



Sonerila bokorensis (Melastomataceae), a new species from Cambodia

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Abstract

Sonerila bokorensis, a new species of Melastomataceae from Cambodia, is described and illustrated. The new species is similar to *S. calophylla*, but it is distinguished by having aggregated tubercles, narrower leaves, and glandular trichomes on the pedicels, hypanthium, mid-veins of abaxial petals, and capsules.

Key words: Bokor National Park, Cambodia, endemic species, Melastomataceae, *Sonerila*

Introduction

Melastomataceae are a large pantropical plant family including 166 genera and 4,200–4,500 species, with approximately 2,950 of these in the New World and 1,275–1,550 in the Old World. The tribe Sonerileae Triana (1866: 457), with 560–600 species in 40 genera, is mainly distributed in Southeast Asia, Africa and Madagascar. *Sonerila* Roxburgh (1820: 180) is known to be one of the largest genera in the tribe (Renner 1993).

The genus *Sonerila* with 150–176 species is distributed in tropical Asia from India to Malesia, including southern China and Sri Lanka (Chen & Renner 2007). *Sonerila* includes herbs (caulescent and acaulescent) and shrublets. It is clearly distinguished from other genera of Melastomataceae in having trimerous flowers and mostly uniparous (scorpioid) cymes (Chen & Renner 2007).

Indochinese *Sonerila* were published in the Flore Generale de l'Indochine and included 10 species (Guillaumin 1913). Current species count in the region includes 3 species in Cambodia, 8 in Vietnam, 6 in Laos, 15 in Thailand, and 6 in China (Guillaumin 1913, Hansen 1989, Cellinese & Renner 1997, Pham-Hoang 1999, Renner *et al.* 2001, Chen & Renner 2007, Newman *et al.* 2007).

During our recent floristic research in Bokor National Park in Southwestern Cambodia, a specimen that does not appear to be similar to previously reported species (Guillaumin 1913, Hansen 1989, Cellinese & Renner 1997, Pham-Hoang 1999, Renner *et al.* 2001, Chen & Renner 2007, Newman *et al.* 2007) was collected (Figures 1 & 2). It resembles *Sonerila calophylla* Ridley (1912: 5) from the Malay peninsula, but a comparison with the type specimens, as well as field collected materials, revealed that it differs from *S. calophylla* and it is here described as a new species.

Taxonomic treatment

Sonerila bokorensis S.H. Cho and Y.D. Kim, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1 & 2)

Sonerila bokorensis is similar to *S. calophylla*, but it is distinguished by having aggregated tubercles, narrower leaves, presence of glandular trichomes on the pedicels, hypanthium, abaxial mid-vein of the petals, and capsules.

Type:—CAMBODIA. Kampot: Bokor National Park, 10°37'25.6"N, 104°01'36.9"E, 1101 m, 20 October 2010, Cho *et al.* CB-1730 (holotype HHU!, isotype KB!).