



Aspidistra chongzuoensis (Asparagaceae): a new species from limestone areas in Guangxi, China

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During our fieldwork in the southwest Guangxi, China in January 2014, we found in the White-headed Langur National Nature Reserve an unusual *Aspidistra* Ker-Gawler (1822: 628) specimen with fruits and dried up flowers only, so we could not identify it without fresh flowers. In November, we returned to the place for further observations of the species, and found the plants with blackish purple, bell-shaped flowers. After consulting herbarium specimens and relevant literature on *Aspidistra* (Liang & Tamura 2000, Li 2004, Li & Wei 2003, Tillich 2005, 2008, Lin *et al.* 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, Lin & Liu 2011, Liu *et al.* 2011, Tillich & Leong-Skornickova 2013, Hu *et al.* 2014, Meng *et al.* 2014, Vislobokov *et al.* 2014), it became apparent that this population is an undescribed species, and the valid name *Aspidistra chongzuoensis* was used, which is described below.

Description of the new species

Aspidistra chongzuoensis C.R.Lin & Y.S.Huang *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2A–H)

Type:—CHINA. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Chongzuo city, Jiangzhou district, Taiping town, Nonglou, limestone areas, 22°29'28"N, 107°18'41"E, alt. 240 m, 13 January 2014, Yu-Song Huang & Wei-Bin Xu CZ0274 (holotype IBK!).

Herbs perennial, evergreen. Rhizome creeping, epigeous, subterete, 5–6 mm thick, densely covered with nodes, roots numerous. Sheathing leaves 4–5, pale green, 1–6 cm long, enveloping base of petiole, fibrous when withered. Leaves solitary, 0.5–1 cm long spaced; petiole rigid, adaxially sulcate, 4.5–12 cm long, 2–3 mm in diam.; leaf blade elliptic to oblong, 14–22 cm long, 5–8 cm wide, dark green with pale green spots, apex acuminate, base widely cuneate, margin entire. Peduncle short, 5–10 mm long, bracts 4–5, two of them adnate to flower base, broadly ovate, 6–8 mm long, 8–10 mm wide, pale green, apex obtuse. Flower solitary; perigone campanulate, ca. 15 mm long, abaxially white and with purple mottled at the upper parts, adaxially purplish black except white at the bottom of perigone tube; lobes 8 (occasionally 7), explanate, ovate-triangular, apex rounded, distinctly 2-whorled, lobes of outer whorl 5–7 mm long, 5–8 mm wide at base, those of the inner whorl smaller, adaxially with 4–6 keels at base; tube 10–12 mm long, 13–15 mm in diam. Stamens 8, opposite to lobes, inserted in base of perigone tube, filaments ca. 1 mm long, anthers oblong, white or pale yellow, ca. 2 mm long and 1.5 mm wide. Pistil mushroom shaped, 7–8 mm long, ovary inconspicuous, style white, cylindrical, 4–5 mm long, ca. 2 mm in diam., stigma enlarged and thickened, ca. 3 mm thick, upper surface flat and glabrous, white, ca. 10 mm in diam., with 4 inconspicuous radial, bifurcate lines in center, irregularly undulate 16-lobed at margin, lower surface purplish black. Fruit subglobose, ca. 10 mm in diam., apex beaked. Flowering from October to December, fruiting mature in January next year.

Distribution and ecology:—This new species is currently known only from Chongzuo city in southwestern Guangxi, China. It grows on limestone slopes, in evergreen broad-leaved forests, at elevation about 240 m, associated with species *Ficus hispida* L., *Trevesia palmata* (Roxb. ex Lind.) Vis., *Peliosanthes macrostegia* Hance, *Excoecaria venenata* Lee & Wei, *Ophiorrhiza subrubescens* Drake, *Ophiopogon* sp., *Disporopsis longifolia* Craib and so on.