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

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Aspidistra longituba Yan Liu & C.R. Lin (Ruscaceae) is described and illustrated as a new species from the limestone areas in the Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, China. The new species is similar to *A. claviformis*, but differs in its longer perianth tube that is up to 1.6–2 cm, suberect or incurved lobes with basal appendages, and in the articulate style base.

The genus *Aspidistra* (Ruscaceae), including about 100 species, mainly occurs in China and Vietnam. Over 60 species occur in the south and southwest of China (Liang & Tamura 2000, Li 2004, Tillich 2008).

In May 2007, during the course of investigating the limestone plants in southwestern Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, China, near the border with northern Vietnam, we collected an unusual *Aspidistra* specimen in the Napo County. The plant was brought to the Guilin Botanical Garden for cultivation and study. In the following two years, it flowered regularly, making possible a detailed description based on living plant material. Upon careful comparison with all species hitherto known in *Aspidistra* (Lang *et al*. 1999, Tang & Liu 2003, Bogner & Arnautov 2004, Brauchler & Ngoc 2005, Tillich 2005, 2006, Hou *et al*. 2009, Lin *et al*. 2009, 2010, Xu *et al*. 2010), it turned out that the plant is a distinct new species, which is described and illustrated below.

Aspidistra longituba Yan Liu & C.R. Lin, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)

Haec species A. claviformis affinis, a perianthii tubo longiore usque ad 1.6–2 cm longo, lobis ejus parvis, non reflexis basi appendiculatis, stylo articulato differt.

Type: China. Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, Napo County, Chengxiang Township, alt. 1000 m, on limestone in a valley, 23.V.2007 *Yan Liu L1483* (holotype IBK; isotype IBK).

Etymology: The specific epithet 'longituba' is derived from the long tubular perianth.

Herbs perennial, evergreen, rhizomatous. Rhizome creeping, subterete, ca. 7 mm diam., densely covered with scales, Roots numerous. Sheathing leaves 6–8, purplish red, 1–12 cm long, enveloping base of petiole, becoming black-brown when dry. Leaves solitary, 1–2 cm apart; petiole stiff upright, 14–33 cm long, 2–4 mm thick, adaxially sulcate; leaf blade oblong-

