



***Petrocodon lancifolius* (Gesneriaceae), a new species endemic to a central subtropical zone of Guizhou Province, China**

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Abstract

A new species of Gesneriaceae from southern China, *Petrocodon lancifolius*, is described and illustrated. It is similar to another stenochoric species, *P. scopulorum*, but is differentiated from its congeners by several characters, such as the shape of the leaf blades, the indumentum of peduncle, pedicels, the outside of bracts and corolla, the corolla shape, limb and lobes, the ovary, pistil, style, and phenology. A description of *P. lancifolius*, together with illustrations, a distribution map, habitat description, conservation assessment and a diagnostic comparison with *P. scopulorum* are presented.

Key words: Conservation Status, Limestone flora, Taxonomy

Introduction

Based on latest molecular data and taxonomic studies, some Chinese monotypic genera, *Calcareoboea* C.Y.Wu ex Li (1982: 241), *Paralagarosolen* Wei (2004: 528), *Dolicholoma* Fang & Wang (1983: 18) and *Tengia* Chun (1946: 279), one small genus endemic to China, *Lagarosolen* Wang (1984: 11) and a few species of *Didymocarpus* Wallich (1819: 378), have recently been merged into another small Chinese genus of Gesneriaceae, *Petrocodon* Hance (1883: 167) (formerly three species and one variety) (Wang 1990, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Wei 2007, Wei *et al.* 2010, Jiang *et al.* 2011). This genus has been recently enlarged to more than 20 species (Möller *et al.* 2011, Wang *et al.* 2011, Weber *et al.* 2011).

During a botanical investigation in 2009 for endemic plants of Guizhou province, some specimens of an unknown species in Gesneriaceae were collected in Huishui County from the central of Guizhou Province, China. The reproductive organs of this species, especially its stamens, look like those of *P. scopulorum* (Chun 1946: 281) Wang (1990: 136), however the morphology of their vegetative organs is very different. After consulting local and national floras and relevant literatures (Wang 1990, He & Cong 1992, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010) as well as herbarium species from BJFC, HGCM, IBK, IBSC, KUN, and PE, we concluded it is a new species of *Petrocodon*. Based on a detailed comparison with the other species in this genus (Wang 1990, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Wei 2007, Jiang *et al.* 2011, Wang *et al.* 2011), we describe and illustrate the new species, *P. lancifolius*, which is endemic to Guizhou Province, China. It is closely similar to *P. scopulorum*.

Taxonomic Treatment

***Petrocodon lancifolius* Fang Wen & Y.G.Wei, *sp. nov.* (Figure 1)**

The new species differs from its relative, *P. scopulorum* (Chun) Y.Z.Wang, by its narrower leaves, leaf blades