

Ophiopogon yangshuoensis (Asparagaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China

Ri-Hong Jiang, Yu-Song Huang, Lei Wu & Wei-Bin Xu*

Guangxi Institute of Botany, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guilin 541006, China (*corresponding author's e-mail: gxibwbxu@gmail.com)

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Ophiopogon yangshuoensis R.H. Jiang & W.B. Xu (Asparagaceae), a new species from limestone areas in Guangxi, China, is described and illustrated. It is similar to *O. intermedius*, but differs by its abaxially glaucous leaves, white streaked, broad-lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate bracts, narrow-lanceolate innermost bracts, and ovate, reflexed tepals.

Ophiopogon of the Asparagaceae (Reveal & Chase 2011) has 65 species around the world, mainly distributed in the warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical Asia. Forty-seven species of this genus occur in China (Chen & Tamura 2000). During a recent botanical expedition to the limestone areas of Guangxi in southern China, an interesting plant of *Ophiopogon* was collected from Yangshuo County. Based on detailed observations of this plant and relevant herbarium specimens, and after consulting Chen and Tamura (2000), it became clear that the plant represented an undescribed species.

***Ophiopogon yangshuoensis* R.H. Jiang & W.B. Xu, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)**

TYPE: China. Guangxi: Yangshuo County, Baisha Town, 24°50'26"N, 110°24'31"E, growing in limestone hills, alt. 250 m a.s.l., 16 May 2012 L. Wu & Y. B. Liao 3018 (holotype IBK; isotype IBK).

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet is derived from the county name of the type locality (Yangshuo).

Roots slender, soft, white-hairy. Rhizome short. Leaves basal, tufted, subdistichous, applanate, long-linear, grasslike, 35–70 × 1.5–2.5 cm, apex obtuse, base indistinctly petiolate, leaf tuftes surrounded by membranous sheaths, abaxially glaucous and white-streaked, 15–19 veined. Scape 9–15 cm long, peduncle strong, subapplanate, ancipital; inflorescence a reduced panicle, ca. 9–15 cm long, many-flowered, flowers usually in clusters of 3; bracts brown, polycyclic, 4, first bracts broad-lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 0.8–1.4 × 0.3–0.7 cm, margins entire, broadly membranous, costa distinct, caudate; second and third bracts similar but narrower, differing in size; innermost bracts narrow-lanceolate, 0.4 × 0.1 cm. Pedicel 0.7–1.2 cm long, articulate proximally. Tepals 6, purple, ovate, reflexed, 0.7 × 0.4 cm, apex obtuse; filaments very short, ca. 0.8–1 mm; anthers ovate, ca. 3–7 mm, initially connate, later free; style ca. 0.2 cm long, slender; ovary 3-loculed, ovules 2. Flowering in April–May.

Ophiopogon yangshuoensis resembles *O. intermedius* which is widely distributed in

