



## A new species of *Salix* (Salicaceae) from Tibet (Xizang), China

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### Abstract

We describe and illustrate *Salix elongata*, a new species of *Salix* endemic to southeastern Tibet (Xizang). The new species is similar to *S. opsimantha* in having terminal catkins, oblong bracts, and glabrous ovaries, but differs from the latter as follows: stems decumbent and rooting, petioles long, ovary stipes equal to or longer than the adaxial nectary, styles distinct for half their lengths, stigmas small.

**Key words:** new species, *Salix*, Salicaceae, Zayü, China

### Introduction

The genus *Salix* L. comprises ~350–520 species (Fang *et al.* 1999, Ali 2001, Heywood *et al.* 2006, Belyaeva & Sennikov 2008, Argus *et al.* 2010). The genus is widely distributed in temperate and boreal regions of the Northern Hemisphere; a few species also occur in the Southern Hemisphere. Among a total of 275 species found in China, 189 are endemics (Fang *et al.* 1999). *Salix* has successfully colonized a wide range of habitats and is adaptable to changing environments (Skvortsov 1999). Many congeners are dominant components of alpine shrub and cushion vegetation in the Himalaya and Hengduan mountains of southwestern China, where some species occur up to elevations of 5400 m (Ding 1995).

**TABLE 1.** Morphological and distributional differences between *S. elongata*, *S. opsimantha*, *S. zayulica*.

	<i>S. elongata</i>	<i>S. opsimantha</i>	<i>S. zayulica</i>
Habit	dwarf shrubs, stems decumbent, rooting	low shrubs, stems erect	dwarf shrubs, stems decumbent, rooting
Height (m)	0.1–0.2	0.3–0.5(–3)	0.07–0.3
Petioles (mm)	15–51	4–10	3–8
Petioles / Blades (times)	0.6–1.1	0.3–0.4	0.08–0.18
Leaf blades	narrowly obovate or obovate	elliptic or obovate-elliptic	obovate-oblong or oblong elliptic
Leaf margin	margin remotely crenate, proximal blade margins entire	glandular serrate, proximal blade margins entire	entire or indistinctly glandular dentate
Ovary	Glabrous	Glabrous	densely downy
Styles(mm)	styles distinct 1/2 their lengths, 0.6–0.8; stigmas 2-lobed, 0.1–0.24	Styles distinct 3/4 their lengths, 0.6–1; stigmas 2-lobed, 0.2–0.5	Styles distinct, 0.5–1; stigmas 2-lobed, 0.14–0.21
Ovary stipes (mm)	0.8–1.3	(0–)0.1–0.3	0
Bracts	glabrous, or abaxially pubescent and sparsely ciliate	both surfaces sparsely downy and ciliate	abaxially and marginally densely long white pubescent
Distribution	SE Tibet	W Sichuan, E Tibet & NW Yunnan	SE Tibet
Elevation (m)	3500–3900	3600–4700	3600–3690

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