



Two new species of *Aspidistra* (Asparagaceae) from Guangxi, China: *A. chunxiuensis* and *A. longshengensis*

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Abstract

Two new species, *Aspidistra chunxiuensis* and *A. longshengensis*, discovered in Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region of southern China, are described and illustrated. The first taxon is similar to *A. grandiflora* in the shape of the flower, but differs by leaf blade broadly ovate to ovate-oblong, base suborbicular; the perigone lobes shorter, 30–35 mm long; stigma upper surface flat, white, with 6 radial, purplish red, 4-fork-tipped lines from center to margin. The second taxon has close relations to *A. pingtangensis* in the shape of flower, but mainly differs by the perigone purplish red, lobes larger, 3–4 × 2–3 mm, adaxially shallowly verruculose from lobes to the upper part of the tube, stamen inserted at the middle of the tube.

Key words: taxonomy

Introduction

When investigating medical plants in Chunxiu nature protection, Longzhou Xian, and Jianxin Natural Reserve, Longsheng County, Guangxi in 2013 to 2014, we found some specimens of *Aspidistra* plants. Upon careful comparison with all *Aspidistra* species hitherto known (Lang *et al.* 1984, 1999, Li 1988, 2004, Liang & Tamura 2000, Tang & Liu 2003, Tillich *et al.* 2007, Tillich 2005, 2008, Deng *et al.* 2010, He *et al.* 2011, Liu *et al.* 2011, Averyanov & Tillich 2013, Lin *et al.* 2012, 2013, 2014a, 2014b, Hu *et al.* 2014), we concluded that the two plants are new species, which we describe below.

Description of the new species

Aspidistra chunxiuensis C.R.Lin & Yan Liu *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2)

Type:—CHINA. Guangxi, Longzhou County, Chunxiu nature protection, alt. 328 m a.s.l., 28 May 2013, *Bo Pan P056* (holotype IBK!, isotype IBK!).

Herbs perennial, evergreen, rhizomatous. Rhizome creeping, subterete, 6–8 mm thick, nodes dense. Roots numerous. Vaginal leaves 5–6, purple-red, 2–12 cm long, enveloping base of petiole, becoming black-brown when dry. Leaves solitary, 1–2 cm apart; petiole stiff upright, 23–35 cm long, 2–3 mm thick, adaxially sulcate; leaf blade usually broadly ovate to ovate-oblong, 20–32 cm long, 9–11 cm wide, dark green, base broadly cuneate to suborbicular, abruptly narrowed to petiole, inequilateral, apex acuminate, margin entire, with prominent midvein on lower surface and 3–4 inconspicuous secondary veins at both sides. Peduncle erect or declining, purple, 9–11 cm long, with 7–8 bracts, bracts gradually wider from base to top of peduncle, the distal ones at base of perigone broadly ovate, purplish red, 22–28 mm long, 16–20 mm wide, apex obtuse. Flower solitary; perigone campanulate, fleshy, deeply 12 (or 13) lobed apically; tube 10–12 mm long, 35–38 mm in diameter, abaxially with purple spots, adaxially blackish