



A New Species of *Aspidistra* (Asparagaceae) from Guizhou, China

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An unknown species of *Aspidistra* Ker-Gawler (1822: 628) with freshly opened flowers and full ripe fruits was found when the writer was doing field study at Guiding country, Guizhou province in October, 2008. This species bloomed again in October, 2011 after being introduced to Guiyang College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, then was identified as a new species after studying relevant literature (Fang & Yu 2002, He 2002, Li & Tang 2002, Li & Wei 2003, Li 2004, Tillich 2005, 2006, Tillich *et al.* 2007, Tillich & Averyanov 2008, Lin *et al.* 2009, 2011, 2014, Hou *et al.* 2009, Xu *et al.* 2010a, 2010b, He *et al.* 2011a, 2011b, 2013, Gao *et al.* 2011, Hu *et al.* 2014, Vislobokov *et al.* 2014a, 2014b, Meng *et al.* 2014).

Description of the new species

Aspidistra pingfaensis S.Z.He & Q.W.Sun *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2)

Type:—China, Guizhou province, Guiding Country, Pingfa Township, under the shrub beside the valley, elevation ca. 780 m, 3 October, 2008, S.Z. He *et al.* 081003 (holotype, HGCM!).

Herbs perennial, rhizome creeping, subterete, 5–8 mm thick, covered with scales. Roots elongate. Leaf sheaths 3–5, purple-red, 5–12 cm, enclosing the base of leaves, fibrous when withered. Leaves solitary, 1.3–2.5 cm apart, leaf blade linear, 45–65 × 2–2.8 cm, apex gradually acuminate, base gradually narrowed into petiole, middle and upper margin sparsely thin denticulate, leaf blade slightly spotted with yellow-white; Petiole 8–26 cm. Peduncle 1.5–3.5 cm, bracts 3–4, broadly ovate, purple-red, 7–9 × 6–7 mm. Flower solitary, erect; Perigone campanulate, 1.5–1.7 cm tall and 1.2–1.6 cm across, 8-lobed, perigone tube 1.1–1.3 cm in length, 1.2–1.6 cm in diameter, yellowish-white outside, deep purple inside except the white base, lobes narrow triangular, 4–6 mm long and ca. 2 mm wide at base, purple inside and outside, somewhat outcurved; Stamens 8, inserted at ca. 4 mm above base of tube, filament ca. 0.8 mm in length, horizontally protruding, anthers oblong, ca. 1.6 × 1 mm, facing the ovary; Pistil 7–8 mm in length, ovary and style light yellow, ovary coniform and swelled obviously, diameter 4–5 mm, style gradually widened to stigma, stigma peltate, purple-red, ca. 8–9 mm in diameter, 8-lobed at margin, the center slightly concave with 4 whitish radiate bifurcating lines; pollen spherical, with verrucose ornamentation on the surface. Berry is subspherical, 1–1.4 cm high, 0.8–1.2 cm in diameter, with small spines. Flowering phase: October to November; Fruiting phase: September to October next year.

Distribution and Habitat:—The species grows under shrubs on valley slopes, at the height of 780–790 m. Distributed in Pingfa Township, Guiding Country, Guizhou province, China.

Additional specimen examined (paratype):—Pingfa Township, Guiding Country, Guizhou Province, China, 3 October, 2008, S.Z. He *et al.* 081002 (HGCM!).

Taxonomic relationships:—The new species is similar to *Aspidistra fasciaria* Li (1999: 484), *Aspidistra ebianensis* Lang & Zhu (1999: 492), *Aspidistra leyeensis* Wan & Huang (1987: 219). The major differences among these species, which are illustrated in Table 1, lie in the hairiness of the perigone tube, the location of stamens insertion, the shape of the ovary, and the upper surface characters of the stigma.

TABLE 1. Diagnostic characters distinguish *Aspidistra pingfaensis* from similar species.

Characters	<i>A. pingfaensis</i>	<i>A. fasciaria</i>	<i>A. ebianensis</i>	<i>A. leyeensis</i>
perigone	middle and base part light yellow, upper part purple–red	yellowish–green with purple spots	purple or purple–red	upper part purple, base part white
inside of the perigone tube	glabrous	papillate	papillate	papillate
stamens	inserted ca. 4 mm above base of tube	inserted near the base of tube	inserted at the base of tube	inserted ca. 4 mm above base of tube
ovary	coniform and swelled obviously	columned and slightly swelled	columned	columned and slightly swelled
upper surface of the stigma	slightly concave with 4 whitish radiate bifurcating lines, 8–lobed at margin	obviously convex with 3–4(5) deep crevices, 6–8(10) lobed at margin	slightly convex with 4 radiate ridges, 4–lobed at margin	4 hollows at center, 8–lobed at margin,

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