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Botanists confirm 6 new floral species

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Six floral specimens recently discovered in northern and eastern provinces have been confirmed as new species.

The six new flower species are Kao Tog Yonok, which was found in Chiang Rai, Net Muang (Chantaburi), Bunga Karaket (Chiang Mai), Sawet Daen Sruang (Nan), Malai Fon Lep (Nan) and Suddee Dao (Phrae).

All of them are in the Gesneriaceae family, said Pramote Triboun, a botanist at the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research who headed a research team on the new species.

Mr Pramote said his team found the flowers five years ago and spent some time confirming they were new species. About 4,000 flowers in the Gesneriaceae family have been listed so far but none of them match the six types found in the Thai provinces, he said.

Details on the discovery of the new species were published in the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation's Thai Forest Bulletin last month.

The flowers can grow in dry evergreen forests on limestone mountainsides. They are between 10cm to 100cm tall and bloom during August and November, Mr Pramote said, adding the discovery highlights Thailand's botanical diversity.

However, he warned the discovered flowers could be under threat as they are located near quarry sites.

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