



Litsea dorsalicana (Lauraceae): a new species from limestone areas in northern Guangxi, China

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Abstract

Litsea dorsalicana, a new species of Lauraceae from northern Guangxi, China is described and illustrated. It is similar to *Litsea elongata*, but can be distinguished from the latter by twigs, buds and abaxial leaf surface densely covered with gray-white pubescence, leaf blade oblanceolate to oblong, to 29.5 cm long, 10.5 cm wide, base cuneate to attenuate, fruit red, cupule cup-shaped, once or twice cleft at the margin.

Introduction

The genus *Litsea* Lamarck comprises about 200 species, mainly distributed in tropical and subtropical Asia, a few species in Australia and from North America to subtropical South America (Li *et al.* 2009). In China 74 species of *Litsea* have been recorded, including 47 endemic species (Li *et al.* 2009). Most Chinese species are distributed in southwestern China, especially in provinces of Guangxi and Yunnan, where 37 species have been discovered just in Guangxi (Qin and Liu 2010).

In the course of floristic surveys in Mulun National Nature Reserve of northern Guangxi, we collected a rare species of Lauraceae. After checking these specimens, we found that the leaves are alternate, the inflorescences are umbels or umbellate cymes with decussate involucre bracts, and the anthers are 4-celled based on a residual flower in one specimen, so we confirmed that this species belongs to the genus *Litsea*. After comparing the plant with all recognized species of the genus *Litsea* in relevant literature (Bennet & Chand 1987, Cui 1994, Fang 1999, Ngernsaengsaruy 2004, Li & Li 2005, Mohanan & Santhosh 2005, Li & Li 2006, Li *et al.* 2009, Qin & Liu 2010), and comparing specimens of this plant against other specimens of *Litsea*, the specimen was confirmed to be distinguishable from all others and to represent an undescribed species, which we describe below.

Taxonomic Treatment

Litsea dorsalicana M.Q. Han & Y.S. Huang, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 & 2)

Litsea dorsalicana is similar to *Litsea elongata* (Nees) J. D. Hooker (1886: 165), but can be distinguished from the latter by twigs, buds and abaxial leaf surface densely covered with gray-white pubescence, leaf blade oblanceolate to oblong, to 29.5 cm long, 10.5 cm wide, base cuneate to attenuate, fruit red, cupule cup-shaped, once or twice cleft at the margin.

Type:—CHINA. Guangxi: Huanjiang County, Mulun National Nature Reserve, alt 648 m, 25°08' N, 107°55' E, 20 Apr. 2012, Y. S. Huang, Y. B. Liao & M. Q. Han Y1330 (holotype IBK!, isotype IBK!).