	5.4	4.7	
Ban Na Thap	A1	0-5	16.0	0.50	32.2	-	25.1	7.1	53	99	18	16	162	0.05	41.5	12.9	17.7	33.5	
	A2	5-10	4.6	0.18	26.0	-	13.2	2.7	23	31	10	5	94	0.05	24.5	6.4	0.0	13.6	
	C	10-20	2.8	0.18	15.5	-	7.8	2.2	38	8	5	1	50	0.05	16.1	2.2	0.0	16.4	
Hat Thai Mueang	A1	0-10	13.0	0.53	24.7	6.7	7.2	6.6	39	29	40	27	5	3.42	5.5	7.2	9.6	13.2	
	A2	10-20	3.9	0.17	22.6	6.7	3.9	3.6	47	13	8	11	2	1.49	4.0	9.2	0.0	13.2	
	C	20-30	1.9	0.08	23.0	6.3	2.5	2.3	38	6	5	4	1	1.86	3.5	6.0	0.0	10.4	
Hat Thiung Thale	A1	0-5	41.8	1.07	39.2	-	15.6	13.9	35	128	69	69	15	2.13	37.1	7.9	46.4	33.6	
	A2	5-20	15.1	0.36	41.5	-	5.1	4.1	24	36	6	23	8	0.31	11.3	3.2	9.6	9.0	
	C	20-25	7.1	0.05	144.3	-	3.8	3.3	16	31	7	18	5	0.60	8.1	3.3	4.7	5.2	
Hat Yong Ling	A1	0-10	71.1	1.48	47.9	-	30.9	28.2	64	203	191	130	24	3.60	71.9	17.3	49.2	46.7	
	A2	10-25	10.9	0.14	77.5	-	4.6	4.1	24	38	7	22	4	0.76	12.6	3.3	6.7	7.1	
	C	25-35	3.3	0.06	53.1	-	2.2	2.1	21	16	3	7	1	1.43	4.9	2	2.6	3.0	

4. The relationship between the vegetation and the soil properties.

The DCA ordination of 13 study sites and 124 species yielded the first two axes with eigenvalues of 0.66 and 0.27. The ordination of sites is in Figure 19 (Axis 1 and 2) and the species ordination is presented in Figure 20 (Axis 1 and 2) as well. (Table 24).



**Figure 19.** DCA ordination diagram for 13 study sites of the coastal vegetation.

The ordination of the study sites by using DCA are shown in Figure 19. The 13 study sites scores were plotted along Axis 1 and 2, and tended to cluster into the three groups along the first axis, i.e., sand dune vegetation (Ban Bangboet site), beach vegetation (Ao Panang Tak site) and other inland sandbars vegetation (other sites). Their respective vegetation was separated from right to left on Axis 1 with an eigenvalue = 0.65.





**Table 24.** List of plant species V.S. species code on sandbars along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand.

Family	Species	Species code	Habit
Amaranthaceae	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i> Mart.	Gomp_cel	H
Anacardiaceae	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.	Lann_cor	ST
	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Mang_ind	T
Ancistrocladaceae	<i>Ancistrocladus tectorius</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Anci_tec	C
Annonaceae	<i>Polyalthia evecta</i> (Pierre) Finet & Gagnep.	Poly_eve	S
Apocynaceae	<i>Aganosma marginata</i> (Roxb.) G.Don	Agan_mar	C
	<i>Alyxia reinwardtii</i> Blume	Alyx_rei	C
	<i>Holarrhena curtisii</i> King & Gamble	Hola_cur	S
	<i>Spirolobium cambodianum</i> Baill.	Spir_cam	S
	<i>Willughbeia coriacea</i> Wall.	Will_cor	C
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Dischidia major</i> (Vahl) Merr.	Disc_maj	CrH
	<i>D. bangalensis</i> Colebr.	Disc_ban	CrH
	<i>Hoya parasitica</i> (Roxb.) Wall. ex Traill	Hoya_par	C
	<i>Streptocaulon juvenas</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Stre_juv	C
Celastraceae	<i>Pleurostyliia opposita</i> (Wall.) Alston	Pleu_opp	ST
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	Term_cat	T
Commelinaceae	<i>Commelina diffusa</i> Burm.f.	Comm_dif	H
Cyperaceae	<i>Fimbristylis sericea</i> R.Br.	Fimb_ser	H
Davalliaceae	<i>Davallia denticulata</i> (Burm.f.) Mett. ex Kuhn	Dava_den	F
	<i>D. heterophylla</i> Sm.	Dava_het	F
	<i>D. pectinata</i> Sm.	Dava_pec	F
Dilleniaceae	<i>Tetracera indica</i> (Christm. & Panz.) Merr.	Tetr_ind	C
	<i>T. loureiri</i> (Finet & Gagnep.) Pierre ex Craib	Tetr_lou	C
Dipterocarpaceae	<i>Cotylelobium lanceolatum</i> Craib	Coty_lan	T
	<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i> Roxb. ex G.Don	Dipt_ala	T
	<i>D. chartaceus</i> Symington	Dipt_cha	T
	<i>D. obtusifolius</i> Teijsm. ex Miq.	Dipt_obt	T
	<i>Hopea odorata</i> Roxb.	Hope_odo	T
	<i>Shorea roxburghii</i> G.Don	Shor_rox	T
	<i>Vatica harmandiana</i> Pierre	Vati_har	T
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros areolata</i> King & Gamble	Dios_are	ST
	<i>D. ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh.	Dios_fer	S
Elaeocarpaceae	<i>Elaeocarpus robustus</i> Roxb.	Elae_rob	T
Epacridaceae	<i>Styphelia malayana</i> (Jack) Spreng	Styp_mal	S

