

Clematis liuzhouensis (Ranunculaceae), a New Species from China

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Clematis* L. (Ranunculaceae), *C. liuzhouensis* Y. G. Wei & C. R. Lin, is described and illustrated. The new species is related to *C. wissmanniana* Handel-Mazzetti, but differs in its leaflets that always have entire margins and are abaxially silvery-pannose and in its smaller sepals that are up to 1.5×0.6 cm.

Key words: China, *Clematis*, IUCN Red List, Ranunculaceae.

There are more than 300 species of *Clematis* L. (Ranunculaceae) in the world, and more than 100 species are found in China (Chang et al., 1980). During a field trip to Liuzhou shi, Guangxi Province, China, in 1989, we collected an unusual *Clematis* specimen with fruits only; however, we could not identify it without flowers. In 2006, we returned to Liuzhou shi to collect the flowers, and now establish it as a new species.

Clematis liuzhouensis Y. G. Wei & C. R. Lin, sp. nov. TYPE: China. Guangxi: Longtan Park, Liuzhou shi, 17 June 2006 (fl.), Y. G. Wei 06220 (holotype, IBK; isotype, PE). Figure 1.

Species nova affinis *Clematidi wissmannianae* Handel-Mazzetti, a qua foliolis margine integris subtus argenteo-pannosa atque sepalis minoribus 1.1–1.5 cm longis et 0.4–0.6 cm latis differt.

Woody vines, 2–4 m long, branches angular, appressed puberulous. Leaves 2-pinnate or 2- to 3-ternate; leaflets papery, ovate-lanceolate, long-ovate, or ovate, $2.5\text{--}6 \times 1.3\text{--}2.5$ cm, apex acuminate, base rounded, margin always entire, adaxially appressed puberulous, abaxially densely silvery pannose. Cymes axillary, 4- to 7-flowered; peduncles 4–6.5 cm, puberulous; bracts lanceolate, ca. 6×2 mm. Flowers 2.8–3.2 cm diam., pedicels 1.5–3.5 cm, puberulous; sepals 4, spreading, white, oblong, $1.1\text{--}1.5 \times 0.4\text{--}0.6$ cm, densely puberulous externally, glabrous internally; stamens 50 to 87, glabrous, ca. 1.5 cm, filaments linear, anthers oblong, ca. 2 mm, apex obtuse. Achenes bilaterally compressed, ovate, ca. 5×2.5 mm, puberulous, persistent styles ca. 3 cm, plumose.

Distribution. *Clematis liuzhouensis* is known only from the type locality in Liuzhou shi, in Guangxi Province, China. It grows in association with *Bauhinia championii* (Benth.) Benth., *Diospyros saxatilis* S. K. Lee, *Mallotus microcarpus* Pax & K. Hoffmann, and *M. philippinensis* (Lamarck) Müller Argoviensis.

IUCN Red List category. *Clematis liuzhouensis* should be considered Critically Endangered (CR A2c) according to IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN, 2001). Only 10 individuals were found on the limestone hills in an area of ca. 10×10 m², at an elevation of 150 m. Although no path exists to the site, the area is accessible to tourists, and tourism presents the principal threat of disturbance to the new species.

Phenology. The new species was collected in flower in June and in fruit in August.

Discussion. Based on floral structure, *Clematis liuzhouensis* belongs to section *Clematis* subsect. *Clematis*, characterized by its habit of woody vines or herbs; leaves that are 2-pinnate, 2-pinnate deep split, or 2- to 3-ternate; inflorescences in cymes or panicles; glabrous stamens; and lack of staminodes. The new species is characterized by its leaflets, which are covered abaxially with a beautiful and unusual silvery pannose indumentum, and this feature distinguishes *C. liuzhouensis* from its close ally, *C. wissmanniana* Handel-Mazzetti, as well as other species of that subsection. *Clematis wissmanniana* is found only in the adjacent Yunnan Province to the west of Guangxi, and is not sympatric with *C. liuzhouensis*.

Paratype. CHINA. **Guangxi:** Longtan Park, Liuzhou shi, 28 Aug. 1989 (fr.), Longtan-Dule Expedition 00744 (IBK).

KEY TO *CLEMATIS LIUZHOUENSIS* AND *C. WISSMANNIANA* IN SOUTH CENTRAL CHINA

1a. Leaflets always with entire margins, abaxially silvery pannose; sepals to 1.5×0.6 cm.
..... *C. liuzhouensis*



Figure 1. *Clematis liuzhouensis* Y. G. Wei & C. R. Lin. —A. Fertile habit showing the flowering cymes. —B. Older stem. —C. Sepal, abaxial surface. —D. Stamen. —E. Infructescence. —F. Achene. A–D drawn by S. Q. He from the holotype, Y. G. Wei 06220 (IBK); E, F, from the paratype, Longtan-Dule Exp. 00744 (IBK).

- 1b. Leaflets sometimes with entire margins or serrate,
appressed pubescent on both surfaces; sepals to 2
× 1 cm *C. wissmanniana*

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