

## 9th Trichoptera Symposium, Chiangmai:

## Excursion to Doi Suthep

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is situated immediately to the west of Chiang Mai city, near the University Campus and the Zoological Garden. The eastern slopes of the mountain (Doi means mountain) are covered by relatively untouched native forests of several types: the foothills are covered by a deciduous dipterocarp forest, dominated by *Shorea obtusa*, *S. siamensis* and *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, while the higher elevations support a mixed evergreen forest, consisting of many tree species of which genera of the family Fagaceae (e.g. *Quercus*, *Lithocarpus* and *Castanopsis*) are common. Both types of forests are seasonal and influenced by monsoon climate, with a rainy and a dry season. Doi Suthep is one of the finest areas in northern Thailand with many plant and animal species including birds. In its small forest streams many caddis species are found.

The new road to the mountain has heavy traffic, and construction work in recent years has caused damage to the streams below by siltation and pollution. It will take years until the caddis populations there will recover.

Doi Suthep temple (Wat Pra That Doi Suthep), 14 km from the town, is situated on one of Doi Suthep's hilltops, overlooking the town and the fertile plain of River Ping. Many pilgrims and tourists come here.

The road continues to Pupal Palace where the members of the Royal Family live during their visits of the north of the country.

A short distance from the temple, a forest road starts from the National Park Headquarters and crosses the eastern slopes of Doi Suthep at an elevation of 900-1000 m. We are walking along this road through widely undisturbed native forest to see many interesting plants and animals and some of our favorite streams. Many Trichoptera species were described from here. A list of recorded species is available. After about two hours we are walking down on a good forest trail to Montatan waterfall where we meet our vehicle. This waterfall is an excellent Trichoptera place too, where *Larcaria lannaensis* (Goeridae), *Gumaga okinawaensis* (Sericostrimatidae) and many others were found.

## Excursion to Doi Inthanon

Starting from Chiang Mai on road no. 108 to the southwest, we are passing the airport on the right. The road leads through the plain of the River Ping with intensive agricultural land. At this season of the year, the rice fields are empty and dry. There is not much flowering in the dry season now. In the gardens you see everywhere the ornamental shrub *Bougainvillea spectabilis* (Nyctaginaceae): the blossoms are small and white, but the terminal leaves are variously white, pink, red and yellow. Large trees with hook-shaped, bright orange-red flowers and large tripartite leaves are *Butea monosperma* (Papilionaceae). Later you may see many sugar palms (*Borassus belliformis*) with fan-like palmate leaves. After one hour driving, at Chom Tong, we are turning to the right to road no. 1009. Note the trees with large leaves along the road: they are teak (*Tectona grandis*, Verbenaceae). At km 3 is a checkpoint where the toll is paid.

The road is now entering the Doi Inthanon range. In the foothills the road crosses dipterocarp forest which is growing in the driest places and is highly endangered by fire. It consists of few species of Dipterocarpaceae (*Dipterocarpus alatus*, *D. obtusifolius*, *Shorea robusta*) which are relatively small trees with red and yellow leaves or are devoid of leaves in this season of the year.

On the left is a Visitors' Centre where one may find information about the National Park.

The road crosses the Mae Klang River at km 10 at an elevation of 420 m where our sampling point no. 8 is. The caddis fauna of this place is poorer in species than at higher elevations, and consists mainly of hydropsychids (*Cheumatopsyche*, *Potamyia*, *Macrostemum 5-fasciatum*, *Hydromanicus inferior*), *Goera* spp., *Stenopsyche siamensis*, *Marilia sumatrana*, *Chimarra bimblona* and leptocerids (*Leptocerus inthanonensis*).

At km 18, at an elevation of 540 m, is a small waterfall on the left which is our sampling point no. 6. On the right, in the main stream, is our sampling point no. 7 where we shall stop for some minutes on our way back (see below).

Posters along the road are warning of the danger of forest fire.

