# Impatiens yaoshanensis (Balsaminaceae), a new species from Yunnan, China

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Impatiens yaoshanensis K.M. Liu & Y.Y. Cong sp. nova (Balsaminaceae) is described from northern Yunnan, China, and illustrated. It is morphologically similar to *I. cyanantha*, *I. purpurea*, *I. blinii*, *I. pseudo-kingii*, and *I. loulanensis*. The distinguishing characters are given in a key to the six species.

Key words: Balsaminaceae, Impatiens, new species, taxonomy

Balsaminaceae are a family of two genera: *Hydrocera* and *Impatiens*. The latter is the larger genus and considered to be one of the taxonomically most difficult angiosperm genera. The species are extremely variable and lack the synapomorphic characters necessary to define subdivisions within the genus (Grey-Wilson 1980). There are more than 900 species worldwide (Chen 2001), most of which occur in the highlands and mountains of tropical and subtropical regions from India to southeastern Asia. About 240 species have been reported from China (Chen 2001, Jin & Ding 2002, Huang *et al.* 2003), most of which are endemic there.

Since 1999 we have studied the taxonomy and pollination ecology of *Impatiens* (Liu 1999, Tian *et al.* 2004). During a recent survey in northern Yunnan, we discovered an apparently new species on Yao Shan. After carefully studying the morphology, consulting the literature (Chen1986, Xiong & Luo 1988, Chen 2001, Huang 2006) and examining many additional specimens (including those in PE and KUN),

we concluded that these plants represent a new species.

## *Impatiens yaoshanensis* K.M. Liu & Y.Y. Cong, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)

Haec species I. cyananthae et I. purpureae affinis, sed inflorescentiis vulgo 9–21-floribus; sepalo infero apice in rostrum elongatum 8–10 mm longum; petalis lateralibus trilobis facile differt.

Type: China. Northern Yunnan Province, Qiaojia County, Qiaomaidi Township, Yaoshan Mountain, 27°09′N, 103°05′E, alt. 2400 m, within moist forest near farmhouse, 31.VIII.2006 *Liu Ke-Ming & Cong Yi-Yan 791343* (holotype HNNU; isotypes KUN, HNNU).

Annual herb, 40–80 cm tall. Stem erect, succulent, laxly branched, sparsely glandular hairy at upper part. Leaves alternate, often crowded at upper part and subverticillate, subsessile or shortly petiolate; petiole 5–25 mm, base with 2

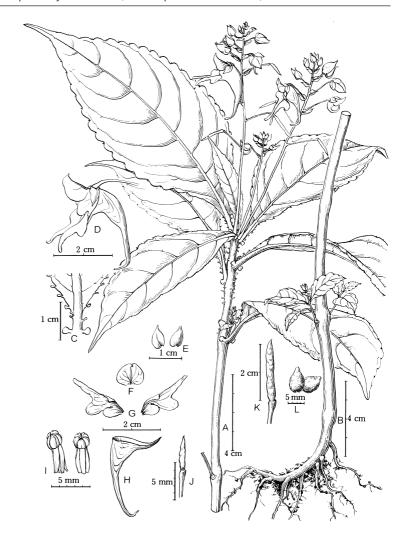


Fig. 1. Impatiens yaoshanensis (from the holotype). — A:
Upper part of plant. — B: Lower part of plant. — C: Basal portion of abaxial leaf surface showing glandular hairs and two stipitate glands. — D: Flower, lateral view. — E: Lateral sepals. — F: Dorsal petal. — G: Lateral united petals. — H: Lower sepal. — I: Androecium. — J: Gynoecium. — K: Fruit. — L: Seeds.

stipitate glands; lamina dark green adaxially, pale green abaxially, elliptic, sometimes ovate-elliptic,  $5-14 \times 3-6$  cm, pinnately veined, 6-8 pairs, margin coarsely crenate-serrate, setose between teeth, base with 3 or 4 pairs of glandular hairs, cuneate, apex caudate-acuminate. Inflorescence in upper leaf axils, racemose, 9–21-flowered; peduncles erect, 3.5-10 cm. Pedicels 10-20 mm, bracteate at base; bracts caducous, rigid, ovatelanceolate, 4.5–7 mm long, ca. 2 mm wide, apex acuminate. Flowers purple-tinged or purple-red, 25–32 mm long. Lateral sepals 2, ovate, 5–6 mm long, ca. 3 mm wide, base asymmetric, apex cuspidate. Lower sepal narrowly infundibular, depth of lower sepal from pedicel to base of spur 9-11 mm; mouth 9-10 mm wide, anterior gradu-

ally narrowed downward into a long beak, beak 8–10 mm long; base gradually narrowed into an incurved spur 16-20 mm. Dorsal petal subreniform,  $6-8 \times 8-10$  mm, base truncate, apex cuspidate, slightly recurved, abaxial midvein slightly thickened, not carinate. Lateral united petals sessile, 3-lobed: upper lobes suborbicular, 4–5 mm wide; lower lobes  $18-25 \times 7-9$  mm, deeply splitting to 2 lobes, abaxial auricle reflexed. Stamens 5, ca. 5 mm long, filaments linear, free for about 1/2 their length; anthers ovoid, joined in a ring around the ovary apex, apex obtuse. Ovary superior, 5-carpellate, placentation axile, fusiform, ca. 3 mm long, erect, style 1. Capsule green, clavate, 18–27 mm long, apex acute, rostellate, 5-valved, fleshy, elastic; seeds 8 to 10, dispersed explosively from opening valves, ovoid-orbicular, 2–3 mm long, brown, testa tuberculate. Flowering from August to September; fruiting from September to October. Flower visitors (insects of Hymenoptera) were seen in the field.

Habitat and distribution. Within wet evergreen broad-leaved montane forests, 2280–2600 m; known only from Yaoshan Mountain in Qiaojia County, northern Yunnan, China.

*Impatiens yaoshanensis* is fairly similar to *I*. cyanantha and I. purpurea, but differs mainly in having 9-21 flowers in a raceme, anterior part of mouth of lower sepal gradually narrowed downward into a 8-10 mm long beak, and conspicuously bilobed lower lobes of lateral united petals. It also resembles to some extent I. blinii, I. pseudo-kingii and I. loulanensis. However, it is not difficult to distinguish it from the latter three. Impatiens blinii and I. pseudo-kingii differ mainly in that the lower sepals have an erect spur, the dorsal petals have a cristate abaxial midvein, and the lateral united petals have two lobes. Impatiens loulanensis is distinct by the yellow flowers, glandular-aristate apices of bracts and lateral sepals, dorsal petal with a cristate abaxial midvein, and bilobed lateral united petals. The following key should aid in the identification of the six species.

- Inflorescence with 8–12 flowers; lower sepal with spur 5 mm; upper lobes of lateral united petals orbicular .......

   I. pseudo-kingii
- 4. Inflorescence with 3-4 flowers; lower sepal with spur

- 18–20 mm; upper lobes of lateral united petals ovate ....

  1. blinii

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