Aspidistra bamaensis (Ruscaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China

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Received 20 May 2008, revised version received 23 June 2008, accepted 25 June 2008


Aspidistra bamaensis C.R. Lin, Y.Y. Liang & Yan Liu sp. nova (Ruscaceae) is described and illustrated as a new species from Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region of southern China.

Key words: Aspidistra, new species, taxonomy


The species described here was first discovered by the second and third author of this article in a limestone valley during a field expedition in 2007. It was transplanted to the Guilin Botanical Garden, where the plants set flowers and were examined. Especially the flower characters are unique.

Aspidistra bamaensis C.R. Lin, Y.Y. Liang & Yan Liu, sp. nova (Fig. 1)

Haec species ob antherarum connectivum in vivo latum crassumque, triangulum, basi circa 2 mm latum a ceteris speciebus manifeste diversa.


Etymology: The specific epithet is derived from the county name of the type locality, BaMa County, Guangxi Autonomous Region, China.

Herbs perennial, evergreen, rhizomatous. Rhizome creeping, suberete, 7–10 mm thick, covered with scales, nodes dense. Roots numerous. Vaginal leaves 4–5, purple-red, 2–18 cm long, enveloping base of petiole, becoming black-brown when dry. Leaves solitary, 1–2 cm apart; petiole stiff upright, 26–53 cm long, 2–5 mm thick, adaxially sulcate; leaf blade usually elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 22–35 cm long, 7.5–11.5 cm wide, dark green with small white spots on both surfaces, base broadly cuneate to suborbicular, inequilateral, apex cuspidate to
short-acuminate, margin entire. Peduncle erect or declining, 4–7 cm long, with 5–6 bracts, bracts gradually wider from base to top of peduncle; two most basal ones of perianth broadly ovate, purplish red, 7–8 mm long, ca. 1 cm wide, apex rounded. Flowers solitary; perianth widely bowl-shaped, ca. 2 cm in diam., purplish red, fleshy; deeply 6-lobed; lobes subequal, broadly ovate, 7–9 mm long, 5–7 mm wide, apex obtuse; tube short, 3–4 mm high, ca. 1 cm diam. Stamens 6, opposite to lobes, inserted at base of perianth tube, anthers subequal, ovate or subglobose, 3–5 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, connective broadened and thickened, triangular in surface view, base ca.

2 mm wide, with purplish-red speckles. Pistil 4–5 mm long, white, ovary inconspicuous, style short, cylindrical, 2–3 mm in diam., stigma 2.5–4 mm in diam., slightly wider than style, sometimes with purplish-red speckles at margin, central part nearly flat with 3 inconspicuous radial, bifurcate lines. Flowering from April to May.

**Distribution:** This species is known only from the type locality.

*Aspidistra bamaensis* differs from the congers mainly by the shape of the anther connective, which is basally broadened and thickened, triangular in surface view, and ca. 2 mm wide at base.

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Fig. 1. *Aspidistra bamaensis* (from the holotype). — **A:** Flowering plant. — **B:** Flower. — **C:** Flower with half of perianth removed, showing stamens and pistil. — **D:** Stamen. — **E:** Pistil.
Acknowledgements

This study was supported by Western Program for Fostering Personal Ability, CAS (2007). We thank Prof. Fa-Nan Wei and Sai-Chun Tang (IBK) for help in preparing the paper, we also thank Shun-Qing He (IBK) for the handsome drawing.

References


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