



Aristolochia weixiensis, a new species of Aristolochiaceae from Yunnan, China

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Abstract

Aristolochia weixiensis, a new species from northwest Yunnan, China, is described. *A. weixiensis* is affinis to *A. moupinensis* with similar leaf shape, but differs from the latter in the limb with dark purple colour and dense papillae, ca. 3.5 cm in diam., throat with light brown colour and dense brownish red patches, 13–16 mm in diam. Meanwhile, *A. weixiensis* is similar to *A. wuana* with similar leaves in shape, but differs in fruit and the size of leaf.

Key words: *Aristolochia weixiensis*, China, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

Aristolochia Linnaeus (1753: 960) includes about 400 species widely distributed in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions of the Old World, also in Australia (Ma 1989, Huang *et al.* 2003). Huang *et al.* (2003) recorded 45 species in China including 33 endemic species. In recent years, some new species were discovered, including *A. ledongensis* H. Xu, Y. D. Li & H. J. Yang in Xu *et al.* (2011: 285), *A. jianfenglingensis* H. Xu, Y. D. Li & H. Q. Chen in Xu *et al.* (2011: 287), *A. huanjiangensis* Y. Liu & L. Wu in Wu *et al.* (2013: 413), *A. mulunensis* Y. S. Huang & Y. Liu in Huang *et al.* (2013: 175), *A. yujungiana* Lu & Wang (2014: 293) and *A. longlinensis* Y. Liu & L. Wu in Wu *et al.* (2015: 491). In addition, a new *Aristolochia* name, *A. wuana* Liu & Deng (2009: 370) was published in China. During a field expedition to Shangri-La National Park in Weixi County, northwestern Yunnan, an unknown species of *Aristolochia* was collected. After careful studies of the genus, particularly the floral characteristics of those species in the nearby region, as well as comparison between this unknown species and related specimens in numerous herbaria, we confirm that it is a new species of *Aristolochia* describe below.

Taxonomic treatment

Aristolochia weixiensis X. X. Zhu & J. S. Ma, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–3)

Aristolochia weixiensis is very close to *A. moupinensis* Franchet (1887: 79) with similar leaves in shape and size, but differs from the latter in the limb with dark purple colour and dense papillae, ca. 3.5 cm in diameter, throat with light brown colour and dense brownish red patches, 13–16 mm in diameter. Meanwhile, *A. weixiensis* is similar to *A. wuana* with similar leaves in shape, but differs in fruit and the size of leaf. A detailed morphological comparison among these three species is showed in Table 1, the comparison between *A. weixiensis* and *A. moupinensis* is also showed in Fig. 4.

Type:—CHINA. Yunnan: Weixi County, Tacheng Town, 27°38'51"N, 99°21'47"E, 2599 m, 29 May 2015, X. X. Zhu & Z. X. Hua ZH084 (holotype CSH barcode 0087897!, isotypes CSH! & PE!).