

New tree species of Lauraceae family found in Yunnan

April 14 2023, by Li Yuan



Endiandra macrocarpa. Credit: Li Lang

The genus *Endiandra* of the Lauraceae family has approximately 100 species, and its diversity is strongly centered in south-eastern Malesia and Australia. In China, there are only three recognized *Endiandra* species (two endemic) and they are distributed in Yunnan, Guangxi, Hainan and Taiwan.

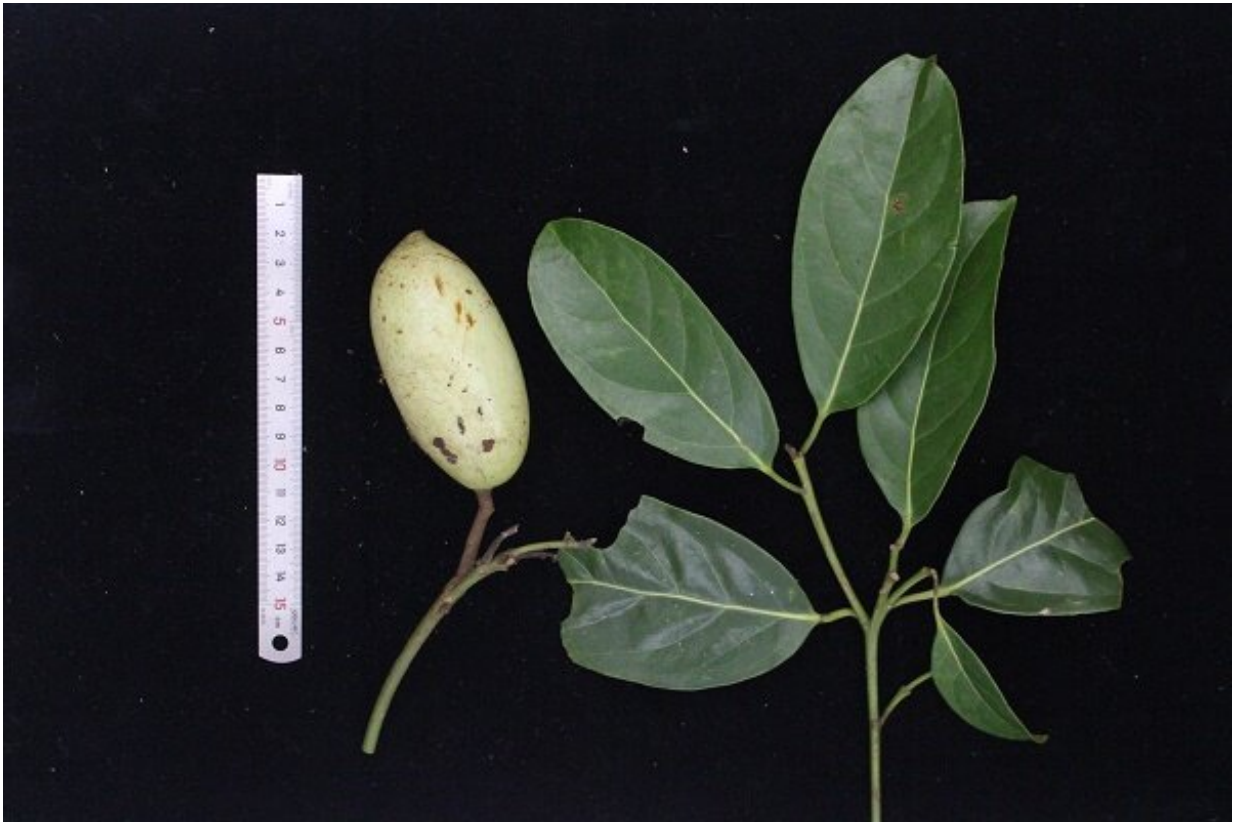
During recent field surveys in south-eastern Yunnan Province, researchers from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences collected an unknown Lauraceae [species](#) with very large fruits. After careful morphological studies, they confirmed it belonged to the genus *Endiandra* and was a species new to science.

They named it *Endiandra macrocarpa* (*E. macrocarpa*) to refer to its very large fruits compared to other species within the [genus](#) *Endiandra*.

The new species findings were published in *PhytoKeys* on April 7.



Flowering branchlet of *Endiandra macrocarpa*. Credit: Li Lang



Fruiting branchlet displaying immature fruit of *Endiandra macrocarpa*. Credit: Li Lang

E. macrocarpa is an evergreen tree up to 15 meters tall. Compared to other *Endiandra* species occurring in south China and the adjacent regions in Indochina, this species is mainly characterized by its much larger ellipsoidal fruits, as well as glabrous branchlets and puberulent inflorescences.

Currently, *E. macrocarpa* is only known from the type locality in Maguan County, Yunnan Province, southwest China, with only one mature individual. It is distributed in tropical montane forest in valley, on clay loam soil mixed limestone. So far, no other occurrence of this species in southeast Yunnan and the adjacent regions has been found or

reported.

More information: Dian-yang Zou et al, *Endiandra macrocarpa* (Lauraceae), a new tree species from south-western China, *PhytoKeys* (2023). [DOI: 10.3897/phytokeys.224.102752](https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.224.102752)

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