

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

Lin, C. R., Liang, Y. Y. & Liu, Y. 2009: *Aspidistra bamaensis* (Ruscaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China. — *Ann. Bot. Fennici* 46: 416–418.

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 genus *Aspidistra* encompasses approximately 90 species (Lang *et al.* 1999, Liang & Tamura 2000, Fang & Yu 2002, He 2002, Li & Tang 2002, Li & Wei 2003, Tang & Liu 2003, Bogner & Arnautov 2004, Bräuchler & Ngoc 2005, De Wilde & Vogel 2005, Tillich 2005, 2006, Tillich *et al.* 2007). Among them, nearly 40 species have been found in the last nine years. The center of distribution and differentiation for the genus is South China; Guangxi may be its original centre (Li 2004).

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.

TYPE: China. Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region: BaMa County, Xishan, limestone mountains, alt. 450 m a.s.l., 1.V.2007 Yan Liu & Yong-Yan Liang L1450 (holotype IBK; isotype IBK). — PARATYPE: Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, Guilin County, Yanshan, introduced by Yan Liu from the type locality, cultivated, 25.IV.2008 Chun-Rui Lin 0917 (IBK).

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, subterete, 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

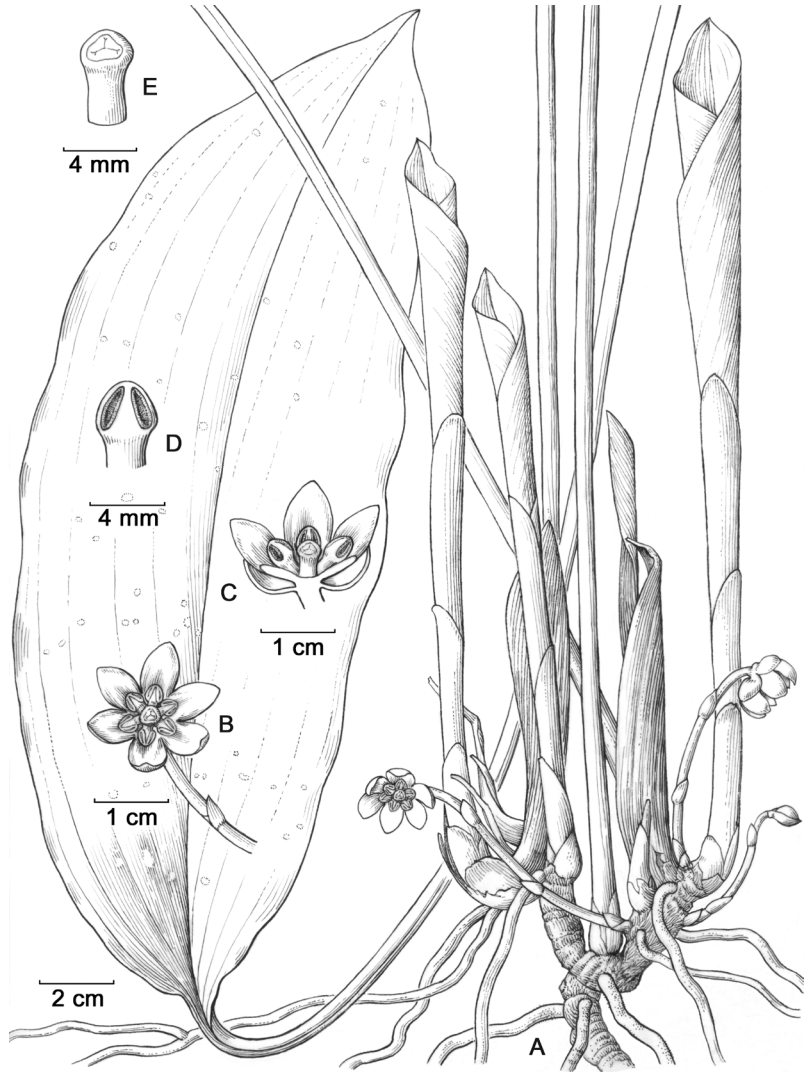


Fig. 1. *Aspidistra bamaensis* (from the holotype). — **A:** Flowering plant. — **B:** Flower. — **C:** Flower with half of perianth removed, showing stamens and pistil. — **D:** Stamen. — **E:** Pistil.

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 congeners 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.

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.

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