Table 24. (continued)

Family	Species	Species code	Habit
Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium bracteatum</i> Thunb.	Vacc_bra	S
Erythroxylaceae	<i>Erythroxylum cuneatum</i> (Miq.) Kurz	Eryt_cun	S
Euphrobiaceae	<i>Breynia racemosa</i> (Blume) Mull.Arg.	Brey_rac	S
	<i>Chaetocarpus castanocarpus</i> (Roxb.) Thwaites	Chae_cas	ST
	<i>Suregada multiflorum</i> (A.Jass.) Bail.	Sure_mul	S
	<i>Casearia grewiaefolia</i> Vent.	Case_gre	ST
Flacourtiaceae	<i>Casearia grewiaefolia</i> Vent.	Case_gre	ST
Gentianaceae	<i>Fagraea fragrans</i> Roxb.	Fagr_fra	T
Guttiferaeae	<i>Calophyllum pulcherrimum</i> Wall.	Calo_pul	T
	<i>C. cochinchinense</i> (Lour.) Blume	Crat_coc	ST
	<i>Garcinia cowa</i> Roxb. ex DC.	Garc_cow	ST
	<i>G. hombroniana</i> Pierre	Garc_hom	T
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella ensifolia</i> (L.) DC.	Dian_ens	H
Labiateae	<i>Premna obtusifolia</i> R.Br.	Prem_obt	C
	<i>Vitex pinnata</i> L.	Vite_pin	T
Lauraceae	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	Cass_fil	C
	<i>Neolitsea zeylanica</i> (Nees) Merr.	Neol_zey	ST
	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i> (Lour.) C.B.Rob	Lits_glu	ST
Leguminosae- Caesalpinoideae	<i>Sindora siamensis</i> Teijsm. & Miq.	Sind_sia	S
Leguminosae- Papilionoideae	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Abru_pre	C
Malvaceae	<i>Derris indica</i> Bennet	Derr_ind	ST
	<i>Dunbaria bella</i> Prain	Dunb_bel	C
	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L.	Hibi_til	ST
Melastomataceae	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L.	Mela_mal	S
	<i>M. sanguineum</i> Sims	Mela_san	S
	<i>M. ovatum</i> Sm.	Meme_ova	S
	<i>M. scutellatum</i> Naudin	Meme_scu	S
Moraceae	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Stre_asp	ST
Myrsinaceae	<i>Ardisia crenata</i> Sims	Ardi_cre	S
	<i>Rapanea porteriana</i> (A.DC.) Mez	Rapa_por	ST
Myrtaceae	<i>Rhodamnia cinerea</i> Jack	Rhod_cin	S
	<i>R. tomentosa</i> (Aiton) Hassk.	Rhod_tom	S
	<i>Syzygium grande</i> (Wight) Walp.	Syz_gran	T

Table 24. (continued)