At lower elevations are some small villages along the road, inhabited by Karen people. They are one of the ethnic minorities. Women are clothed in red, white-striped cotton skirts and blue, embroidered shirts. Embroideries include grass seeds. Girls are usually in white, and men often wear red, white-striped shirts and often bear shoulder-bags of the same material.

Note the badly eroded slopes; the result of slash and burn cultivation over centuries by mountain tribesmen other than the Karen.

After Vachirathan Falls (km 20), the forest becomes greener and more humid. In these middle elevations of Doi Inthanon a mixed evergreen forest grows with many oak (*Quercus*, *Castanopsis*) and pine trees (*Pinus kesiya*, *P. merkusii*). Many of the latter are planted along the road.

At km 23 (elevation 900m) with our sampling station no. 5, a road goes to the right into Pamon valley with two large Karen villages.

At km 25 (elevation 980m) we see rice fields on the left which are cultivated by the Karen. Our sampling point no. 4 in the Klang stream here is between the rice fields. Here the stream is broad with a gravel bottom, with remarkable populations of Paduniinae (*Padunia karaked*, *Nepaloptila jisunted*, *Poeciloptila briatec*) and *Stenopsyche haimavatika*.

At km 31 (elevation 1300m) is an open area with the National Park Headquarters to the right and the Birdwatchers' Centre on the left. Behind the headquarters, Siribhum waterfall is seen, and there is the large village Ban Khun Klang, inhabited by another ethnic minority called Meo (=Hmong). Meo women and children may be identified by their clothes made of blue or black cotton with white batik patterns and embroidery of many colors. Women wear embroidered cylindrical hats.

At Ban Khun Klang we had a light trap to study the caddis fauna.

Ban Khun Klang is joined with a "Royal Project". Royal Projects are national development projects for ethnic minorities in the mountains under the patronage of the members of the Royal Family. Villagers originally used slash-and-burn cultivation to grow mountain rice and poppies. In the last few decades the population of these minorities increased much in northern Thailand because many of them came as refugees from wars in adjacent countries. The result was heavy soil erosion with subsequent flood disasters in the lowlands, and also problems with opium. In the Royal Projects, the villagers are educated and instructed to produce other crops such as cabbage, strawberries, Passiflora, flowers etc., to prevent opium production and to save the forest. Thai Universities are helping with advice, selection of better adapted crops, but also with medical care etc.

Note the deforested slopes here. Some of them have been reforested, not always in a fortunate manner, with pines and Eucalyptus.

During the last years, Thailand's forest policy became very restrictive. It is now forbidden to cut trees. Timber must now be imported. At the same time, new National Parks have been created; there are now well over a hundred in the country.

At Ban Khun Klang, we are visiting the Meo village, and Siribhum waterfall, and have a lunch break.

Many streams around Bang Khun Klang are inhabited by a rich caddis fauna. A list is available. These middle elevations between 1200 and 1700 m are the richest in species on this mountain range, and there are many species of *Rhyacophila*, *Chimarra*, lepidostomatids, four species of *Limnacentropus* etc. At Siribhum waterfall and other torrentuous places, we may observe *Trichomacronema paniae* flying. Their larvae build their retreats and nets in places where the water velocity is very high (up to 4 m/sec).

Continuing our way along the road, we are passing another checkpoint at km 38 (elevation 1700m) where the fog forest begins. This type of forest is in the clouds for most time of the year. On our way back we shall have a stop here.

The road was constructed during the Vietnam war for military purpose, and we can see that the constructors had not much cared for the unique beautiful forest. Eroded slopes and dead trees remained.

Along the road, you may now see large white flowers on the slopes as well as epiphytic ones on trees. These are the orchid *Dendrobium infundibulum* and *Rhododendron ludwigianum*. Many plants are epiphytic here, i.e. they grow trees because it is too dark on the forest ground.