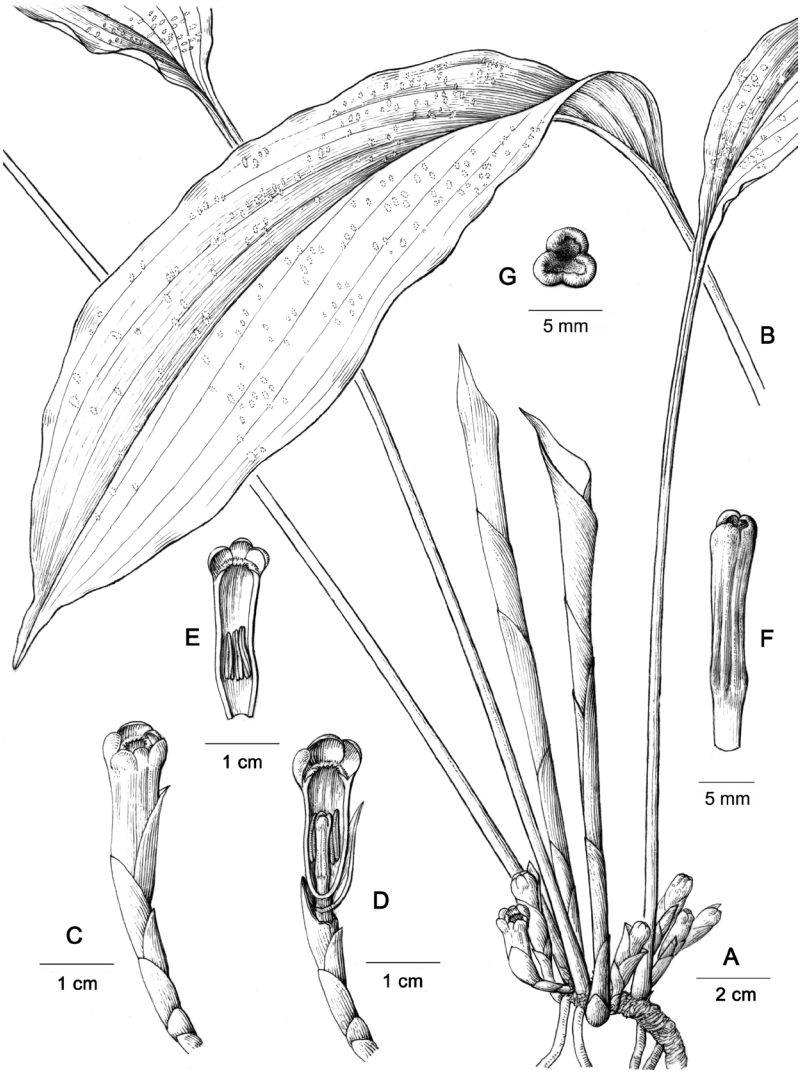

Fig. 1. *Aspidistra longituba* (from the holotype, drawn by Shun-Qing He). — **A**: Flowering plant. — **B**: Leaf blade. — **C**: Flower. — **D**: Flower with half of perianth removed showing stamens and pistil. — **E**: Internal view of part of perianth. — **F**: Pistil. — **G**: Stigma apical view.

lanceolate to narrow elliptic, 18–29 cm long, 4.5–9 cm wide, green with small yellow-white spots, base cuneate, gradually tapered to petiole, inequilateral, apex long acuminate, margin entire. Peduncle erect or declining, purplish red, 1–4.5 cm long, with 4–6 bracts, bracts broadly ovate to ovate-lanceolate, pale purple, gradually wider from base to top of peduncle, the uppermost adjacent to perianth 1.6–2.4 cm long, 0.8–1.2 cm wide, apex acuminate. Flowers solitary; perianth tubular, 2–2.4 cm long, 6-lobed apically; tube 1.6–2 cm long, 5–7 mm in diam., outside white or sometimes speckled with purple, inside purple; lobes suberect or incurved, unequal in shape, ovate to broadly ovate, 3–4 mm long and 4–6 mm wide, white and sometimes speckled with purplish-red, apex rounded, with appendages at base. Stamens 6, subsessile, inserted at upper end of lower half of perianth tube, anthers yellow, lineate, 5–7 mm long, ca. 1.5 mm wide, distally reaching or just above level of stigma; pistil purplish red, clavate, 1–1.2 cm long, 2–3 mm in diam., ovary inconspicuous, style base articulate, stigma scarcely wider than style, slightly concave and white adaxially, shallowly 3-lobed at margin, lobes unequal. Flowering from April to May.

Habitat: On shaded rocky limestone slopes in broad-leaved forests.

Table 1. Morphological comparison between *Aspidistra longituba* and *A. claviformis*.

	A. longituba	*A. claviformis*
Leaf blade	18–29 × 4.5–9 cm	18–30 × 5.5–8.5 cm
Petiole	14–33 cm long	(15–)25–50 cm long
Peduncle	1–4.5 cm long	1–3.5 cm long
Perianth	20–24 mm long, tube 16–20 mm long, diam. 5–7 mm, outside white or sometimes speckled with purple, inside purple lobes 3–4 × 4–6 mm, broadly ovate, suberect or incurved, with appendages at base	9–12 mm long, tube 8–12 mm long, diam. 6–7 mm, both sides yellowish white, lobes 4–5 × 3–4 mm, oblong, reflexed, no appendages at base
Stamens	inserted at upper end of lower half of perianth tube, anthers 5–7 mm long, distally reaching or just above level of stigma	inserted in upper 1/3 of perianth tube, anthers ca. 5 mm long, distally just below level of stigma
Pistil	10–12 mm long, style base articulate	8–9 mm long, style not articulate

DISTRIBUTION: China. Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, Napo County, Chengxiang Township.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED (paratype): China. Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, Guilin City, Yanshan Township, introduced by Yan Liu from the type locality, cultivated, 18.V.2009 *Chun-Rui Lin 017* (IBK).

Aspidistra longituba is similar to *A. claviformis* (cf. Wan 1984), but differs e.g. in its longer perianth tube that is up to 1.6–2 cm, suberect or incurved lobes with basal appendages, and in the articulate style base (*see* Table 1).

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