



Hemiboea angustifolia (Gesneriaceae), a new species endemic to a tropical limestone area of Guangxi, China

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Abstract

Hemiboea angustifolia, a new species of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi, China, is described and illustrated. The new species is morphologically similar to *H. cavaleriei* var. *paucinervis* and *H. longgangensis*, both found in southwestern Guangxi, China. A description of *H. angustifolia*, together with illustrations, a distribution map, habitat description, conservation assessment and a diagnostic comparison with *H. longgangensis*, *H. cavaleriei* var. *cavalerieri* and *H. cavaleriei* var. *paucinervis* are presented.

Key words: Gesneriaceae, Guangxi, *Hemiboea angustifolia*, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

Hemiboea Clarke is a medium-sized genus of Gesneriaceae mostly occurring in China. Three taxa can also be found in neighboring countries, namely *H. cavaleriei* var. *paucinervis* W.T.Wang & Z.Y.Li (in Li 1983) and *H. subcapitata* Clarke (1888: sub tab. 1798) in northern Vietnam (Li & Wang 2004), and *H. bicornuta* (Hayata 1913: 154) Ohwi (1936: 662) in Iriomote-Shima of Ryukyu, Japan (Li 1996). The subtropical and tropical areas of Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan and Guizhou are the most diverse regions in this genus (Li 1983, 1987). Recently, a Chinese endemic genus, *Metabriggsia* Wang (1983: 1), was revised and merged with *Hemiboea* (Weber *et al.* 2011). The two species of *Metabriggsia*, *M. ovalifolia* (1983: 2) and *M. purpureotincta* Wang (1983: 3), were combined to *Hemiboea ovalifolia* (W.T.Wang) A.Weber & Mich.Möller and *H. purpureotincta* (W.T.Wang) A.Weber & Mich.Möller (in Weber *et al.* 2011). Thus, this genus comprises at least 27 species and five varieties in China (Li & Wang 2004, Xu *et al.* 2010).

During the course of a floristic investigation in 2005, we collected a rare unknown species of *Hemiboea* from a limestone area in Daxin County, Guangxi, which is different from all known species in having glabrous, lanceolate leaves and few yellowish white flowers in a single cyme. It belongs to *H.* section *Subcapitatae* Clarke (1888: sub tab. 1798). After consulting national floras and relevant literature (Li 1987, Wang 1990, Wang *et al.* 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Wei *et al.* 2010), as well as herbarium specimens, we concluded that our specimens represent a new species, which is described and illustrated here.

Taxonomic Treatment

Hemiboea angustifolia F.Wen & Y.G.Wei, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2 A–F)

Haec species H. cavaleriei var. *cavaleriei*, *H. cavaleriei* var. *paucinervi* et *H. longgangensi* affinis, a quibus foliis anguste lanceolatis vel lanceolatis, floribus majoribus, 4.8–5.4 cm longis, corollae tubis 3.6–4.0 cm longis, orificio