



Two new species of *Ixora* (Ixoroideae, Rubiaceae) endemic to the Philippines

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Abstract

Two new species of *Ixora* are described from the provinces of Palawan and Samar, Philippines: *I. alexandroi* and *I. reynaldoi*. The two new species are compared mostly with other species of the genus from the Philippines and neighbouring Asian countries. *Ixora alexandroi* is characterized by its elongated cyme with congested secondary axes, reddish-brown corolla, stigmatic lobes shortly cleft in the middle, round at tip; while *I. reynaldoi* is easily recognised by its pseudanthium-type, 9–15 flowered inflorescences, long bracteoles (3.5–8 mm long), and keeled, foliaceous calyx lobes (8–10 mm long). The conservation status of each species is proposed, using IUCN Criteria.

Introduction

Ixora Linnaeus (1753: 110), is a large pantropical genus of Rubiaceae with more than 500 species worldwide (Mouly *et al.* 2009), growing mostly in humid forests. It is a genus of shrubs and small trees easily recognizable because of its articulate petioles, hermaphroditic flowers, hypocrateriform corollas, two-locular ovaries with a solitary ovule per locule, bilobed stigma, and drupaceous fruits (Mouly *et al.* 2009; De Block 1998). To date, species diversity of *Ixora* in the Philippines remains poorly known and basic information on species distribution and ecology, taxonomic keys and diagnostic illustrations are limited or non-existent. Moreover, the genus and species descriptions of Philippine *Ixora* are inadequate for both the vegetative and reproductive parts which are important in understanding the genus and its species. According to Merrill (1923), the genus is represented in the Philippines by 38 species and 2 varieties (excluding the four cultivated species, *I. coccinea* Linnaeus (1753: 110), type species of the genus, *I. chinensis* Lamarck (1789: 344), *I. finlaysoniana* Wallich & Don (1834: 572), *Ixora rosea* Wallich in Roxburgh & Carey (1820: 398)). Three species that were described after 1923 were not included in Merrill's list, *I. tenelliflora* Merrill (1926: 423), *I. brachyantha* Merrill (1929: 287) and *I. irosinensis* Elmer (1934: 3251), raising the total number of species to 41. Alejandro (2007) provided an updated list where he recognized 38 species (excluding *I. coccinea*, *I. chinensis*, *I. finlaysoniana* and *I. rosea*), of which 30 were identified as endemic. During the preparation of a taxonomic revision of Philippine *Ixora*, two new species were collected during fieldworks in Palawan and Samar and are here described, illustrated and compared with other species of the genus.

Materials and Methods

Herbarium materials from the following institutions were studied: A, BK, BR, C, CAHUP, K, L, NY, P, PNH, PPC, SAN and US (Thiers 2013). All measurements given herein are taken from dried herbarium specimens. Some features such as shapes were recorded based on alcohol-preserved flowers and fruits, all colours are those reported by collectors for living material or digital photos when possible unless explicitly stated otherwise. Measurements are presented as: length × width, followed by the units of measurement (mm or cm). Conservation status was assessed applying the 2014 IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 11.

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