

Scientists discover new species of Fabaceae

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A. populations of *A. bashanense*; B. floral parts, B1. standard, B2. keel-petal, B3. ovary and stamen, B4. wings; C. fruits; D. seed. Credit: Gan Qiliang

Researchers from the Wuhan Botanical Garden of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other institutions have recently discovered a new species of Fabaceae in Zhuxi and Shennongjia of Hubei, China.

The new species was named *Astragalus bashanense* and published in

Phytokeys with the title "Astragalus bashanensis (Leguminosae), a new species from Central China."

This [new species](#) is characterized by yellow flowers with calyx lobes longer than the calyx tube, a wing claw nearly as long as the limb and a keel-petal claw about 2/3 of the length of the limb. The white-pubescent linear pods have a long beak at the apex and orbicular-reniform or reniform dark seeds inside.

The plants are widespread along roadsides, in [grasslands](#), on [mountain slopes](#), or at the edge of woods at altitudes from 600 to 2,160 meters. And the populations have a large number of individuals. The species can be used for ornamental purposes or as animal fodder.

The genus *Astragalus* is the largest in the world. The discovery of *A. bashanense* will facilitate further research into the [taxonomy](#), phylogeny and evolution of the genus.

More information: Song-Zhi Xu et al, *Astragalus bashanensis* (Leguminosae), a new species from Central China, *PhytoKeys* (2023). [DOI: 10.3897/phytokeys.219.96916](https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.219.96916)

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