Sonerila bokorense (Melastomataceae), a new species from Cambodia

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Abstract

Sonerila bokorense, 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 (scorioid) cymes (Chen & Renner 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 bokorense S.H. Cho and Y.D. Kim, sp. nov. (Figs. 1 & 2)

Sonerila bokorense 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 KBI)