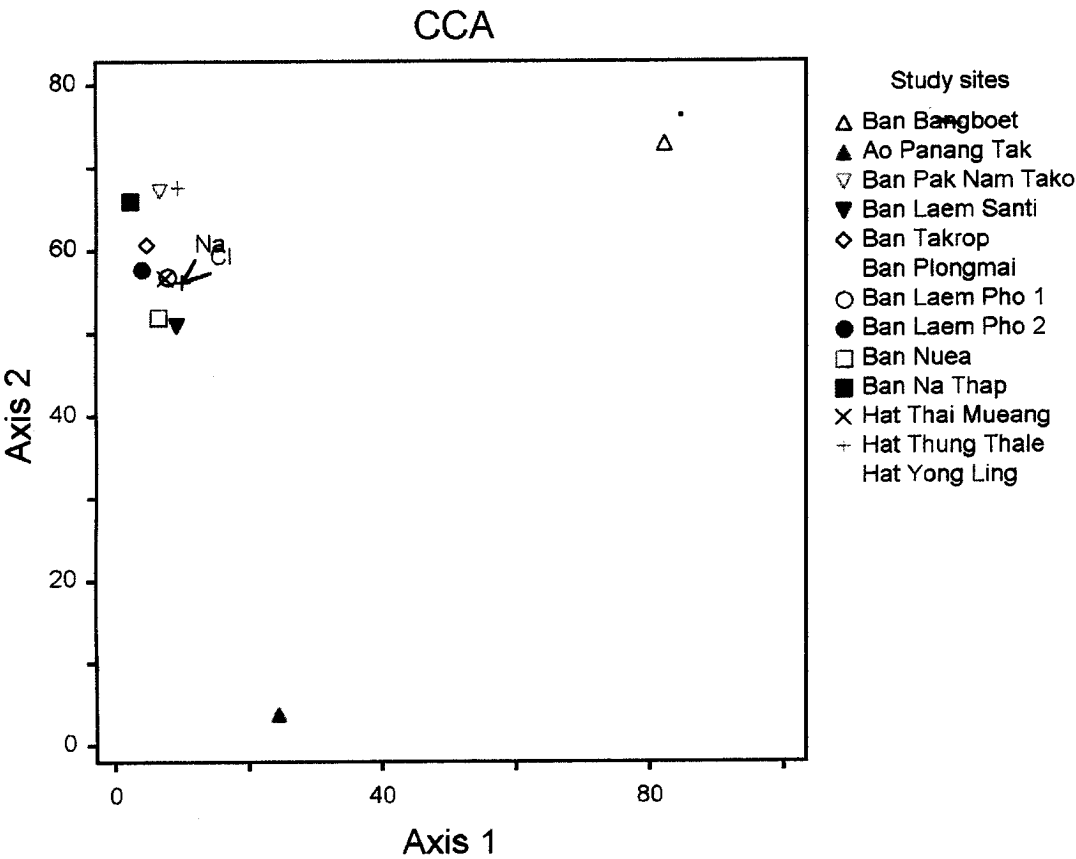
Family	Species	Species code	Habit
Ochidaceae	<i>S. gratum</i> (Wight) S.N.Mitra	Syz_grat	ST
	<i>Acriopsis ridleyi</i> Hook.f.	Acri_rid	O
	<i>Arachnis flosaeris</i> (L.) Rchb.f.	Arac_flo	O
	<i>Bulbophyllum planibulbe</i> (Ridl.) Ridl.	Bulb_pla	O
	<i>Cymbidium finlaysonianum</i> Lindl.	Cymb_fin	O
	<i>Dendrobium crumenatum</i> Sw.	Dend_cru	O
	<i>D. indivisum</i> (Blume) Miq.	Dend_ind	O
Ochidaceae	<i>D. pachyphyllum</i> (Kuntze) Bakh.f.	Dend_pac	O
	<i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> Lindl.	Dori_pul	TerO
	<i>Eria affinis</i> Griff.	Eria_aff	O
	<i>Eulophia andamanensis</i> Rchb.f.	Eulo_and	O
	<i>Thrixspermum calceolus</i> (Lindl.) Rchb.f.	Thri_cal	O
	<i>Vanilla aphylla</i> Blume	Vani_aph	O
Ochnaceae	<i>Ochna integerrima</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Ochn_int	S
Oleaceae	<i>Olea brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Olea_bra	ST
Opiliaceae	<i>Champereia manillana</i> (Blume) Merr.	Cham_man	S
	<i>Cansjera rheedei</i> J.F.Gmel.	Cans_rhe	C
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i> W.T.Aiton	Pitt_fer	ST
Poaceae	<i>Chrysopogon orientalis</i> A.Camus	Chry_orie	G
	<i>Zoysia matrella</i> (L.) Merr.	Zoys_mat	G
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i> D.Don.	Podo_ner	T
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i> (L.) Sm.	Dryn_que	F
	<i>Microsorium scolopendria</i> (Burm.f.) Copel.	Micr_sco	F
	<i>Pyrrisia longifolia</i> (Burm.f.) Morton.	Pyrr_lon	F
	<i>Pyrrisia adnascens</i> (G.Forst.) Ching	Pyrr_adn	F
	<i>P. piloselloides</i> (L.) M.G.Price	Pyrr_pil	F
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Carallia brachiata</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Cara_bra	ST
Rubiaceae	<i>Catunaregam tomentosa</i> (Blume ex DC.) Tirveng.	Catu_tom	S
	<i>Chassalia curviflora</i> (Wall.) Thwaites	Chas_cur	S
	<i>Hydnophytum formicarum</i> Jack	Hydn_for	H
	<i>Ixora javanica</i> (Blume) DC.	Ixor_jav	S
	<i>Morinda elliptica</i> Ridl.	Mori_ell	S
	<i>Oxyceros longiflora</i> (Lam.) T.Yamaz.	Oxyc_lon	S
	<i>Prismatomeris tetrandra</i> (Roxb.) K.Schum.	Pris_tet	S
	<i>Psychotria sarmentosa</i> Blume	Psyc_sar	C



Table 24. (continued)

Family	Species	Species code	Habit
Rutaceae	<i>Psyrax nitida</i> (Craib) K.M.Wong	Psyd_nit	S
	<i>Tarenna wallichii</i> (Hook.f.) Ridl.	Tare_wal	S
	<i>Acronychia pedunculata</i> (L.) Miq.	Acro_ped	ST
	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i> (DC.) Correa	Atal_man	ST
	<i>Micromelum minutum</i> (G.Forst.) Wight & Arn.	Micr_min	ST
Sapindaceae	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.) Raeusch	Allo_cob	S
	<i>Guioa pleuropteris</i> (Blume) Radlk.	Guio_ple	ST
	<i>Mischocarpus sundaicus</i> Blume	Misc_sun	ST
Sapotaceae	<i>Pouteria obovata</i> (R.Br.) Baehni	Pout_obo	ST
Schizaeaceae	<i>Schizaea dichotoma</i> (L.) Sm.	Schi_dic	F
	<i>S. digitata</i> (L.) Sw.	Schi_lon	F
Simaroubaceae	<i>Eurycoma longifolia</i> Jack	Eury_lon	S
Stemonaceae	<i>Stemona tuberosa</i> Lour.	Stem_tub	C
Taccaceae	<i>Tacca integrifolia</i> Ker Gawl.	Tacc_int	H
Theaceae	<i>Schima wallichii</i> (DC.) Korth.	Schi_wal	ST
Tiliaceae	<i>Microcos tomentosa</i> Sm.	Micr_tom	ST
Viscaceae	<i>Viscum articulatum</i> Burm.f.	Visc_art	Pa

Habit: C= Climber, CrS= Creeping Shrub, F= Fern, G= Grass, H= Herb, HC= Herbaceous Climber, O= Orchid, Pa= Parasite, S= Shrub, ST= Shrubby Tree, T= Tree, TerO= Terrestrial Orchid



**Figure 21.** CCA ordination diagram of coastal vegetation for 124 species.

The ordination of species by using CCA is shown in Figure 21. The CCA eigenvalues for the first two ordination axes were 0.64 and 0.47 (Table 25), which explains 40.7 % in the vegetation data. The CCA Axis 1 was correlated with Na and Cl contents.

