

# Two ginger species reported new to Myanmar

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*Amomum erythranthum*. Credit: TAN Yunhong

*Zingiberaceae*, the ginger family of flowering plants, consists of 53 genera and more than 1,377 species. *Amomum* is the second largest genus in the family *Zingiberaceae* with about 150–180 species.

During floristic surveys of northern Myanmar 2016-2018, researchers

from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) found some interesting specimens of *Amomum* in Putao, Kachin state.

Based on detailed examination of the morphological characters of the collected materials and possible closely similar [species](#), the researchers confirmed that the specimens of *Amomum* were new to science.

In a recent study published in *Phytotaxa*, the researchers reported two new ginger species (*Amomum erythranthum* and *Amomum ampliflorum*) and two new ginger records (*Amomum pauciflorum* and *Wurfbainia microcarpum*) for Flora of Myanmar for the first time.

*Amomum erythranthum* is morphologically similar to *A. subulatum* and *A. nimkeyense* in having similar yellow flowers, but can be distinguished by its reddish floral tube, red anther connective, red and pubescent fruit.

*Amomum erythranthum* grows in shaded places at an elevation of 900–1100 m in tropical montane [forest](#). It flowers in April–May.

*Amomum ampliflorum* is similar to *A. maximum*, *A. dealbatum* and *A. odontocarpum* in white flower, but differs in its longer inflorescence and much larger flower. It grows in shaded places at an elevation of 850–1000 m in tropical montane forest and [flowers](#) in April –May.



*Amomum ampliflorum*. Credit: TAN Yunhong



*Amomum pauciflorum*. Credit: TAN Yunhong



*Wurfbainia microcarpum*. Credit: TAN Yunhong

*Amomum pauciflorum* is morphologically similar to *A. subulatum*, but can be distinguished by its bracteoles open to base and not tubular, long calyx tube, long filament, obovate labellum with dentate apex, red anther connective and semi-lunar anther crest with dentate apex.

*Wurfbainia microcarpa* grows at the forest edge or roadside at an elevation of 500–800 m in tropical rain forests and tropical mountain forests. It has a very large extent of occurrence and is common, with no significant threats and is therefore assessed as Least Concern.

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

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