



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.234.1.7>

Impatiens kingdon-wardii (Balsaminaceae), a new species from Mt. Victoria (Natma Taung), Myanmar

NOBUYUKI TANAKA^{1*}, TAKASHI SUGAWARA², MU MU AUNG³ & JIN MURATA⁴

¹Department of Botany, National Museum of Nature and Science, Amakubo 4-1-1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0005, Japan

²Makino Herbarium, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Minamiosawa 1-1, Hachioji, Tokyo 192-0397, Japan

³Forest Research Institute (FRI), Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Yezin, Myanmar

⁴Botanical Gardens, Graduate School of Sciences, the University of Tokyo, Hakusan 3-7-1, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0001, Japan

*Author for correspondence. E-mail: nobuyuki_tanaka@kahaku.go.jp

Abstract

A new species, *Impatiens kingdon-wardii* Nob. Tanaka & T. Sugaw. (Balsaminaceae), is described and illustrated from Mt. Victoria (Natma Taung), northwestern Myanmar. This species is distinguished from any other species by the pink orbicular, densely pubescent lateral sepals, appearance of which is like two ears of the mouse, and upper lobes of lateral united petals with hairy club-shaped protuberance.

Key words: Balsaminaceae, *Impatiens*, Mt. Victoria, Myanmar, new species.

Introduction

The genus *Impatiens* Linnaeus (1753: 937) consists of more than 900 species distributed mainly in tropical Africa and Southeastern Asia, and occasionally in North America, Europe and East Asia (Grey-Wilson 1985, Mabberley 2008). Most species have very restricted narrow distributions (Fischer & Rahelivololona 2002). Forty-six species of *Impatiens* with 17 endemic were recorded in Myanmar (Kress *et al.* 2003).

The Natma Taung National Park is located in the southwestern part of Myanmar, in so-called “Chin Hills”. Mt. Victoria (21°12'N, 93°35'E) is the highest mountain (3,015 m) in this range. North part of the mountain range extends to northern mountain range representing Mt. Khakaborazi. Natma Taung is the original local name of Mt. Victoria. Mt. Victoria is also regarded as an ecological refuge, offering a temperate climate that is absent from the adjacent regions (Tanaka 2005). During field excursions to Mt. Victoria, a unique plant of *Impatiens* (Balsaminaceae), growing along the streams and in wet place under the shade, was collected.

This plant is characterized by spherical hairy pink flower bud like paper lantern, and purple flowers with pink orbicular densely hairy lateral sepals like two ears of the mouse at anthesis, and the upper lobes of lateral united petals with hairy club-shaped protuberance. Thus far it has not matched any other species known from Myanmar and neighbouring regions by the studies of related literatures (Hooker 1909, 1913, Toppin 1920, Chen 1978, Shimizu 1970, 1977, 1991, 2000, Akiyama *et al.* 1991, 1995, Yadav & Sardesai 2002, Kress *et al.* 2003, Shimizu & Suksathan 2004, Yu *et al.* 2007, Chen *et al.* 2008, Newman 2008, Suksathan & Triboun 2009, Pusalkar & Singh 2010, Dessai & Janarthanam 2011, Yuan *et al.* 2011, Gogoi & Borah 2013, 2014, 2015a, 2015b).

Impatiens kingdon-wardii Nob. Tanaka & T. Sugaw., *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2)

Type:—MYANMAR. Chin State: Kamptlet Township, at the foot of Mt. Victoria, Natma Taung National Park, ca. 1800–2000 m alt., 2 December 2002, J. Murata, N. Tanaka, T. Sugawara, T. Nemoto, Y. Iokawa, F. Shimosono, Hung Maung, Ling Shing Maung & Cho Cho Win 024566 (holotype: MBK; isotypes: RAF and TI).