

Elatostema xanthotrichum and *E. bamaense* (Urticaceae), two new species from Guangxi, China

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Elatostema xanthotrichum W.T. Wang & Y.G. Wei *sp. nova* and *E. bamaense* W.T. Wang & Y.G. Wei *sp. nova* (Urticaceae) from Guangxi Province, China, are described and illustrated. *Elatostema xanthotrichum* most closely resembles *E. rupestre* but differs in its appressed, yellow-pubescent and 1-branched stems, auriculate leaf base at the broad side of the leaf, 5-paired secondary nerves, 6–8 staminate bracts, and obovate to spatulate-linear staminate bracteoles, which are ciliolate at apex. *Elatostema bamaense* most closely resembles *E. nanchuanense* but differs in its glabrous stems and leaves, narrowly lanceolate and non-corniculate pistillate bracts, and verruculose, non-ribbed achenes.

Elatostema comprises ca. 350 species, the majority of which are distributed in tropical Asia and Africa (Wang 1995). Whilst undertaking fieldwork in Guangxi province, China, we collected several previously unknown species of *Elatostema*, two of which we describe here.

Elatostema bamaense* W.T. Wang & Y.G. Wei, *sp. nova (Fig. 1A–D)

Species nova est affinis E. nanchuanensi W.T. Wang, quod caule apice strigoso, foliis utrinque sparse strigosis, capituli pistillati bracteis ovatis apice longe corniculatis, acheniis longitudinaliter 5–8-costatis haud verrucosis valde recedit.

TYPE: China. Guangxi, Bama county, Jiazhuan town, Lietun village, on lime-stone hills, alt. 300 m, flowering, 7.IV.2009 Y. G. Wei 09093 (holotype PE; isotype IBK).

Perennial herb, black when dry. Stems not stoloniferous or bulbiferous, 28–32 cm, 3–3.5 mm diam., glabrous. Leaves shortly petiolate or sessile, 2–9 × 0.6–2.2 cm, weakly asymmetrical, oblong or narrowly oblanceolate, glabrous, chartaceous; cystoliths 0.1–0.15 mm, fairly densely distributed, rod-shaped; pinnately nerved, secondary nerves in 5–7 pairs, secondary nerves flat on both surfaces, base weakly asymmetrical, cuneate or obtuse; margin denticulate; apex long-acuminate or caudate-acuminate; petioles 1–3 mm; stipules 1.5–2 mm, subulate.



Fig. 1. A–D: *Elatostema bamaense* (from the holotype). — A: Habit. — B: Pistillate inflorescence, lateral view. — C: Bracteole. — D: Achene. — E–G: *Elatostema xanthotrichum* (from the holotype). — E: Upper part of plant. — F: Staminate inflorescence, bottom view. — G: Bracteoles. (Drawn by Sun Ying-Bao).

Staminate inflorescences not known. Pistillate inflorescence solitary, axillary, capitate, 2 mm diam., bearing 3–5 flowers; peduncle 0.3 mm; receptacle ca. 1 mm diam.; bracts ca. 14, 0.8–1 × 0.2–0.3 mm, narrowly lanceolate, glabrous; bracteoles 3–5, ca. 1 mm, cymbiform, ovate, ciliate. Achene 1 mm, black-brown, narrowly ovoid, verruculose.

Elatostema bamaense most closely resembles *E. nanchuanense*, differing in its glabrous stems and leaves, narrowly lanceolate, not corniculate, pistillate bracts and verrucose, non-ribbed achenes. In *E. nanchuanse*, the stem apex is strigose, the leaves are sparsely strigose on both surfaces, the pistillate bracts are ovate, below the apex without corniculæ, and the achenes are longitudinally 5–8-ribbed and not tuberculate.

***Elatostema xanthotrichum* W.T. Wang & Y.G. Wei, sp. nova** (Fig. 1E–G)

Species nova est affinis E. rupestri (Buch.-Ham.) Wedd., quod caule apice pilis albis tecto simplici, foliis basi oblique cuneatis, nervis laterilibus ca. 9-jugatis, capituli staminati bracteis 2, bracteolis oblongis dorso et apice lanato-pilosis facile distinguitur.

TYPE: China. Guangxi, Donglan county, near Jiuxu town, on lime-stone hills, flowering, alt. 350 m. 4.IV.2009 Y. G. Wei 09062 (holotype PE; isotype IBK).

Perennial herb, greenish when dry. Stems not stoloniferous or bulbiferous, 30–45 cm, 5–7 mm diam. near to the base, shallowly 5–6-sulcate, 1-branched, upper section densely pubescent,

Table 1. Morphological differences between *Elatostema xanthotrichum* and *E. rupestre*.

Characters	<i>E. xanthotrichum</i>	<i>E. rupestre</i>
Stem	yellow-pubescent, 1-branched	white-pubescent, simple
Leaf base in broad side	obtuse in narrow side, auriculate	obliquely cuneate
Leaf lateral nerves	5 pairs	9 pairs
Staminate bracts	6–8	2
Staminate bracteoles	obovate or spatulate-linear, apex ciliate	oblong, apex lanate-pilose

hairs yellow. Leaves petiolate, laminae 10–15 × 3.2–4.8 cm, weakly asymmetrical, oblong or narrowly obovate, chartaceous; upper surface glabrous, lower surface pubescent, hairs appressed, yellow; cystoliths densely distributed, rod-shaped, 0.1–0.3(–0.4) mm; half-triplex-nerved, secondary nerves in 4–5 pairs, basal secondary and tertiary nerves prominent below, tertiary nerves anastomosing; base asymmetrical, obtuse in narrow side, auriculate in broad side (extending 3–5 mm); margin densely denticulate, minutely so at apex; apex caudate-acuminate or long acuminate; petioles 2–5 mm. Stipules lanceolate, ca. 25 × 3 mm, glabrous, with densely distributed cystoliths, apex caudate. Staminate inflorescence solitary or paired, axillary, capitate, numerous; peduncle ca. 3 mm; receptacle green when fresh, ca. 9 × 7 mm, subquadrate, appressed puberulous; bracts 6–8.2 × 5–4 mm,

depressed-ovate, glabrous; bracteoles numerous, 2.2–3 mm, obovate to spatulate-linear, apex ciliate. Staminate flowers tetramerous.

Elatostema xanthotrichum most closely resembles *E. rupestre*, but there are several differences (Table 1).

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Reference

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