**Table 25.** Summary statistics for DCA ordination and comparisons with result from CCA.

	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3
DCA			
Eigenvalues	0.66	0.27	0.11
CCA			
Eigenvalues	0.64	0.47	0.39
Cumulative % explained	23.4	40.7	54.9
Pearson correlation	0.998	0.981	0.984

## DISCUSSIONS

### *The plant succession V.S. the coastal sandbars*

Unlike the wind-blown particle sand dune, the origin of the coastal sandbars was different. The sedimentation from the coastal sea current and the geological uplift of the continent in the past had created such sandbars, both the off shored and the coastal. So, the coastal sandbar landform is quite stable. Any natural change of the coastal sandbars would happen in a large scale of time. The evidences of plant succession in this landform are hardly seen due to the rather stable physical factors. On the other hand, the different zones of vegetation along the transect line from the sea shore are quite distinct due to the different physical factors in each zone.

#### 1.1 Coastal sand dune landform

While “the Coastal sand dune landform” at Ban Bangboet, Chumphon is the landform that due to the wind (medium-sand and fine-sand blown from the beach, creating different sizes of dunes) is called “the Eolian Landform” (The National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, 1995). Unlike the former ones, the shapes of this dune type are dynamic. As the shape could change due to the wind direction and its speed, it is rather difficult for the woodland vegetation to develop on such unstable landform. Therefore, grassland and scrub vegetation dominate on such dunes.

### *A note on plant succession process on the wind-blown particle sand dune at Ban Bangboet.*

The different successional stages of vegetation on the sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon might be ranked according to different types of plant communities as well as the plant species composition (Plate 42), i.e.,

#### Stage 1: Primary colonization (Plate 42, A-B)

Primary colonization might happen at the edge of the dune next to the tidal zone on the bare sand surface. The succession process might begin with the



seeds of common coastal grass/sedges, e.g., *Chrysopogon orientalis* and *Fimbristylis sericea*. Unlike the coastal sandbars, which were formed by the sea current in the past, the sand surface of the coastal sand dune would be rather unstable at this stage and could change topographically due to varying wind speed and direction from the open sea. Therefore, the development of such stage of plant succession to the next one would depend very much on the wind direction as well as its speed.

#### Stage 2: Embryo dune (Plate 42, C-D)

The dune that developed from the bare sand surface had certain period of time for sand accumulation on a certain place and hence, also enough time for more plant species migration into the new forming "embryo" dune, likewise. In this embryo dune, some other additional herbaceous species to the primary colonization could be found, e.g., *Dunbaria bella*. However, the embryo dune is also unstable. It could be changed according to the wind as well. If so, the plant community might not be able to develop to the next stage due to the change of the dune itself.

#### Stage 3: Semi-fixed dune (Plate 42, E-F)

When the embryo dune is stable enough to have more sand accumulation, it would, then, become a semi-fixed dune. This stage of dune development is also stable enough to let more woody plant species develop. They are mostly common coastal bushes, e.g., *Pandanus odoratisimus* and *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*. In any case, the semi-fixed dune is subjected to change due to the wind from open sea.

#### Stage 4: Fixed dune (Plate 42, G-H)

The fixed dune is stable enough to allow the development of more species of woody plants. Scrubs as well as shrubby trees, e.g., *Calophyllum pulcherrimum*, *Connarus semidecandrus* and *Syzygium gratum* could be found in the plant community which had developed in such areas. In some selected places, small trees could be also found due to the fact that the fixed dune changes very slowly. However, the diversity of the plant community on the fixed dune could not be compared with those of plant communities on the coastal sandbars. It may due to the

fact that though the fixed dune landform might change slowly, it is still subjected to change. So, there would not be enough time for more litter layer as well as important plant nutrients to be accumulated so as to accommodate more plant diversity.

## **2. The ground water**

The water reaction (pH) of ground water is slightly acid to neutral, ranges from 5.4 to 7.1 (collected in the wet period). The electrical conductivity (EC) of soil is low according to Landon (1991) and ranges from 7-88. The EC values at Ban Bangboet, Ban Nuea and Ao Panang Tak are highest among all sites studied (88, 73 and 56  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ). This might be due to the effect from the nearby sea water.

There is no correlation of EC values of the groundwater and water extracts of the topsoil. The rooting pattern of species together with the distance from soil surface to the groundwater and the sensitivity of species will determine if groundwater can be utilized by the vegetation. Therefore, it is to be noticed here that the rapid recovery of terrestrial coastal vegetation from the influence of sea water of the Tsunami 2004 in selected sites on the Andaman coast e.g. Hat Thai Mueang site etc. might due to the dilution, as an effect of high precipitation in particular.

## **3. The Soil**

According to all soil properties investigated from all study sites, it could be clearly interpreted as "Arenosols", according to the world reference base for soil resources (2006), which comprised sandy soil, including both soil developed in residual sand. Corresponding soils in other classification systems include "Psammments" of the US Soil Taxonomy. (Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2006b.)

### **3.1 The soil profile**

At Ban Bangboet, where the sand dunes were established by the wind, soil profiles exhibit only an A and a C horizon. Soils consist of sand particles.

The only complete profile, down to groundwater level, had been found out at Ban Pak Nam Tako. It consists of four horizons i.e. A1, AE, E and Bh. This area is an old beach deposit, situated on the inland sandbar (1,600 m from the sea). It could

be classified as an albic Arenosol.

