



A new species of *Paraboea* (Gesneriaceae) from a karst limestone hill in southwestern Guangdong, China

FANG WEN¹, XIN HONG², LING-YUN CHEN³, SHOU-BIAO ZHOU² & YI-GANG WEI^{1*}

¹ Guangxi Institute of Botany, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, CN-541006 Guilin, P. R. China. E-mail: wenfang760608@139.com,

² College of Life Sciences, Anhui Normal University, CN-241000, Wuhu, P. R. China. E-mail: hongxin200710084@126.com, zhoushoubiao@vip.163.com

³ Wuhan Botanical Garden, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, CN-430074, Wuhan, Hubei, P. R. China. E-mail: lychen83@qq.com

*Author for correspondence.

Abstract

A new species of Gesneriaceae, *Paraboea tetrabracteata*, growing in rocky crevices on a limestone hill in Guangdong, China, is described and illustrated. It is morphologically similar to *P. rufescens* and *P. dictyoneura* in leaf and flower shape, but can be distinguished by undulate to faintly sinuate blade margins, 3–6 lateral veins on each side, petioles 0.4–1.3 cm, peduncles 4–9 cm, 4 narrowly oblong-ovate bracts, calyx narrowly oblong to lanceolate or linear, a purplish corolla tube, 2 staminodes and straight fruits.

Introduction

The genus *Paraboea* (C.B. Clarke) Ridley (1905: 63; Gesneriaceae) was first described as a section in *Didymocarpus* sect. *Paraboea* Clarke (1883: 105) and elevated to generic level by Ridley (1905). It was then revised by Burt (1984) who separated the genus based on differences in indumentum, but it has now been redefined to accommodate species from *Trisepalum* Clarke (1883: 138) and *Phylloboea* Benth (1876: 1020), following a molecular phylogenetic study (Puglisi *et al.* 2011). The genus currently includes 120 species (Puglisi *et al.* 2010) and is known from southern China, northeastern India, the eastern Himalayas, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia east to Sulawesi, occurring mostly in limestone karst habitats (Burt 1984, Xu & Burt 1991, Xu *et al.* 2008, Chen *et al.* 2008, Kiew 2010, David 2010, Puglisi *et al.* 2011, Xu *et al.* 2012). In China and Taiwan 21 species are currently known to occur, of which eleven taxa are endemic (Li *et al.* 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010, Xu *et al.* 2008, Chen *et al.* 2008, Chen *et al.* 2012). Until now four species have been recorded from Guangdong Province (Zheng *et al.* 2005, Li *et al.* 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010).

In June 2008 the authors collected some *Paraboea* specimens in the karst region of Guangdong Province, which was suspected to be a new species. During four years these populations were monitored in the field and an ecological survey was carried out. After thorough comparison with *Paraboea* specimens from China, Vietnam and Thailand, we concluded that it was indeed an undescribed species, which we name and describe below. We used the following references to identify our material and compare descriptions: Barnett (1961), Wang (1990), Xu (1994), Fang *et al.* (1995), Pham-Hoang (2000), Burt (2001), Li *et al.* (2004), Xu & Wei (2004), Xu *et al.* (2008), Wei *et al.* (2010) and Chen *et al.* (2012).