

## *Staurogyne debilis* (T. Anders.) C. B. Clarke (Acanthaceae) in Taiwan

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(Manuscript received 8 April, 1999; accepted 15 May, 1999)

**ABSTRACT:** *Staurogyne debilis* (T. Anders.) C. B. Clarke (Acanthaceae) is a common species in the Philippines. It is here reported for the first time from the Nanjenshan Nature Reserve in the southernmost of Taiwan. Taxonomic description, habitat information, a line drawing of the species, and a key to the Taiwanese species of *Staurogyne* are provided.

**KEY WORDS:** *Staurogyne debilis*, Acanthaceae, Taxonomy, Nanjenshan, Taiwan.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Staurogyne* Wall. was known to have a single species in northern Taiwan, namely *S. concinnula* (Hance) O. Ktze. Recently, on a field trip to the Nanjenshan LTER site, Ms. Shu-Chuan Liu and Mr. Chao-Chien Wang have collected yet another interesting taxon somewhat resembling *S. concinnula*. After closer examination, it turned out to be *Staurogyne debilis* (T. Anders.) C. B. Clarke, a new record for the flora of Taiwan. The species is readily separable from *S. concinnula* by its leafy stems. *S. debilis* was previously known only from the Philippines, occurring at low and medium altitudes in Luzon, Catanduanes, Palawan, Mindoro, Samar, Leyte, Panay, Negros, Mindanao and Basilan. The discovery of *Staurogyne debilis* offers a further example of the northward movement of tropical elements from the Philippines to Taiwan. Species of this kind are usually limited to the lowlands and particularly to the southern extreme (Hengchun Peninsula) of Taiwan Island and the two islets off its southeastern coast (Li, 1953).

#### Key to the species of *Staurogyne* in Taiwan

Herbs nearly acaulescent; leaves oblanceolate ..... *S. concinnula*  
Herbs caulescent; leaves elliptic, oblong or oblong-ovate ..... *S. debilis*

1. *Staurogyne debilis* (T. Anders.) C. B. Clarke ex Merr. in Philip. Journ. Sci. 2: 302. 1907.

菲律賓哈啞花 Fig. 1

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