



Oreocharis pilosopetiolata, a new species of Gesneriaceae from southeastern Guangdong, China

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Abstract

Oreocharis pilosopetiolata, a new species of Gesneriaceae from southeastern Guangdong, China, is described and illustrated. This species resembles *O. benthamii* var. *benthamii*, *O. benthamii* var. *reticulata* and *O. xiangguiensis*, but it differs from these species by its leaf and indumentum characters, which are discussed in this paper.

Introduction

Oreocharis Benth (1876: 1021) was previously a genus with ca. 28 species, with a predominant distribution in China (Wang *et al.* 1998). However, based on molecular data and morphological evaluation, Möller *et al.* (2011) demonstrated that the former *Oreocharis* was phylogenetically closely related to ten mostly small Chinese genera, and they transferred all species of *Ancylostemon* Craib (1920: 233), *Bournea* Oliver (in Hooker 1893: 2254), *Dayaoshania* Wang (1983: 319), *Deinocheilos* Wang (1986: 1), *Isometrum* Craib (1920: 250), *Opithandra* Burt (1956: 162), *Paraisometrum* W.T. Wang (in Weitzman *et al.* 1997: 431), *Thamnocharis* Wang (1981: 485) and *Tremacron* Craib (1918: 217), and four species of *Briggsia* Craib (1920: 236) including the type to *Oreocharis*. After this redefinition, the new *Oreocharis* included 88 species, and the further transfers from *Briggsia* and *Ancylostemon* to *Oreocharis* increased the number to over 100 (Chen *et al.* 2014; Möller *et al.* 2014). All of these made the genus one of the morphologically most diverse groups within Old World Gesneriaceae

Over the past decade, our and others' botanical explorations into karst areas of southern China have greatly improved our knowledge of the diversity of Gesneriaceae, including the description of more than 50 species. However, only a few new species have been described for *Oreocharis*, such as, *O. dayaoshanioides* Yan Liu & W. B. Xu (in Liu *et al.* 2012: 393), *O. jinpingensis* W.H. Chen & Y.M. Shui (in Chen *et al.* 2013: 312), *O. yunnanensis* Rossini & J. Freitas (2014: 283), *O. tsaii* Y.H. Tan & J.W. Li (in Tan *et al.* 2015: 188), *O. brachypodus* J.M. Li & Z.M. Li (2015: 296) and *O. striata* Fang Wen & C.Z. Yang (in Yang *et al.* 2015: 369). In October 2012, during a field investigation in the Lianhuashan Baipanzhu Nature Reserve in southeastern Guangdong, China, we found an unknown plant of Gesneriaceae growing on rock surfaces. The characters of flower (such as slightly zygomorphic corolla, four separated stamens, oblong anthers, and so on) indicated that this species belonged to *Oreocharis*, and is similar to *O. benthamii* C.B. Clarke (1883: 63), *O. benthamii* var. *reticulata* Dunn (1908: 362) and *O. xiangguiensis* W.T. Wang & K.Y. Pan (in Pan 1987: 285), but differs in leaf and indumentum characters. After detailed morphological and literature analyses (Wang *et al.* 1998, Li and Wang 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010, Möller *et al.* 2011, Chen *et al.* 2014, Möller *et al.* 2014), we are convinced that this is a new species of *Oreocharis*, which is described and illustrated here.

Taxonomic treatment

Oreocharis pilosopetiolata L.H. Yang & M. Kang, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–2)