The other study sites have almost the same pattern, consisting of three horizons i.e. A1, A2 and C. Especially the sites at Ban Takrop to Ban Nuea are called “Chiya sandbar”. They are in Chiya district, Surat Thani province. The soils may also be podzolised and therefore be classified as Hyperalbic Arenosols (or ‘Giant Podzol’), as the spodic horizon could not be reached in the shallow soil profile, a final classification is impossible at this stage.

In most cases an organic layer, mostly comprised of fresh fallen and slightly altered litter layer (L) and a partly decomposed and densely rooted F layer, is developed. The thickness of the A horizon varies from less than 10 to 35 cm.

### **3.2 The mineralogy**

Minerals supply base cations ( $\text{Ca}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ) by weathering processes. Quartz is the main mineral found at all study sites (because of sand is mainly composed of quartz). There are no traces of K- Feldspar found in 5 sites, i.e., Ban Bangboet, Ban Pak Nam Tako, Ban Nathap, Hat Thai Mueang, and Hat Thung Thale. That implies that those soils have low nutrient contents (as quartz is hard and weathering slowly) (Donahue *et al.*, 1983). Traces of K-feldspar were found in the soils of Ban Laem pho 1, Ban Laem Pho 2, Ban Nuea 1 and Hat Yong Ling. Ao Panang Tak, Ban Takrop, Ban Plongmai and Ban Nuea 2 and 3. Intermediate amounts of K-feldspar and traces of plagioclase could be detected in one site at Ban Laem Santi. Soils containing feldspars are more fertile, as K-feldspar and plagioclase could release nutrients by weathering, especially the potassium (K) which is one of the essential elements for plant (as K-feldspar would provide important nutrient and clay in the weathered products) (Donahue *et al.*, 1983).

### **3.3 The soil physical properties**

#### **3.3.1 Particle size distribution (Soil texture)**

The composition and sizes of particles have direct impacts to the soil properties in terms of water holding capacity, aeration and soil strength. Considering the sand dune sites of Ban Bangboet 1 and Ban Bangboet 2, the particle sizes vary from the medium sand (mS) to very small particles ( $\text{Sum} < 20\mu\text{m}$ ). It is to be noticed



that higher contents of small particles could be detected Ban Bangboet 2 compared to Ban Bangboet 1. It might be owing to the fact that there is vegetation cover at the site of Ban Bangboet 2, leading to higher interception of dust particles. More litter from the vegetation may in addition accelerate the weathering process. On the other hand, the particle sizes detected from the sandbar landform vary from the coarse sand ( $>2\text{mm}$ ) to a small size ( $\text{Sum} < 20\mu$ ). Therefore it is rather difficult at this stage to relate the sizes of the particle detected to the vegetation covered.

### **3.4 The soil chemical properties**

#### **3.4.1 Soil reaction (pH)**

Soil reaction (pH) of all study sites is “very slightly acid” according to Landon (1991), ranges from 6.5-6.8 on A1 and A2 horizon and tends to be slightly lower in the C and Bh horizon, where it ranges from 6.3-6.6. High pH values are untypical for podzolized soils, on the other hand the almost pure quartz will be more or less inert.

The pH value of all study sites is suitable for the vegetation. The best suitable pH value for most plants is 5.5 on organic soils and 6.5 for the mineral soil (Donahue *et al.*, 1983).

#### **3.4.2 Cation exchange capacity (CEC) and Base saturation (BS)**

Exchangeable cations are generally important for both higher plants and microorganism as it is the “bank account of nutrients”. The capacity is the number of exchange places, the base saturation is the number of places occupied by the important nutrients K, Ca and Mg (and Na, but Na is not limiting plant growth). High exchange capacity and high base saturation means good nutrient supply. However, most of the exchange capacity in the soil of all study sites will be related to humus, as there are almost no clay minerals. Cation exchange capacity (CEC) at all study sites is low and ranges from 2.0-36.3 mmol<sub>c</sub>/kg (Land Classification Division and FAO Project Staff, 1973). The base saturation (BS) in all study sites is also low and ranges from 1.1-31.3% (Land Classification Division and FAO Project Staff, 1973). The low exchange capacity and low base saturation mean that there is low nutrient supply as well.

### 3.4.3 Electrical conductivity (EC)

The electrical conductivity (EC) measurement is used as an indication of total quantities of soluble salts in soils. The EC of all study sites is very low and ranges from 3.5-71.9  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . So soils are not saline (the EC of saline soils is  $>200 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) (Land Classification and FAO Project Staff, 1973) despite that there is an influence from salt spray from the nearby sea in all sites studied.

### 3.4.4 Total N vs. C/N Ratio

The contents are extremely low and partly close to detection limits. Both N content and C/N ratio tell something about potential N supply. Close C/N ratio mean better availability than wide C/N ratio. The C/N ratios  $> 40$  to  $50$  are unrealistic and caused by the fact that analyses close to detection limit are not very accurate. Carbon (C) and Nitrogen contents (N) decrease rapidly from the surface soil (A horizon) to the subsurface soil (A2 and C horizon). There are higher carbon contents in the subsurface soil (E and Bh horizon) at Ban Pak Nam Tako because of the accumulation of organic matter at the boundary zone to the groundwater. Low N contents and rather wide C/N ratios in almost all sites in the present study imply that there is rather low available N in such soil for plant species in general. The same is probably true for phosphorus (not analyzed).

