



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Convolvulaceae, a family of about 50 genera and 1800 species (Heywood, 1985) is widely distributed throughout temperate and tropical region and abundant in tropical America and tropical Asia (Lawrence, 1963). It is well known as Morning-Glory family. In the past, there are much confusion in their scientific name until Hallier used the pollen morphology as a taxonomic character to separated the genera. This family is closely related to Solanaceae and Boraginaceae (Hutchinson, 1960)

This family is interesting in account of many species have showy flowers which are widely cultivated as ornamentals. Some species are edible and for medicinal purposes.

In Thailand, the Convolvulaceae is represented by 22 genera about 102 species, (Kerr, 1951 and 1954) most of them are herbaceous or woody twiners. Most species are commonly found all over the country. They are sun-loving plants and occur at the edge of the forests, along the roadside or in waste area. These habitats have high tendency to be disturbed by human activities, such as building and road construction, agricultural expansion, etc. Recently many species have been becoming rare. Further more, the taxonomic knowledge information of this family has been scarcely known. Therefore the taxonomic study on this family is highly needed.

Aims of the thesis

The aim of the thesis are to :

1. collect plant specimens of the following genera : Aniseia, Donamia, Cuscuta, Evolvulus, Jacquemontia, Merremia, Neuropeltis, Operculina, and Xenostegia of the family Convolvulaceae.
2. study taxonomy : identify, classify, construct key to genera and species.
3. study pollen morphology.
4. record ecological data, distribution and their uses.



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