

A New Species of *Alpinia* (Zingiberaceae) from Vietnam

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Abstract

Alpinia calcicola Q.B. Nguyen & M.F. Newman, a new species of subsect. *Alpinia* from Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, is described.

Introduction

While working on a guide to plants of Ha Long Bay (N.T. Nguyen & Kiew, 2000), a species of *Alpinia* was collected that does not match any of those cited in Q.B. Nguyen (1994). Further study indicates that it is a new species, which is described here:

Alpinia calcicola* Q.B. Nguyen & M.F. Newman *sp. nov. *Alpiniam maclurei* Merr. tangit, ob laminam minorem, (22—31 x 3—7 cm), glabram, bracteolam 2 vel 3 flores gerentem, tubum calycis tubum corollae aequantem, antheram ecristatam inter species subsectionis *Alpiniae* ponenda.

Typus: Vietnam, Quang Ninh Province, Ha Long Bay, Nguyen Tien Hiep & Ruth Kiew, NTH 4220 12 April 2000, flowering (holo HN; iso SING).

Herb 1.5—2 m. *Leaf sheath* glabrous, striate; ligule 8—10 mm, emarginate, shortly hairy, ciliate at margin; *petiole* 2—7 mm, reddish brown, glabrous; *lamina* lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 22—31 x 3—7 cm, light green above, yellowish green beneath with reddish brown midrib, glabrous on both surfaces; margin with sparse, tooth-like hairs; base acute; apex acuminate. *Inflorescence* terminal, yellowish brown, 26—32 cm long; rachis slender, 2—3 mm diameter, sparsely hairy; *cincinni* diffuse, becoming denser towards apex, axes hairy; bract subtending inflorescence pale pinkish brown, to 18 x 2 cm, caducous; *cincinni* without bracts, usually with a very short flap of free tissue at the join with the rachis; *bracteoles* broadly ovate, split to the

base, pinkish white to pink, hairy at tip and margin, usually subtending 2—3 flowers, first bracteole 12—14 x 8—10 mm, subsequent ones smaller; *ovary* globose, hirsute; epigynous glands c. 3 mm long, fused into a truncated cone; *calyx* tubular, 12—14 mm, adpressed silky hairy outside, split into three short ciliate teeth above; *corolla* tube as long as calyx, very sparsely hairy outside, dorsal corolla lobe 14—19 x 4—6 mm, oblong, slightly hooded, lateral corolla lobes smaller, 14—16 x 5—7 mm; labellum c. 14 x 18 mm, broader than long, shortly bifid at apex, margins frilled, lateral lobes pure crimson with white margin, centre with longitudinal crimson lines; *lateral staminodes* 4—5 mm, fleshy; filament 13—14 mm, anther 4—5 mm long, sparsely short hairy on back, thecae parallel, connective sometimes produced as a small flap of tissue; *style* filiform, *stigma* funnel-form, ciliate; *fruit* globose, 6—7 mm.

Other specimens seen: Vietnam, Quang Ninh Province, Ha Long Bay: Nguyen Tien Hiep & Leonid Averyanov NTH2600 12 May 1999 (HN, LE, SING); Nguyen Tien Hiep & Ruth Kiew NTH3931 15 July 1999 (HN, SING).

Habitat: In rock cracks and crevices in open places from sea level almost to the summits of limestone islands.

Notes: This species is illustrated in colour by Wendy Gibbs in Plate 17 of *Wild Plants of Ha Long Bay* (T.N. Nguyen and Kiew, 2000).

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References

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Nguyen, Q B and Newman, M. F. 2000. "A new species of *Alpinia* (Zingiberaceae) from Vietnam." *The Gardens' bulletin, Singapore* 52, 211-212.

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