



Billolivia tichii (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Vietnam

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The genus *Billolivia* D.J.Middleton in Middleton *et al.* (2014a: 255) of the Gesneriaceae was recently established with five species, namely *B. longipetiolata* (Middleton *et al.* 2014a: 256), *B. minutiflora* (Middleton *et al.* 2014a: 258), *B. poilanei* (Middleton *et al.* 2014a: 260), *B. vietnamensis* (Middleton *et al.* 2014a: 261) and *B. violacea* (Middleton *et al.* 2014a: 262). The sixth taxon of the genus, *B. moelleri*, was described shortly after in Middleton *et al.* (2014b: 189). Our continued search for the genus in southern Vietnam has gathered several other possible new taxa that are under examination. In this paper, we describe one of them as a new species from Bidoup-Núi Bà National Park.

Taxonomy

Billolivia tichii Luru, Q.D.Nguyễn & N.L.Vũ, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Allied to Billolivia longipetiolata in having generally long pubescent petioles, coarsely dentate leaf margins and similar flower shape but it differs in having obovate to elliptic leaves, ellipsoid calyx, purple lines on the corolla throat and the base of lobes and red dot in the middle of filaments.

Type.—VIETNAM. Lâm Đồng Province: Lạc Dương District, Đạ Chais Commune, Bidoup-Núi Bà National Park, W slope of Gia Rich mountain ridge, 18 November 2014, Lưu Hồng Trường, Nguyễn Quốc Đạt, Phạm Hữu Nhân, Nguyễn Thế Văn LUU, DAT, NHAN & VAN 1106 (holotype SGN!; isotypes SGN!, VNM!, DLU!, HNU!, HN!, VNMN!).

Terrestrial herb; stems up to 1 m long, densely pubescent with brown multicellular uniseriate hairs to 5 mm long. Leaves alternate; petioles 4–16 cm long, densely pubescent with brown multicellular uniseriate hairs to 5 mm long; lamina obovate to elliptic, slightly asymmetric, 11–17 cm long, 5.5–8.3 cm wide, base round to cuneate, apex acute, margin coarsely dentate, 12–15 of secondary veins on each side of midrib, adaxial lamina dark green, glabrous, margin densely ciliate, abaxial lamina pale green or pale purple, with sparse appressed brown hairs to 1 mm long, on midrib and venation, sometimes also on lamina between veins. Inflorescences axillary, 2–12-flowered; peduncle brownish pink, 0.5–2.5 cm long, sparsely pubescent; bracts ovate, to 13 × 7 mm, apex acute, pubescent on outer surface, with margins ciliate; pedicels pinkish white, 1–3 cm long, sparsely pubescent. Calyx brownish red, ellipsoid, 13–16 mm long, 7–8 mm wide at widest portion, composed of a flaring tube and 5 ± equal lobes, densely long brown pubescent outside, glabrous inside; tube 6–7 mm long, 6–7 mm wide at mouth; lobes triangular, 5–6 mm long, 3.5–4 mm wide at base, apex acute, with margins ciliate. Corolla 24–27 mm long, composed of a narrow tube which slightly flares towards oblique mouth and a 2-lipped limb with lobes recurved; tube 20–22 mm long, white, outside pubescent, inside glabrous; throat white, turning light yellow after anthesis, with shortly stalked to sessile glands and purple lines on the base of lobes; upper lip 2-lobed, 11–12 mm long, lobes 9–10 × 8–10 mm, orbicular; lower lip 3-lobed, 12–13 mm long, lobes orbicular, lateral lobes 7–8 × 8–9 mm, lower lobe 10–11 × 8–9 mm; all lobes white (turning light yellow after anthesis) at base, violet to pink at apex, outside sparsely pubescent with multicellular uniseriate hairs, inside with shortly stalked glands. Stamens inserted at 16–17 mm from corolla base; filaments slightly curved, 5–7 mm long, white with a red dot in the middle, sparsely glandular puberulent. Disc bowl-shaped, 5-lobed at apex, 1.5 mm high. Ovary 3.5–4 mm long, 2 mm in diameter, glabrous; style 15–17 mm long, densely covered with glandular hairs; stigma lobes 1.8–2.0 mm long. Fruits unknown.