Adenophora biloba (Campanulaceae), a new species from Inner Mongolia, China

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Adenophora biloba Y.Z. Zhao sp. nova (Campanulaceae) is described from Inner Mongolia, China. It appears most closely related to A. gmelinii. The distinguishing characters are given in a key to the two species.

Key words: Adenophora, Campanulaceae, new species, taxonomy

In July 2000 I collected a peculiar specimen of Adenophora in Huanghuagou, Chayouzhongqi of Wulancabumeng, Inner Mongolia. We observed that the plant has a 2-lobed stigma and a horizontal, thick rhizome, not known from any other species of Adenophora. Thus, we describe here a new species based on that specimen.

Adenophora biloba Y.Z. Zhao, sp. nova (Fig. 1)

A. gmelinii affinis, sed stigmate bilobo, rhizomate crasso, disco longe tubuloso ca. 4 mm longo differt.


Perennial herb. Rhizome thick, with withered petioles and fibrous roots, black-brown. Stem erect, ca. 20 cm tall, with branches, retrorsely hispidulous. Leaves alternate, lanceolate or oblanceolate, 2–3 cm long, 3–8 mm wide, sparsely dentate at margins, acute at apex, cuneate at base, hispidulous on both surfaces, sessile. Raceme typically 2–4-flowered, nutant. Sepals 5, lanceolate, 7–9 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide, entire at margins, outside hispidulous, inside glabrous. Corolla 5-lobed, bluish-purple, campanulate, 20–25 mm long, outer surface glabrous; stamens 5, ca. 14 mm long, anthers yellow, ca. 5 mm long; lower part of filament expanded, lanceolate, white-villose at margins; disk long-tubular, ca. 4 mm long, glabrous; style included, shorter than corolla, glabrous; stigma 2-lobed, revolute, glabrous. Fruit not seen. Flowering July.

All the other known species of Adenophora have a 3-lobed stigma and a fleshy, cylindrical main root. Adenophora biloba is known only from the holotype. It can be distinguished from A. gmelinii, which it resembles more than any other species, as follows.

1. Stigma 3-lobed; plant with a fleshy, cylindrical, vertical main root; disk 2–3 mm long .......................... A. gmelinii
1. Stigma 2-lobed; plant with a horizontal, thick rhizome; disk 4 mm long ........................................ A. biloba
Fig. 1. *Adenophora biloba* (from holotype, drawn by Ma Ping). — A: Plant. — B: Vertical section of corolla.