



Ardisia rubricaulis sp. nov. (Primulaceae) from Guangxi, China

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Abstract

A new species of *Ardisia* (Primulaceae), *A. rubricaulis* S. Z. Mao & C. M. Hu from Guangxi, China is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to *Ardisia* subgen. *Crispardisia* which is characterised by leaves with marginal glands (vascularized nodules). Its affinity is with *A. maculosa* Mez, but can be easily distinguished from the latter by its lateral and glandular puberulent inflorescence and by the underside of leaves and corolla-lobes being densely black-punctate.

Key words: Myrsinoideae, new species, taxonomy, southwestern China

Introduction

Ardisia Swartz (1788: 48) is a large genus in the Primulaceae comprising more than 500 pantropical species, of which about 400 are distributed in Asia. According to Hu & Vidal (2004), south China and Indochina is one of the main centres of species diversity for this genus. In the newly published “Flora of China”, Chen & Pipoly (1996) recorded 65 species, of which 38 occur in Guangxi Province.

During recent field work undertaken in southern Guangxi, the first author collected many specimens of *Ardisia*. In the course of identifying these specimens based on herbarium vouchers and consulting the types of related species from IBSC, IBK, and photographs of the types from PE, KUN and NY, we found a plant differing from the already described species. This leads to the proposal of a new taxon, which is described below.

Ardisia rubricaulis S.Z. Mao & C.M. Hu, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Type:—CHINA. Guangxi: Jingxi Xian, Sanhe village, 23° 12' 06.45" N, 106° 03' 41.14" E, 995 m elev., 28 May 2009, S.Z. Mao 030 (holotype: IBSC, isotype: IBK).

Ardisiae maculosae Mez subsimilis, a qua imprimis inflorescentiis lateralibus, ferrugineo-puberulis, foliis subtus et lobis corollae densissime nigro-punctatis differt.

Evergreen shrub, 1–1.7 m high; branchlets deep reddish brown, ferruginous and glandular puberulent when young. Leaves alternate, ± crowded towards the upper part of branchlets; petioles 0.7–1 cm long, glabrous; leaf blade oblong-elliptic, 12–16 by 2.2–3.4 cm, base cuneate, apex acute, margins subentire, with indistinct marginal glands (vascularized nodules), papery; glabrous adaxially, sparsely and minutely lepidote abaxially, glandular dots numerous, black, scattered, more distinct on abaxial surface; lateral nerves 12–18 on each side, with short intersecondary veins, angle to the midrib about 50°, upwards arcuate, anastomosing at margin, not forming a marginal vein; secondary veins slender, prominent on abaxial surface. Inflorescence a simple