At km 42 (elevation 2000m) we are visiting the two new chedi (temples) on the left, which were built at the occasions of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays of the King and the Queen in recent years. They are noteworthy examples of a modern but noble religious architecture. Note in particular the reliefs outside the walls, made of ceramics and showing religious scenes but also wildlife. Near the temples is a walking trail through the magnificent forest. Unfortunately our time does not allow to walk here.

In the region near the chedi is our sampling point no. 1. Some species which are typical of the highest elevations are found here, e.g. *Rhyacophila murhu*, *Nepaloptila ruangjod*, *Dolophilodes bullu*, *Adinartrella parva*, *Moropsyche gerolan*, *Uenoa lobata*.

A short distance from the temples, at an elevation of 2300m, is our highest sampling point. It is in dense forest and not accessible to a large group. It contains a distinctive caddis fauna including *Rhyacophila verugia*, *Doloclaenus serrata*, *Dolophilodes torrentis*, *Kisaura* cf. *filiformis*, *Plectrocnemia arphachad*, *P. eber*, *Kambaitipsyche hykron*, *Arctopsyche variabilis*, *Parapsyche intawitschajanon*, *Eubasilissa maclachlani*, *Zephyropsyche weaveri*, *Paraphlegopteryx malickyi* and *Molanmodes alticola*. Some of these have been described from the Himalayas or from places in the high mountains in northwestern direction.

At the summit of Doi Inthanon (2571m) we are visiting the tomb of King Intawichayanon, after whom the mountain is now named. Former names were Doi Luang or Doi Angka (Not to be confused with Doi Angkang which is near the northern border to Myanmar). At the other side is an ugly military object (photography forbidden).

A few steps lower is a peat bog with trees of red-flowering *Rhododendron delavayi* which is a close relative of the well-known Nepalese *R. arboreum*. Probably there will be no flowers in January.

Also the other groups of plants and animals at the higher elevations of Doi Inthanon show close similarities to those of the Himalaya or even to the Palaearctic Region (but not the caddisflies!).

In the Visitor Centre nearby you may find rich information on the National Park and its problems.

The summit region may be quite cold at times. The lowest temperature ever registered here was -8°C.

We are now turning back the same way, stopping for about two hours near the check point at km 38 (elevation 1700m) where we are walking through the magnificent forest. Here is one of the famous birdwatcher's places. The strongest walkers may step down to the three beautiful streams with many caddis species including *Ithanoopsyche trimeresuri*, *Antisocentropus diana*, *Ganonema dracula*, *Molanna oglamar*, *Moropsyche suteminn*, *Arctopsyche hynreck* and *Paduniella dendrobia*.

Finally, before returning to Chiangmai, we stop at our sampling station no.7 (km 10, elevation 540m) to see the interesting fauna of torrents including *Himalopsyche acharai*, *Glossosoma elvisso*, *Ugandatrichia maliwan*, *Trichomacronema paniae*, *Marilia aerope*, *Limnocoentropus sp.* and *Psilotreta watananikorni*.

## Textiles

Traditional Thai textiles are famous for their harmonic colours and patterns and for their careful work. They consist of cotton, silk or hemp. Recently large quantities of low quality textiles have inundated the market, and it becomes more difficult to find good and beautiful specimens. Traditional patterns are mainly made by two methods:

1. Ikat (in Thai *Mat mi*). This is a resist dye technique whereby the yarn for the weft (Thais normally do not use warp ikat) is tied with water-resistant strings to keep away the dye, and thus a pattern is created in the weft yarn before it is woven. The design then appears as the fabric is woven. The material is cotton, dyed with indigo, or silk in many colours. Warp ikat textiles are produced by Karen people, one of the ethnic minorities, who are skilled weavers on body tension looms.
2. Supplementary weft techniques: The cloth is decorated with threads which are inserted into the same shed as the ordinary wefts, but are allowed to float over selected warp threads to form distinctive patterns of contrasting colour and texture relative to the ground cloth.
  - 2.1 Continuous supplementary weft (in Thai *Khit*): The supplementary threads are carried continuously back and forth over and under warp threads across the full width of the fabric.
  - 2.2 Discontinuous supplementary weft (in Thai *Chok*): The supplementary threads are worked back and forth across the weft in small pattern areas only, and do not extend the full width of the fabric.

