

New species of *Begonia* found in Gaoligong Mountains

July 13 2022, by Zhang Nannan



Begonia longlingensis. Credit: Tan Yunhong

Begonia is the sixth largest genus of angiosperms. Yunnan has 117 species of *Begonia* among the 250 species from China. Among the currently known *Begonias* in China, only *Begonia yui* has paired

bracteoles below the ovary.

During botanical surveys of the transboundary cooperation on [biodiversity research](#) and [conservation](#) in Gaoligong Mountains in 2021, researchers from the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences collected an unknown Begonia species with bracteoles present.

After a careful literature review and morphological comparisons, the researchers confirmed it as a species new to science. They named it as *Begonia longlingensis* to refer to the type locality in Longling County. The new species was published in *Taiwania*.

Begonia longlingensis is morphologically similar to *B. wenshanensis* in having similar leaves and caulescent habit. But it can be distinguished from the similar species by the following characters: puberulous inflorescences, five tepals of pistillate flower, bracteoles under the ovary, ovary densely red succulent strigose and rhizomes well developed.

The [new species](#) is currently known from Longling Xiaoheishan Provincial Natural Reserve of Baoshan City, and Linxiang District of Lincang City, Yunnan Province, China. It grows in moist environments in broad-leaved evergreen forests, at 2,100–2,300 m elevation.

More information: Hong-Bo Ding et al, *Begonia longlingensis*, a new species of Begonia (Begoniaceae) from Yunnan, China, *Taiwania: International Journal of Biodiversity* (2022). [DOI: 10.6165/tai.2022.67.377](#). taiwania.ntu.edu.tw/abstract.php?type=abstract&id=1852

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