



Primulina hochiensis var. *rosulata* (Gesneriaceae)—a new variety at an entrance of a limestone cave from Guangxi, China

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Abstract

Primulina hochiensis var. *rosulata*, a new endemic variety from Guangxi, China, is described and illustrated. It is similar to *P. hochiensis sensu stricto*, but differs in lacking stolons, the different indumentum of peduncle, corolla, filament and anthers, leaf blades elliptical to slightly ovate, calyx purple, corolla white or pink, filaments geniculate close to the base, staminodes 3, and stigmas translucent to white, obtrapeziform, 2-lobed.

Introduction

The circumscription of *Primulina* Hance (1883: 169) has recently been revised (Wang *et al.* 2011, Weber *et al.* 2011). This genus has now at least 139 species and 11 varieties (Wang *et al.* 1990, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Xu *et al.* 2009, Liu *et al.* 2010, Pan *et al.* 2010, Wei *et al.* 2010, Huang *et al.* 2011, Liu *et al.* 2011, Shen *et al.* 2011, Tang & Wen 2011, Wu *et al.* 2011, Wu *et al.* 2011, Xu *et al.* 2011, Xu *et al.* 2011ab, Hong *et al.* 2012, Huang *et al.* 2012, Li *et al.* 2012, Wen *et al.* 2012, Wen *et al.* 2012, Wu *et al.* 2012, Xu *et al.* 2012). Two of the authors, Bo Gao and Guo-Le Qin, found a population of *Primulina* plants at the entrance of a limestone cave near Tong'an town, Pingle County, Guilin City, Guangxi, China in 2008. Although this unknown taxon looks like *Primulina hochiensis* (Huang & Chen 1992: 14) Mich.Möller & A.Weber in Weber *et al.* (2011: 785), we concluded that it is a new variety after carefully consulting the relevant literature (e.g. Li & Wang 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010), Flora of China (Wang *et al.* 1990, Wang *et al.* 1998) and herbarium specimens. The characters are listed, described and illustrated below.

Taxonomic Treatment

Primulina hochiensis (C.C.Huang & X.X.Chen) Mich.Möller & A.Weber var. *rosulata* F.Wen & Y.G.Wei, var. nov. (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2A–H).

The new variety differs from the typical variety, *Primulina hochiensis* var. *hochiensis*, by lacking stolons, leaf blades elliptical to slightly ovate, peduncles erect (eglandular) puberulent, pedicels ≤ 7 mm long, flowers with purple calyx, corolla white or pale pink, outside puberulent with both glandular and eglandular hairs, filaments glabrous, geniculate close to the base, staminodes 3, pistil 9.2–9.7 mm long, and stigmas translucent to white, obtrapeziform, 2-lobed.