



Oreocharis synergia, a new species of Gesneriaceae from Northwestern Yunnan, China

WEN-HONG CHEN^{1,4,5}, MICHAEL MÖLLER², RUN-ZHENG CHEN^{1,4,5}, RONG-JU RUI^{3,4} & YU-MIN SHUI^{1,4*}

¹Key Laboratory for Plant Diversity and Biogeography of East Asia, Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming 650201, Yunnan, China;

²Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Scotland, UK;

³Forestry Bureau of Yongsheng County, Yongsheng 674200, Yunnan, China;

⁴Karst Conservation Initiative of Yunnan, Kunming 650201, Yunnan, China;

⁵University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China;

*Author for correspondence. E-mail: yminshui@mail.kib.ac.cn

Abstract

A new species of *Oreocharis* (Gesneriaceae) from southwestern Yunnan, China, *Oreocharis synergia* is described and illustrated. The diagnostic characteristics are given with a comparison with its most similar species, *Oreocharis bodinieri*.

Key words: *Oreocharis*, *Oreocharis bodinieri*, *Oreocharis synergia* sp. nov., Yunnan, China

Introduction

Staff of the Yongsheng Forestry Bureau (Rong-Ju Rui) collected a sterile plant in Yongsheng County, southwestern Yunnan, China, and tentatively identified it in Oct. 2013 as *Tremacron forrestii* Craib (1918: 217), named after George Forrest, a Scottish botanist and one of the first explorers of China's northwestern Yunnan Province. Recently, to reflect phylogenetic relationships among this group of plants (Möller *et al.* 2011), *T. forrestii* was subsumed into *Oreocharis* Bentham (1876: 1021) as *O. craibii* Mich.Möller & A.Weber (Möller *et al.* 2011: 19), after another Scottish botanist, W. G. Craib.

Sterile specimens of *Oreocharis* are notoriously difficult to identify to species. Thus, one of the authors (Yu-Min Shui) conducted further fieldwork in Yongsheng County and collected specimens in bud in August 2014 and flowering plants on 27 September 2014. After comparison with previously described *Oreocharis* species (Pellegrin 1930, Wang *et al.* 1990, Li 1991, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010), and specimens in herbaria (BM, E, IBK, IBSC, Kew, KUN, P and PE), we concluded that the plants collected in Yongsheng County represent a new species of *Oreocharis*, characterized by a distinct tubular, almost actinomorphic, corolla with an unusually densely villous exterior surface.

Taxonomy

Oreocharis synergia W.H.Chen, Y.M.Shui & Mich.Möller, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

The new species is most similar in leaf and floral characteristics to *O. bodinieri* H. Léveillé (1915: 40), but differs from this species by its larger oblong or elliptic leaf blade, smaller lanceolate or triangular calyx lobes, light yellow corolla with red-edged lobes, densely villous exterior corolla surface, glabrous upper half of the filament and glabrous connective.

Type:—CHINA. Yunnan Province: Yongsheng County, Renhe Township, Shanyila, on mountain slopes, 26°26'N, 100°56'E, elevation 2194 m, 27 Sept. 2014, in flower, *Y. M. Shui et al.* B2014-299 (holotype, KUN!; isotype, E!).