### *Notes on the Soil properties vs. the terrestrial coastal vegetation on sandbars/ sand dune.*

Concerning all aspects of the soil properties, it is to be noticed here that such Albic Arenosols soil might not play an important role in nutrient supply for plant species of the coastal vegetation on sandbars/ dunes either in terms of mineralogy as it cannot release enough nutrients by weathering nor in terms of exchange capacity (CEC) and base saturation (BS) which are extremely low. The low N (and probably P) content and the rather wide C/N ratio will also limit nutrient supply. Therefore it is to state here that the terrestrial coastal vegetation on the sandbars/ dune relies on a closed nutrient cycle. The nutrient supply for plant species in such vegetation depends much on the humus/litter of the vegetation itself. Many myrmecophytes which have particular source of nutrient besides soil could be seen in such vegetation i.e. *Dischidia major* and *Hydnophytum formicarum*. These plants



have special morphological adaptation as shelters for ants e.g. modified leaf and stem. And the ants would provide litter/humus for plants in return (Figure 22). Any kind of disturbances on such vegetation and humus/litter, e.g., burning of the areas for many kinds of land use; wrong land preparing for the reforestation; overcutting, etc. which could destroy or decrease the humus accumulation on the soil surface might have great impacts to the vegetation directly. In addition, some microorganism in humus/litter or plant roots, e.g., micorrhyza, nitrogen fixing bacteria, etc. may play important roles in providing essential nutrients for plants. However, further studies concerning these issues in future are, therefore, needed.



**Figure 22.** Myrmecophyte at Ban Nathap Chana district, Songkhla province: *Dischidia major* (Vahl) Merr.

#### **4. The relationship between the vegetation and the soil properties.**

##### **DCA analysis**

Considering DCA ordination (Figure 20, 21), sites tended to cluster into three groups along the first axis (eigenvalue = 0.66). When the habitats, locations as well as plant species have been taken into account, they arrange in accordance with those parameters as sand dune vegetation, sand beach vegetation and inland sandbars



vegetation. In additions, the ordination diagram displayed graphically that the species composition of the beach vegetation at Ao Panang Tak site is related to the vegetation at the inland sandbars sites, i.e., Ban Pak Nam Tako, Ban Laem santi, Ban Takrop, Bna Plong Mai, Ban Laem Pho 1, Ban Laem Pho 2, Ban Nuea, Ban Nathap, Hat Thung Thale, Hat Thai Mueang. The vegetation of the inland sandbars had separated toward the negative end of Axis 1, while those within the sand dune vegetation had separated out at the other end and all of the variation in the DCA ordination could be explained by the first Axis.

This might imply that the species composition of the sand dune is rather different from those on the sandbars sites (Figure 21). Moreover, Panang Tak site had separated from others as well in spite of its location on a given coastal bar. It may due to the fact that this site is located on the coastal plane next to the tidal zone on a gulf which has different conditions from the other sites on the inland sandbars (e.g., gulf/bay is a close area, not subjected directly to the wind direction as other sites on the sandbars that are parallel to the coast which subjected directly to the wind direction from the open sea). It is possible that the landforms may have some impacts to these conditions of separation in term of vegetation between these three habitats however more additional evidence is still needed.

### CCA analysis

Considering CCA analysis (Figure 22), the pattern of ordination is consistent with DCA results (Figure 20, 21). The samples which are coordinated on the first axis with respect to Na and Cl content, which might due to the impact of the salt spray from the open sea. The diagram tended to cluster into the three groups along the first axis (eigenvalue = 0.64), i.e., sand dune vegetation (Ban Bangboet), beach vegetation (Ao Panang Tak) and inland vegetation (others). These distribution patterns of sites were correlated well with some given chemical properties of soil, i.e., Na and Cl, while it is not correlated with the physical factor (particle sizes). This might suggest that NaCl of the salt spray through the wind from the open sea may have some impact on the distribution of plant species which are the compositions of given vegetation on sand bars/ dune along the coasts or vise versa. The vegetation itself may also perform as a filter of the salt spray from one zone to another, beginning from the

grassland one, shrub- and woodland ones. It is, however, hesitated at this stage to draw a conclusion on the impact of the salt spray on the vegetation as it is also possible that the different zones of vegetation along the transect line from the tidal zone may not be a consequence of the different amount of the salt spray, however, the vegetation itself may limit the amount of salt spray from the open sea through this transect from the tidal zone. So in such case, the landform might have some impact on the species composition and structure of the vegetation. In any case, it could imply at this stage that any change of the vegetation might cause a higher amount of the salt spray to the inland areas that should have some impact on the plant species composition in a given type of vegetation along the coasts as well.





**Plate 42.** A-H: Plant succession stages on the coastal wind-bowled particle sand dune at Ban Bangboet, Pathio district, Chumphon Province: A-B: Primary colonization (stage 1); C-D: embryo dune (stage 2); E-F: semi fixed dune (stage 3); G-H: fix dune (stage 4).



## CHAPTER 6

### SUMMARY

The terrestrial vegetation on sandy habitats along the coasts in peninsular Thailand on both sides is interesting in terms of plant diversity resource as well as other ecological and environmental aspects. However, the deforestation for many purposes, e.g., agriculture, land development, tourism, etc. as well as many reforestation programs without basic data of plant communities of its kind have been terminated most of this vegetation. The natural vegetation left as separated patches along the coasts are, therefore, important as they are not only containing elements which have been dominated the sandy terrestrial coastal areas in the past, but these remnant patches perform as natural bridges of gene-flow between natural populations of plant species occurring in such vegetation.

