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Chirita nandanensis (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China

Shi-Xun Huang, Yi-Gang Wei & Wen-Hua Luo

The Botanical Institute of Guangxi, Guilin 541006, China

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Chirita nandanensis S.X. Huang, Y.G. Wei & W.H. Luo *sp. nova* (Gesneriaceae) is described and illustrated from Guangxi, China. The new species is similar to *C. floribunda* in the leaf and flower shape, but differs by its leaves being densely villous on both surfaces and along the margin, and by having villous pedicels and a 2-parted stigma.

Key words: *Chirita*, Gesneriaceae, new species, taxonomy

In May 2006, the authors collected some *Chirita* (Gesneriaceae) specimens in the north of Guangxi province, China. After thorough consulting of the literature (Wang 1984, Wang *et al*. 1990, 1998, Li & Wang 2004), we concluded it was an undescribed species.

Chirita nandanensis S.X. Huang, Y.G. Wei & W.H. Luo, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1.)

Haec species nova est similis C. floribundae, a qua foliis utrinque margine que dense villosis, inflorescentiis 8–15, pediceliis villosis, stigmate 2-partito differt.

Type: China. Guangxi, Nandan county, in a limestone cave, alt. 300 m, flowering, 10.V.2006 *Y.G. Wei et al. 0601* (holotype and isotype IBK).

Perennial herbs, acaulescent; rhizomes terete, 1–1.8 cm long, 5–8 mm in diam., leaves 6–10; leaf blade elliptic to oblong, 3–8 cm long, 1.5–4 cm wide, obtuse to acute at apex, cuneate at base, margin with crenation up to middle, densely villous on abaxial and adaxial surfaces, also along margin, 3–5-nerved on both sides; petioles flat, 1–7 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, densely villous. Cymes 8–15, 1–3-branched, 6–15-flowered; peduncles 5–10 cm long, densely villous; bracts 2, opposite, narrowly lanceolate, entire, ca. 6 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide, villous; pedicels 6–10 mm long, villous. Sepals 5, narrowly lanceolate, 5–6 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide, densely villous. Corolla pale purple, 2–3.2 cm long, sparae pubescent; tube infundibuliform-tubular, 1–1.5 cm long, its orifice 5–6 in diam.; upper lip 5–6 mm long, 2-parted to middle, lower lip 5–6 mm long, trifid to the middle, with all lobes orbicular-ovate. Stamens 2, adnate to corolla tube 1–1.8 cm above its base; filaments linear, 8–10 mm long, glabrous; anthers oblong, 3 mm long, glabrous. Staminodes 2, glabrous, adnate to corolla tube 8–16 mm above its base, ca. 3 mm long. Pistil ca. 2 cm long; ovary linear, 5–6 mm long, ca. 3 mm in diam., with style pubescent; style 1.5–1.8 cm long; stigma 2-parted, lobes narrowly lanceolate, ca. 4 mm long. Capsule linear, slight curved, 1–1.2 cm long, pubescent when young. Flowering in May.

Fig. 1. *Chirita nandanensis*. — **A**: Habit. — **B**: Open corolla with visible stamens and staminodes. — **C**: Calyx and pistil.

Chirita nandanensis grows in Nandan county of northern Guangxi province (China) in a limestone cave, at the altitude of 300 m a.s.l. It is morphologically close to *C. floribunda* (Wang 1984), also known from Guangxi. However, the densely villous (*vs*. puberulent) leaves, villous (*vs*. glandular puberulent) pedicels, and 2-parted (*vs*. undivided) stigma serve to distinguish *C. nandanensis*.

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