



Briggsia leiophylla, a new species of Gesneriaceae from southern Guizhou, China

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Abstract

Briggsia leiophylla, a new species of Gesneriaceae from southern Guizhou, China, is here described and illustrated. It is morphologically similar to *B. longipes* (Hemsl. ex Oliv.) Craib, but can be easily distinguished by only one flower per cyme (rare two), brightly yellow and nearly glabrous corolla, anthers thecae confluent.

Keywords: Cave flora, *Briggsia leiophylla*, New Species, Gesneriaceae, Guizhou, China

Introduction

Consisting of around or at least 22 species of herbaceous perennials, the former genus *Briggsia* Craib (1919: 235) is a member of the family Gesneriaceae is native to the Himalayas, China and neighboring countries and regions (Sikkim, Burma, Bhutan, India and Vietnam); China being the center of distribution where 21 species and 4 varieties can be found (Li *et al.*, 2004). However, this genus was revised mainly based on molecular evidences. Four species and four varieties were split off and moved to *Oreocharis* Benth (1876: 1021). The rest, 17 species, still keep in *Briggsia* (Möller *et al.* 2011). Based on the newest formal classification of Gesneriaceae was published by Weber *et al.* (2013), this re-defined genus belongs to Subtribe Didymocarpaceae G. Don (1838: 644, 658), Tribe Trichosporeae Nees (1825: 143), Subfam. Didymocarpoideae Arn. (1832: 121), Gesneriaceae. Hitherto five species were recorded in Guizhou, China (Li *et al.*, 2004; Wei *et al.*, 2010) before this new one, *Briggsia leiophylla*, is described and illustrated.

In January 2009, the authors collected an unknown *Briggsia* specimens in a limestone cave from a karst region of Guizhou, China. Only 20 individuals grow on a damp surface of limestone rock in a large cave. During the past 5 years, the living plants were monitored in the field and an ecological survey was carried out. After thoroughly comparisons of diagnostic characters of *Briggsia* specimens from China (Wang 1990, Li *et al.* 2004, Wei *et al.*, 2010, Wu *et al.*, 2012), we concluded that it was an undescribed species.

Taxonomic Treatment

Briggsia leiophylla Fang Wen & Y.G.Wei *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1 & 2 A–H)

It differs from *Briggsia longipes* by only one flower per cyme (rare two), brightly yellow and nearly glabrous corolla, anthers thecae confluent.

Type:—CHINA. Guizhou Province: Huishui County, growing on damp surface of rock in a limestone cave, 25°49'N, 106°43'E, elevation ca. 1000 m, 10 December 2009 (fl.), *Fang Wen 091201* (holotype IBK!, isotype IBK! ANU!).

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