The present study had documented all the natural vegetation on sandy habitats along the coasts in peninsular Thailand on both sides which left as remnant patches by describing them in terms of species composition as well as their profiles and analyzing all this patches through Braun-Blanquet method (Zürich-Montpellier School). Twenty-eight categories had been analyzed which could be divided into three main categories:

#### A. Coastal Grassland vegetation

*Cyperus stoloniferus* community

Vigno-ipomoetum pedis-caprae (*Canavalia rosea*-*Ipomoea pes-caprae* community)

*Ischaimum mutricum* community

*Hdroyphyllex maritima* community

Glehnio-Spinificetum littorei (*Spinifex littoreus* community)

*Fimbristylis sericea* community

*Dunbaria bella* community

## B. Coastal Scrub Vegetation

- Thareio-Viticetum rotundifoliae (*Vitex rotundifolia* community)
- Scaevola taccada* community
- Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* community
- Pandanus odoratisimus* community
- Calophyllum pulcherimum* community
- Sindora siamensis* community
- Diospyros ferrea* community
- Polyalthia evacta* community
- Syzygium gratum* community
- Vaccinium brateatum-olea brachiata* sub-community
- Styphelia malayana-Rhodamnia cinerea* sub-community
- Micromelum minutum-Allophylus cobbe* community

## C. Coastal Woodland Vegetation (Coastal forest Vegetation)

- Psychotria sarmentosa-Dipterocarpus obtusifolius* community
- Symplocos cochinchinensis-Lannea coromandelica* community
- Polyalthia evecta* sub-community
- Typical sub-community
- Memecylon scutellatum* sub-community
- Davallia denticulata-Vatica harmandiana* community
- Rhodamnia cinerea-Syzygium gratum* community
- Typical sub-community
- Styphelia malayana* sub-community

Soil analyses had shown that it falls into arenosol category. Moreover some other chemical property analyses, especially exchange capacity (CEC), base saturation (BS) and C/N ratio, had suggested that the terrestrial coastal vegetation on the sandbars/ dune is not depending on such soil. It is to be suggested that the available essential nutrients for plant species in such vegetation might depend much on the humus/litter of the vegetation.

The DCA analyses of some selected parameters and the sites where these remnant patches of vegetation occurred had shown that the sites had separated into three groups according to the land forms, i.e., the sand dune at Ban Bangboet which occurred due to the wind (the Eolian Landform); the gulf sandy beach of Ao Panang Tak; other inland sandbars sites. It is possible that the landforms may have some impacts to these conditions of separation in term of vegetation between these three habitats however more additional evident is still needed.

The CCA analyses had suggested that these distribution patterns of sites were correlated well with some given chemical properties of soil, i.e., Na and Cl, while it is not correlated with the physical factor (particle sizes). This might suggest that NaCl of the salt spray through the wind from the open sea may have some impact on the distribution of plant species which are the compositions of given vegetation on sand bars/ dune along the coasts or vise versa. More evident is, therefore, needed.



## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION

All the remnant patches of coastal forest vegetation of the peninsula are substantially threatened in the near future because most of them are not protected by law. Various human activities, including transformation of natural habitats according to agriculture purposes (especially rubber and oil palm plantations), monoculture forest plantation using alien species (e.g., *Eucalyptus* spp., *Acacia* spp. and even *Casuarina* spp.), tourism infrastructure, as well as many reforestation programs without basic data of plant communities of its kind have been terminated most of this vegetation because the available essential nutrients for plant species in such vegetation might depend much on the humus/litter of the vegetation itself. Any kind of disturbances which could destroy or decrease the humus accumulation on the soil surface might have great impacts to the vegetation directly.

Unless all remnant patches of such vegetation are identified and marked as reserved spots/areas, the natural coastal terrestrial vegetation on the sandbars/dunes/beaches along the coasts of the peninsular Thailand will completely disappear in the near future.

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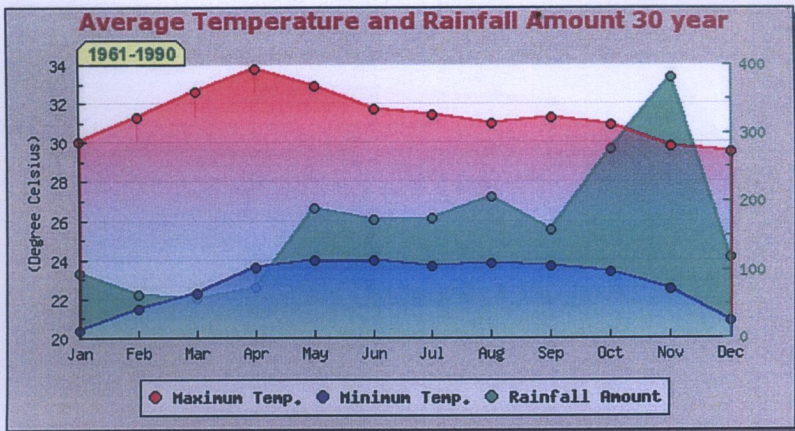


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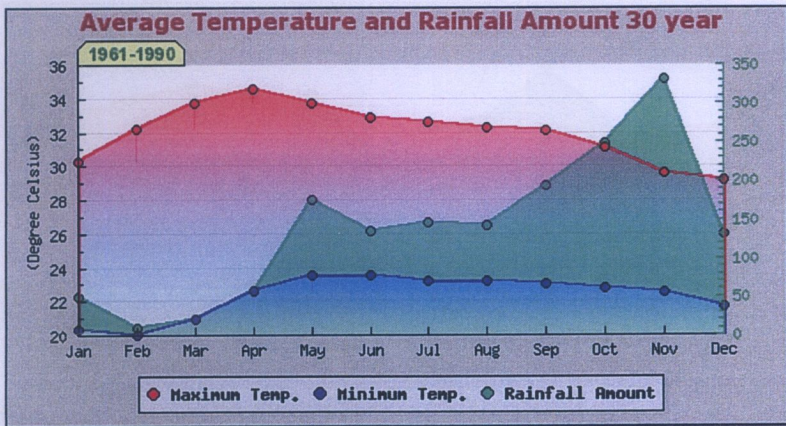
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## **APPENDICES**



