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A distinctive new species of wild banana (*Musa*, Musaceae) from northern Vietnam

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Abstract

A new banana species, *Musa haekkinenii*, is described from northern Vietnam. It differs notably from a well-known ornamental species, *M. coccinea*, by inflorescence features and leaf blade shape and especially the habit, shape, size and color of the male bracts of the inflorescences and male bud shape. A mixed watercolor and ink plate is provided for the new taxon and an identification key to species of *Musa* sect. *Callimusa* is included, along with a note comparing the morphology of the seven Indo-Chinese species.

Key words: Botanical art, *Callimusa*, Indochina, Red River

Introduction

The family Musaceae (Jussieu 1789: 61) comprises three genera (Wu & Kress 2000), *Musa* Linnaeus (1753: 1043), *Ensete* Horaninow (1862: 40) and *Musella* (Franchet) Wu (1978: 57). *Musa* occurs in tropical Asia from the Himalayas to northern Australia (Cheesman 1947, Simmonds 1962, Kress *et al.* 1990) and has 65 currently recognized species (Häkkinen & Väre 2008, OECD 2009); *Ensete* is distributed discontinuously between tropical Africa and tropical Asia (Simmonds 1960, 1962), with ca. 7 species (Väre & Häkkinen 2011) and the monospecific genus *Musella* is restricted to a limited area in southern China (Li 1978, Wu & Kress 2000, Liu *et al.* 2002). The first infrageneric classification system proposed for *Musa* (Sagot 1887: 328–329) divided the genus into a number of subgroups based on gross morphology, recognizing three main groups: giant bananas, edible bananas with fleshy fruit and ornamental bananas with upright inflorescences and brightly colored bracts. Shortly thereafter, Baker (1893: 205) recognized three subgenera, *M.* subgen. *Physocaulis*, *M.* subgen. *Eumusa* and *M.* subgen. *Rhodochlamys*. In Cheesman's classification (1947: 108) *Musa* was divided into four sections based on chromosome number supported by morphological characters: *Australimusa* (2n=2x=20), *Callimusa* (2n=2x=20), *Musa* (*Eumusa*) (2n=2x=22) and *Rhodochlamys* (2n=2x=22). This infrageneric system has been widely used since by many botanists (Cheesman 1947, 1948a, 1948b, 1949a, 1949b, 1950, Shepherd 1959, 1999, Champion 1967, Simmonds & Weatherup 1990, Häkkinen 2005, 2007, 2009, Häkkinen & Sharrock 2002, Häkkinen & Väre 2008, Häkkinen *et al.* 2008). Argent (1976:

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