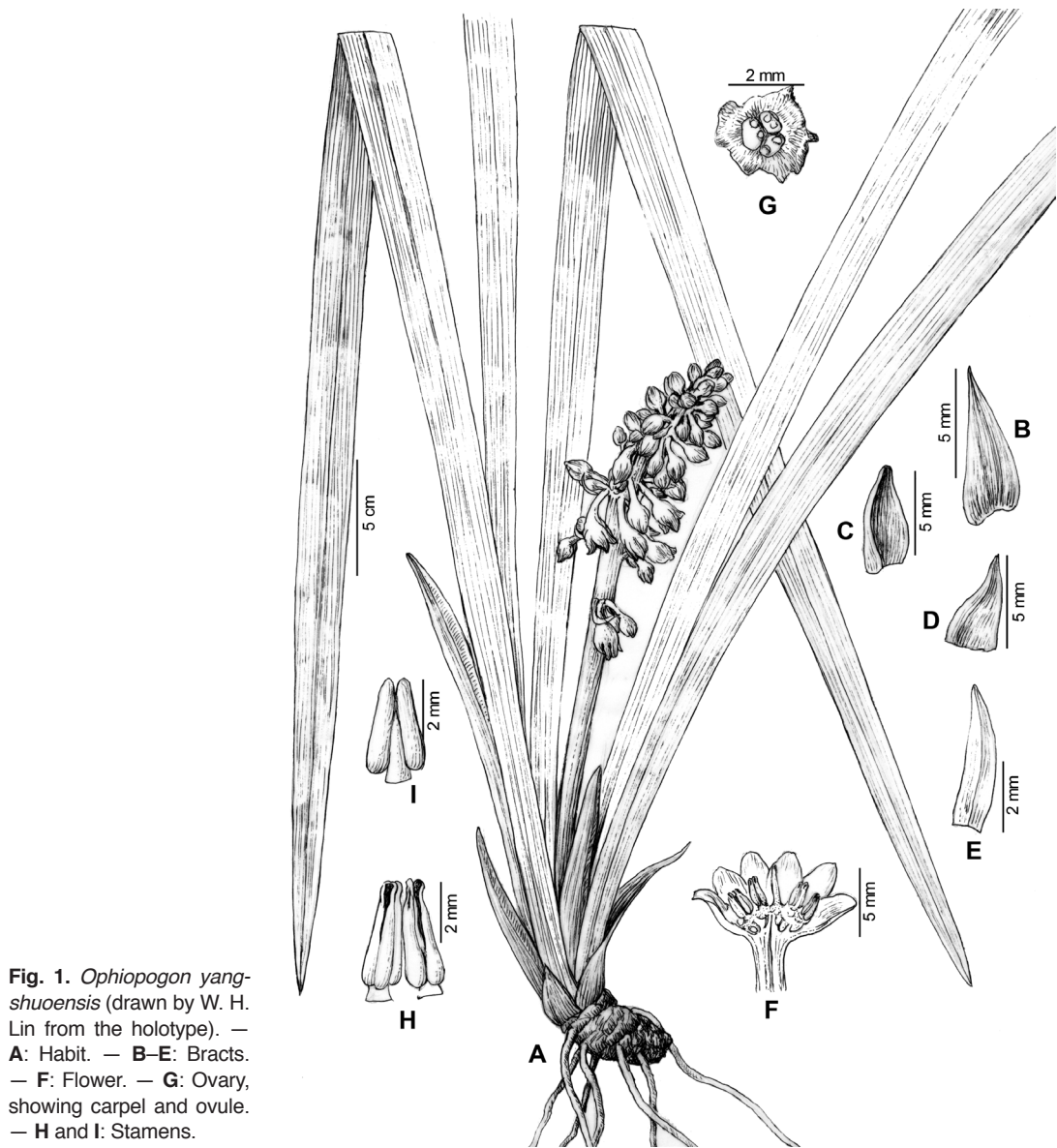


Fig. 1. *Ophiopogon yangshuoensis* (drawn by W. H. Lin from the holotype). — **A:** Habit. — **B–E:** Bracts. — **F:** Flower. — **G:** Ovary, showing carpel and ovule. — **H and I:** Stamens.

SE Asia, but differs in several characters (see Table 1).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: *Ophiopogon yangshuoensis* is known only from Yangshuo County

in Guangxi, where it grows on limestone hills. The population size is very small, with probably less than 250 mature individuals distributed in a narrow area.

Table 1. Comparison of *Ophiopogon yangshuoensis* and *O. intermedius*. Data on *O. intermedius* partly from Chen and Tamura (2000).

Characters	<i>O. yangshuoensis</i>	<i>O. intermedius</i>
Leaves	15–19 veined	5–9 veined
Bracts	broad-lanceolate, ovate-lanceolate or narrow-lanceolate	subulate, linear, or lanceolate
Anthers	ovate	narrowly linear-ovate
Tepals	reflexed	not reflexed

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