

***Capsicum frutescens* L. used by aborigines of Taiwan (Poster)**

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**Introduction**

There are various indigenous people living in Taiwan (Ami, Atayal, Bunun, Kavalan, Paiwan, Puyuma, Rukai, Saisiat, Sao (Thao), Taroko, Tsou and Yami (Dahwu)). It is known that they use *Capsicum frutescens* L., but the details in the local names, the use and the variation of *C. frutescens* in Taiwan aborigines has not been studied.

**Objectives**

To study the local name, the use and the variation of *Capsicum frutescens* and other condiments of Taiwan aborigines for understanding the dispersal and distribution of *C. frutescens* in Taiwan and also in Southeast and East Asia.

**Methods**

Interviews to local people (82, Ami: 6, Atayal: 17, Bunun: 20, Paiwan: 9, Puyuma: 3, Rukai: 8, Taroko and Sediq: 9, Northern Tsou: 4 and Southern Tsou: 2, and Yami: 4) and observation on morphological characters of *C. frutescens* were carried out.

**Results**

In the northern part of Taiwan, the local names of *Capsicum* used by the Atayal, Taroko, Sediq, and Northern Tsou were mainly derived from their names of ginger. In the central part, some Bunun people borrowed the name of san-fu-tiao (*Litsea cubeba* or genus *Lindera*) for the local name of *Capsicum*. In the southern part, the local names used by Ami, Paiwan, Puyuma and Rukai were derived from unknown origin, and especially Ami people, who are well-known to prefer and use *Capsicum*, called chilies in many ways. Yami people already lost their own name for *Capsicum*, and used Japanese name of chilies. Although morphologically and biochemically only one type of *C. frutescens* distributes in the Ryukyu Islands, where lie closely north of Taiwan, several morphologically different types of *C. frutescens* were found in Taiwan.

**Conclusion**

We clarified that *C. frutescens* in Ryukyu Islands in Japan, with a rare isozyme ShDH-B pattern in Southeast and East Asia, was probably introduced from Indonesia, but it is still unknown whether this specific type distributes in Taiwan, located between Indonesia and the Ryukyu Islands or not. It is necessary to carry out molecular analysis of *C. frutescens* in Taiwan.

**Keywords:** local name, ginger

**Selected References**

1. Yamamoto S. and Nawata E. (2005). *Capsicum frutescens* L. in Southeast and East Asia, and its dispersal routes into Japan. *Economic Botany* 59: 18-28.

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