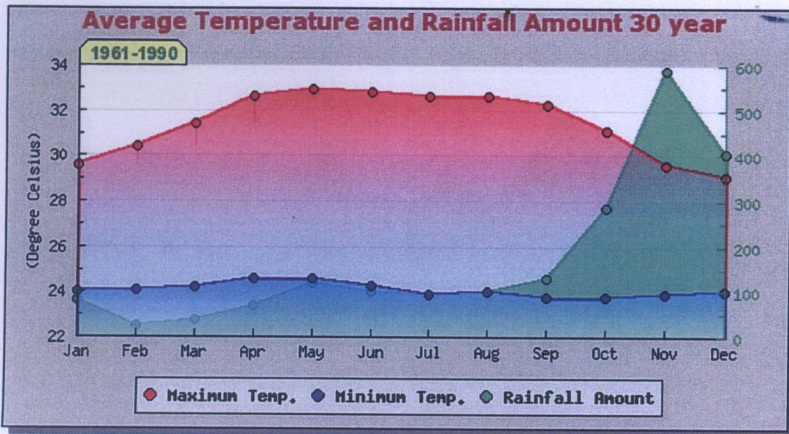


**APPENDIX 1.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount  
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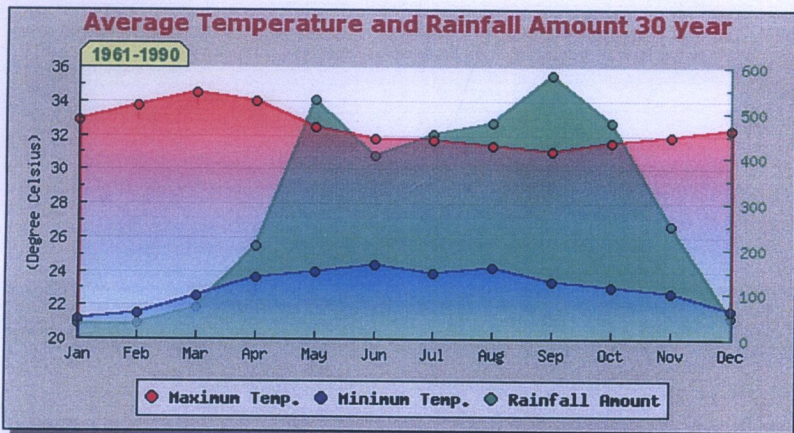


**APPENDIX 2.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount  
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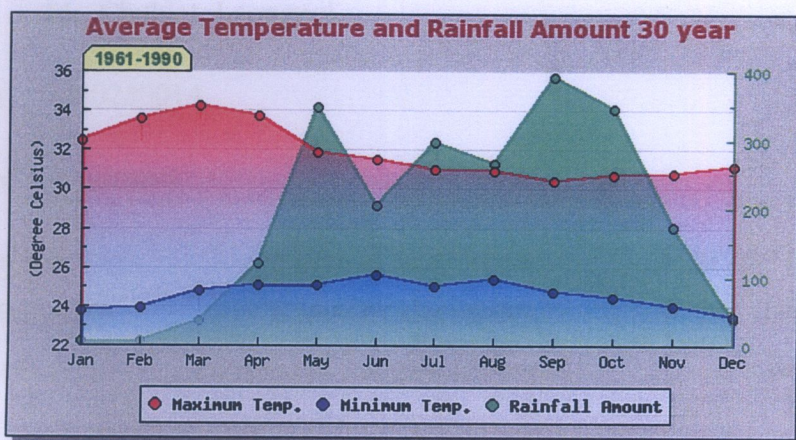


**APPENDIX 3.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount 30 year (1961 – 1990) in Songkhla province.

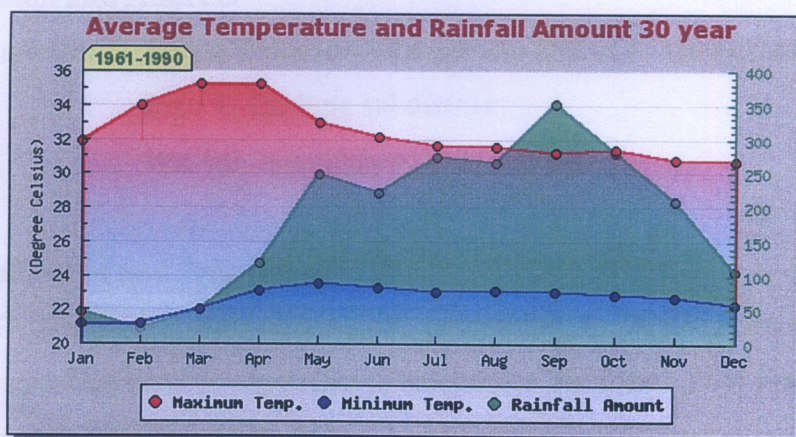


**APPENDIX 4.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount 30 year (1961 – 1990) in Phangnga province.





**APPENDIX 5.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount 30 year (1961 – 1990) in Krabi province.



**APPENDIX 6.** Average Temperature and Rainfall Amount 30 year (1961 – 1990) in Trang province.



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