



## *Oreocharis brachypodus* (Gesneriaceae), a new taxon from Guizhou, China

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### Abstract

*Oreocharis brachypodus* is described and illustrated as a new species from Guizhou, China. The new species is similar to *Oreocharis villosa*. However, the new species is readily distinguished from the latter by cymes not branched, 1–4-flowered, larger and pronounced gibbous corolla (2.2–2.5 cm long), ovary ca. 1 cm long, with 4 ribs prominent, style ca. 0.7 cm long, and thecae confluent. Comments on affinities, geographical distribution, ecology, phenology and conservation status of the new species are also provided.

### Introduction

*Oreocharis* Benth (1876: 995, 1021) is related to *Ancylostemon* Craib (1919: 233), *Tremacron* Craib (1918: 217), and *Isometrum* Craib (1919: 250) (Möller *et al.* 2011). It can be difficult to distinguish these genera, and some species are intermediate between them. *Oreocharis* was expanded to comprise over 80 species including these segregate genera (Möller *et al.* 2011). Most species are narrow endemics and their population sizes at each locality small (Wang *et al.* 1990, Li & Wang 2004, Wei *et al.* 2004).

One of the authors (LJM) had the opportunity to visit the southeast Guizhou and collect one taxon of Gesneriaceae in the field on two occasions over the past three years. Based on flower characters, this taxon belongs to *Isometrum* recently reduced to *Oreocharis* (Möller *et al.* 2011). At first sight *Oreocharis brachypodus* J.M. Li & Z.M. Li (Figs. 1–2) was thought to be an undescribed species of *Oreocharis* on the basis of corolla tube narrowly urceolate, sometimes ampliate basally, contracted at the throat and ovary longer than style, but the 4 stamens coherent in pairs, or belonged to *Corallodiscus* Batalin (1892: 176) on the basis of leaves with sessile or shorter petiole and 4 stamens with anthers coherent in pairs, but the corolla glabrous. Our examination of the material and critical comparison with other Gesneriaceae species revealed significant differences (Pan 1986, Wang *et al.* 1998). We herein describe and illustrate this taxon as a new species.

### Taxonomic Treatment

*Oreocharis brachypodus* is most similar to *Oreocharis villosa* (Pan 1986: 31–33) Möller & Weber (2011: 27) which shares sessile or shorter petiole (up to 2 mm long) and leaf blade obovate (Figs. 1–3). However, the new species is readily distinguished by cymes not branched, 1–4-flowered, larger and pronounced gibbous corolla (2.2–2.5 cm), anther thecae confluent, and ovary ca. 1 cm long, with 4 ribs prominent, style ca. 0.7 cm long.

*Oreocharis brachypodus* J. M. Li & Z. M. Li, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 A–G & Fig. 2 A–F)

**Type:**—CHINA. Guizhou: in the vicinity of Tongren city, on rather cool rocks and very steep banks of cool clammy soil that grows a fine film of moss, alt. 1300m, 9 April 2014, *Jia-Mei Li 2304* (holotype HEAC!); *ibid. Jia-Mei Li 2305* (paratype HEAC!).

Rosulate herbs, perennial, stemless. Rhizome 2–3 mm, vertical, woody, with many long fibrous roots. Leaves clustered at the apex of the rhizome; blade obovate, 2–5 × 1.5–3.2 cm, adaxially sparsely brown villous to glabrescent, abaxially

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