Still now some weavers use a stick, a porcupine quill, a wooden sword or the fingers to pick out certain warp yarns and create a shed for the insertion of the supplementary weft. Most weavers use a predetermined shed-selection process in which shed sticks or supplementary string heddles inserted in the warp accelerate the weaving.

Most of the hand-woven textiles are produced by traditional techniques in northeastern Thailand and Laos. In the shops you may also see many textiles produced by hilltribes in their own traditions, decorated with embroidery (Yao, Meo), applique (Lisu, Akka, Meo) or batik in indigo (Meo).

Silk of good quality may be found at Shinawatra in Huai Kaew road or at the weaving factory in Sankampaeng. Handwoven cotton, produced by Tai villagers in Yunnan (China) is sold by Pa Fai Tor Bo Ran in the Night Market. Handwoven cotton, dyed with traditional natural colours is sold by Ban Rai Pai Ngarm, 206 Tippanetr road.

If you want to know more about textiles, ask Gudrun Malicky.

## Ceramics

A wide variety of ceramics are produced in Thailand, most of it still hand made. Various containers for gardens and kitchen use, but also statues etc. are earthenware, in traditional forms, and some of it with nice decorations. At the entrances of many houses and shops you may see water pots for drinking water in traditional design. The program for the accompanying persons includes a visit to the village Muang Kung where this kind of ware is produced in traditional manner, without the use of a potter's wheel.

A majolica-like decorative ware, mostly in white and blue, is produced locally. There are many kinds of cups, vases etc., but also small statues for everyday use.

Celadon is most famous. It is a traditionally produced, high-fired (about 1260° - 1300° in reducing atmosphere) stoneware, almost as hard as china ware. Normally it is light green, but also other colours may occur. Good celadon is now rare, but many imitations are found in the shops. Beautiful old pieces are now very expensive.

Celadon may e.g. be found at Mengrai Kilns, 79/2 Araks Road (near the Chinese temple) but also in shops in the road to Sankampaeng. A not very orderly looking shop is immediately near Suan Dok Gate where you may find a large selection of all kind of ceramics (except celadon and china) at low prices.

Exhibitions of beautiful ceramics are found in the National Museum.

Don't worry about the gigantic masses of low quantity ceramics in the shops. They are produced for the taste of tourists and have nothing to do with native ceramics. Nevertheless you may find good specimens after some search.

## Zoological Garden

A visit to the Zoological Garden is highly recommended. In contrast to Zoological Gardens in other continents, animals are in good health and many of them are living in free areas without cages, such as gibbons, Orang Utan, tigers and many others. The Zoological Garden is situated in the foothills of Doi Suthep, adjacent at the National Park. The main entrance is in Huai Kaew Road.

## Ethnic minorities

In the town you may often see people in striking traditional clothes. They are members of several ethnic minorities called "hilltribes" which are living in villages in the mountains. They are not primitive tribes as often believed, but they have their own traditions, and some of them have a long and well-documented history, longer dating back than the history of Thai. Their languages are very different from Thai. In this country they are small minorities only, but in adjacent countries, mainly China, they are more numerous. Many of them came to Thailand as refugees in recent years, and have caused ecological and political problems; see some comments in the description of our excursion to Doi Inthanon.

Most of these peoples frequently seen in the town are members of Meo (=Hmong), Yao (=Mien), Akka and Lisu, but also many Karen and Lahu are living in the surroundings. The women of these tribes may be easily identified by traditional clothes; most men are however wearing "civilized" clothes.

Textiles, basketware, woodcarving and other products made by hilltribe people are sold in the Night Market and in a hilltribe shop near Suan Dok temple in Suthep Road (This is the temple with the Royal tombs).

