



## *Youngia purpimea* (Asteraceae), a new species from Sichuan, China

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### Abstract

*Youngia purpimea*, a new species from southern Sichuan, China, is described and illustrated. This species is morphologically most similar to *Y. szechuanica* and *Y. zhenyiana* by having capitula with five yellow florets, but differs from the latter two by having leathery and undivided caudical leaves being glabrous on both surfaces and purplish red abaxially, leaf margins sparsely dentate, and also by brown pappus.

**Key words:** Compositae, Crepidinae

### Introduction

*Youngia* Cassini (1831: 88) is a genus of ca. 30 species in E. Asia (Babcock & Stebbins 1937, Deng *et al.* 2014), with 28 species (22 endemic) in China (Shih & Kilian 2011). China undoubtedly has the highest diversity of the genus. Most species of *Youngia* in China have narrow distributions, and further discoveries of new species is expected as more botanical explorations proceed in this country. We carried out botanical expeditions in the Huagaoxi Natural Reserve, Sichuan Province, China, from March 2012 to March 2014, for the project on the biodiversity survey at this area. In the Huagaoxi Natural Reserve, we collected some interesting new plants of *Youngia*. After a careful examination of the morphology, we determined that they represent an undescribed new species. Here we describe it as *Youngia purpimea*.

### Taxonomy

*Youngia purpimea* Y.L. Peng, W.B. Ju, X.F. Gao & Y.D. Gao, **sp. nov.** (Figs. 1 & 2)

**Diagnosis:**—The new species is most similar to *Youngia szechuanica* (Söderberg (1934: 362) Hu (1969: 37) [= *Y. scaposa* Babcock & Stebbins (1937: 45), nom. illeg., according to Art. 52.1 of the Melbourne Code (McNeill *et al.* 2012)], but is distinct by having leathery undivided caudical leaves being glabrous on both surfaces and purplish red abaxially, leaf margins sparsely dentate, and also by brown pappus (Figs. 1 & 2).

**Type:**—CHINA. Sichuan Province: Xuyong County, Huagaoxi Nature Reserve, Shuiwei Town, Guangmu Village, on the wet rock near waterfall, 650 m, 5 July 2013, *Xin-Fen Gao, Yun-Dong Gao & Wen-Bin Ju, HGX11571* (holotype & isotypes, CDBI).

Perennial herb, rhizomatous, height 28–34 cm, with leaves basally crowded on a short apically brown-woolly caudex, stems erect, solitary, almost leafless, smooth and glabrous. Caudical leaves 5–6, lamina narrowly ovate, 2–6 cm wide, 6–16 cm long, margin sparsely and shallowly sinuate-dentate with long-acuminate teeth, apex acuminate, base attenuate into a petiole, 4–15 cm long. Cauline leaves few, supporting the synflorescence branches, linear or bract-like. All leaves thick-textured, mostly leathery, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially purplish red. Capitula numerous, in a paniculiform-corymbiform synflorescence. Capitulum with five flowers. Involucre with phyllaries in 3–4 series, outermost phyllaries 1.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, apex acute; inner phyllaries 7–8 mm long, 1.5 mm wide. Flowers