



A new species of *Caryodaphnopsis* Airy Shaw (Lauraceae) from southeastern Yunnan, China

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Abstract

After four consecutive years of field investigations in tropical forests of SE Yunnan of China, we found a *Caryodaphnopsis* species (Lauraceae) which is similar to *C. laotica* in possessing pubescent leaves, petioles and twigs, but differs from the latter by the densely pubescent ovary. As a result, a new species *Caryodaphnopsis malipoensis*, is described. Conservation status of the species was considered as VU D2. Illustrations and a distribution map of the new species are provided.

Key words: conservation, field investigation, flora, taxonomy

Introduction

Caryodaphnopsis Airy Shaw (1940: 74) is a small genus of Lauraceae disjunctly distributed in tropical Asia and Neotropics, including ca. 15 species across the world (Li & Li 1991; van der Werff & Dao 1999; Li *et al.* 2008; Aymard & Romero-Gonzalez 2009, van der Werff 2012). This genus is characterized by either pinnate, trinerved, or triplinerved opposite leaves, strongly unequal tepals with the outer ones markedly smaller than the inner ones, and the wood of the Old World species bearing pyramidal calcium oxalate crystals in the ray parenchyma cells (van der Werff & Richter 1985).

Three species were recorded in China (Li *et al.* 2008): *C. laotica* Airy Shaw (1960: 250), *C. henryi* Airy Shaw (1940: 75), and *C. tonkinensis* (Lecomte) Airy Shaw (1940: 75), among which *C. laotica* possesses densely rusty pubescent branchlets, petioles, and abaxial leaf blades, but glabrous ovaries. However, the fruits of *C. laotica* and *C. henryi* are unknown (Li *et al.* 2008).

We conducted field investigations in southeastern Yunnan of China from 2009–2012, and collected a number of specimens bearing both flowers and fruits. We noticed that a few of these specimens not only have pubescent twigs, leaves, and petioles, but also have pubescent ovaries and fruits, differing from all other known species of the genus. Thus, this pubescent fruited species is described here as new to science.

Taxonomy

Caryodaphnopsis malipoensis Bing Liu et Y. Yang, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–2 & 3A–3D)

Type:—CHINA. Yunnan Province: Malipo County, Tianbao, Sumawan, Laodengnong, 8 May 2011, flower, Bing Liu 1293 (holotype: PE!).

Diagnosis:—Haec species nova foliis et tepalis pubescentibus *C. laoticae* similis, sed ovariis pubescentibus differt.