## Payom Market

The visit to Payom Market near the University Campus may give you an impression of a tropical market with the plentiful of goods, mainly food, available here. Many more kinds of vegetables, spices and fruits are found here than we know from the temperate regions. It does not mean that all kind of food offered for sale here is the normal food of Thai people, but some people may even in the recent westernized civilisation continue to prefer traditional dishes including caterpillars, crickets, snakes, snails and the like. If you like, you may safely eat all these things if you want to try. Let you explain how they are prepared.

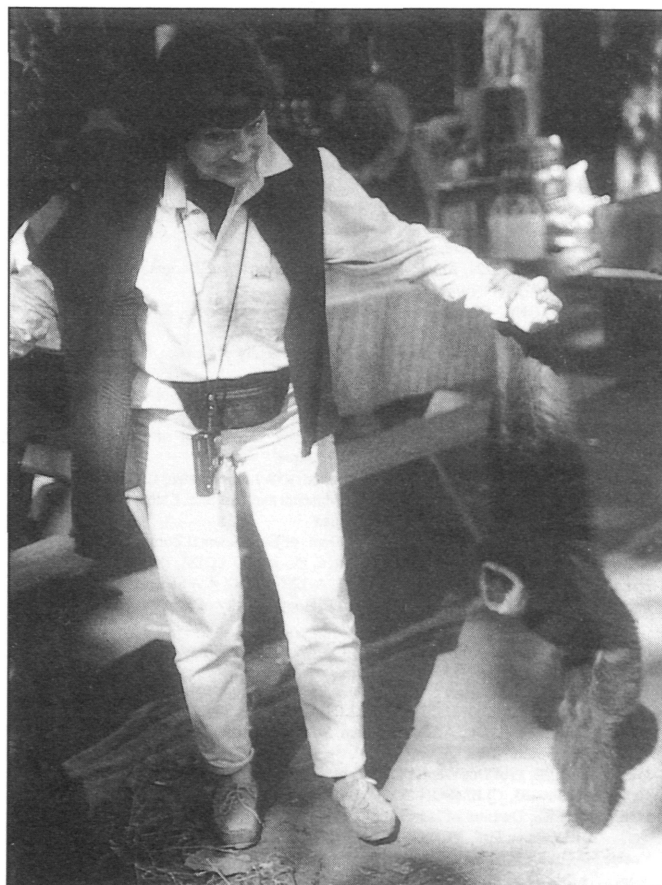
## Sanpranon Antiquities

This is not one of the usual shops with "antiques" especially made for tourists, but a collection of old and used things, many of them damaged. It may give you an idea how people in Thailand had formerly lived and what they have used for their everyday life: coffee cups, vehicles, furniture, tools, lamps, music instruments and the like. Don't expect precious things here. I remember some of these objects here which were not sold in the last ten years. But the collection gives a fascinating impression of the past.

## Wat Suan Dok

In the area of the temple Wat Suan Dok (Suthep Road) are the tombs of the members of the Royal Family of Lanna. Chiangmai was the capital of Lanna Kingdom which existed until 1938.

On the road nearby is a hilltribe shop with textiles, basketware, woodcarved things and other products made by the ethnic minorities.



F.Sipahiler with gibbon

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<bold>New WWW page</bold>: <http://www.zoo.uib.no/~kjell/index.html>, The Helicopsychidae Page is produced to make available limited information about Helicopsychidae. On this page you can find links to a short introduction to the family; pictures of adults and larval cases; some references; species lists; a distribution map; and an updated graph illustrating the cumulative sum of described species. Furthermore, you can also get a list of the Norwegian Trichoptera species.

I welcome you all to visit the page. Kjell Arne Johanson

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| Mus=E9plass 3           |       | <a href="http://www.zoo.uib.no/~kjell/index.html">http://www.zoo.uib.no/~kjell/index.html</a> |
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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Braueria](#)

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