



## Second-step lectotypification of the name *Taxus chienii* (Taxaceae)

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### Abstract

When the name *Taxus chienii* W.C. Cheng (Taxaceae) was published, three gatherings (*S. Chen 1384*, *S. Chen 3024*, and *Y.Y. Ho 3166*) were indicated as the types. Recently, Lin & Chao (2007) designated a duplicate of *S. Chen 1384* at PE as the lectotype. However, they overlooked that Law (1948) had previously indicated another gathering *Y.Y. Ho 3166* as the “type”, effectively lectotypifying the name. According to the Art. 9.17 of the ICN, Law's lectotypification must be accepted as the first-step lectotypification and, as such, has priority over that by Lin & Cao. Here, a duplicate of *Y.Y. Ho 3166* at NAS is designated as the second-step lectotype of the name *Taxus chienii*.

**Key words:** Nomenclature, *Pseudotaxus*, typification

*Taxus chienii* was published by Cheng (1934: 240) and differs from other *Taxus* species in branchlets subopposite or subwhorled (not irregularly alternate), abaxial stomatal bands of leaves white powdery (not yellow or pale grayish green) and aril of seed white (not red) when ripe. Cheng (1947) separated it from *Taxus* Linnaeus (1753: 1040) as *Pseudotaxus* Cheng (1947: 1). One year later, another new generic name *Nothotaxus* Florin (1948: 394) was published based on *Taxus chienii*, but according to the Article 52 (McNeill *et al.* 2012), it is an illegitimate superfluous name. The genus *Pseudotaxus* is a monospecific genus belonging to the family Taxaceae. It is endemic to China and occurs in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Jiangxi and Zhejiang (Cheng *et al.* 1978, Fu *et al.* 1999, Wang & Yang 2007, Xu *et al.* 2008, Farjon 2010).

**Taxus Chienii** Ching in Contrib. Biol. Lab. Sc. Soc. China Bot. Sur. 9: 240. 1934.

Tree or shrub, 2-5 m. high, branches mostly whorled, branchlets opposite or whorled; bud-scales persistent; leaves linear, straight or slightly falcate, abruptly acuminate at the apex, obtuse or round at base, midrib perminant on both surfaces lustrous green above, 2 whitish stomatic lands and with midrib and both green edge beneath, 15-25 mm. long, 2.5-3 mm. wide, flowers dioecious, the staminate with 8-10 stamens, peltate and opposite, each 4-6 anthers with distinct filament, bract decussate and opposite, broad-ovoid or obovate, acute at apex; the pistillate 4 mm. long, 1.5 mm. across, with 16 bracts at base, decussate and opposite, ovoid or broadly ovoid, acute at apex; seed broadly ovoid, slightly 2 blunt angled, aril white.

This is a very distinct species and is easily recognised by its subdichotomous, subopposite or subverticillate branchlets, by its leaves with two glaucous stomatiferous bands beneath, by its 4-6 celled anthers, white arillus, and broadly ovoid seeds with elliptic or rhombic-elliptic hilum.

Chekiang: Lungtsuan, maoshan, alt. 1400 m. under woods, shrub, 2 m. high, staminate specimen, *Y. Y. Ho 3164*; same locality, *Y. Y. Ho 3166*, shrub under woods 1.5 m. high, type, fruiting specimen, Oct. 7, 1934.

**FIGURE 1.** Law's indication of type for *Taxus chienii* in *Botanical Bulletin of Academia Sinica* 1: 144. 1947. Underlined by the author.

(figure 4)] were annotated with Cheng's handwritten "type". Among the six duplicates of *Y. Y. Ho 3166*, only one sheet NAS-00070071 has Cheng's handwriting and is annotated again by Cheng when he published new generic name *Pseudotaxus*. So, here we narrowed the lectotype to a single specimen NAS00070071 by second-step lectotypification.

## Typification

*Pseudotaxus chienii* (W.C. Cheng) Cheng (1947:1). *Taxus chienii* Cheng (1934: 240). *Nothotaxus chienii* (W.C. Cheng) Florin (1948: 394).—Type: CHINA. Zhejiang: Longquan, 7 October 1934, *Y. Y. Ho 3166* [first-step lectotype designated by Law (1948: 144); second-step lectotype NAS-00070071!, **here designated!**].

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