Arisaema lihengianum (Araceae): A newly recorded from Vietnam

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Article Info

Received: 06-07-2015,
Revised: 17-09-2015,
Accepted: 19-09-2015

Keywords:
Arisaema lihengianum,
Araceae, new record, Na Hang

Abstract

Arisaema lihengianum J. Murata & S. K. Wu, a previously known species only in China, is newly recorded from Vietnam. It is found in primary limestone forest in Na Hang Nature Reserve, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam.

INTRODUCTION

The genus Arisaema includes about 170 species (Gusman, 2001). They are distributed mainly in Asia and few species there are in East-Northern Africa and Northern America (Mayo, 1997). Before, this genus was recorded with 5 species belonging to 2 sections in Vietnam (Gagnepain, 1942; Ho, 1993). Recent studies (Truong 2013, 2014; Du, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005; Du and Boyce, 2005) have recorded 20 species of this genus known in Vietnam. All of them belong to 4 sections (Murata, 1984).

In the expeditions in Na Hang Nature Reserve (Tuyên Quang province), a species of Arisaema genus was collected. Through morphological analyses, we recognized that the characters of this species completely fit to the species Arisaema lihengianum J. Murata & S. K. Wu. This investigation surprised us because Arisaema lihengianum was an endemic species of China for long time but now it has been found in Northern Vietnam.


Plants to 50-70 cm tall, monoecious or male. Rhizome creeping horizontally, purplish to brownish outside, red-purple or violet inside, subcylindric, to 14 × ca. 3.5 cm, branching. Cataphylls to 25 cm, some encircling peduncle directly. Leaf 1, expanding simultaneously with inflorescence; petiole purplish brown to violet, mottled with grento 30 cm, lacking pseudostem; leaf blade 3-foliolate; petiolules 3.5-4 cm; leaflets subequal in size, to 20 × 15 cm; central leaflet oblong-elliptic, base rounded-cuneate, apex acuminate and caudate; lateral leaflets oblique. Peduncle 12-22 cm. Spathe tube white or pale green, narrowly funnelform, 5-6 × 8-10 cm when opened; limb proximal half white, distal half dark red-purple, narrowly deltoid to narrowly deltoid-ovate, 15-20 × 5-7 cm, apex acuminate. Spadix bisexual after sex change; female zone 20-30 × ca. 10 mm; female flowers green, bottle-shaped; male zone 10-20 × ca. 8 mm; male flowers basically white; appendix sessile, 15-18 cm, slender, exserted from throat of spathe and pendulous, proximally white, distally dark red-purple, throughout with numerous filiform neuter flowers 3-5cm.

Habitat: Primary and secondary board-leaved evergreen sub-mountain forest on very steep rocky of Na Hang Nature Reserve; 450-1000 m alt.

Distribution: Vietnam (Tuyen Quang), China (Gangxi and Yunan).
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Phenology: Flowering, February - March; Fruiting, April – May.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Management Board of Na Hang Nature Reserve for their kind help in locating field surveys.

Fig. 1: *Arisaema lihengianum* - a: Flowering plant with tuber; -b: Bisexual spadix; -c: Filiform; -d: Rhizome; -e: Inflorescence; -f: Leaf blade.

**REFERENCES**


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