

New Aristolochiaceae liana species found in Yunnan, China

August 29 2023, by Zhang Nannan



Isotrema cangyuanense. Credit: Ma Xingda

Traditionally, the genus *Aristolochia* L. sensu lato is the largest genus in the family Aristolochiaceae. According to recent morphological and phylogenetic studies, *Aristolochia* subgen. *Siphisia* has been

reintroduced as a separate genus *Isotrema*.

During a botanical exploration, researchers from the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences collected an unknown species of *Isotrema* in the Menglai Grand Canyon, Cangyuan County, Yunnan Province. After careful morphological examination and literature review, they confirmed that it was a [new species](#).

The new species was named as *Isotrema cangyuanense* to indicate its type locality, Cangyuan County and was published in *Taiwania* on August 24.

Isotrema cangyuanense is a perennial, woody liana. It is morphologically similar to *Isotrema kunmingense* and *I. moupinense*, but easily distinguished by its densely villous leaf blade. The adaxial leaf surface is densely villous, the inside of the calyx tube has dark reddish-brown [papillae](#) in the upper part, the calyx throat and the adaxial surface of the calyx limb are brownish, with dense dark reddish-brown papillae.

The new species is also similar to *I. moupinense*, but easily distinguished by its both surfaces of the leaf blade densely villous; the utricle is shorter; the inner surface of the tube brownish, with dense dark reddish-brown papillae in the upper part; the throat is brownish, with dense dark reddish-brown papillae, etc.



Isotrema cangyuanense. Credit: Ma Xingda



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Isotrema cangyuanense is currently known only from Sigangli Village, Menglai Township, Cangyuan County, Yunnan Province, China, growing in limestone forests at about 1,200 m [high elevation](#), on the southern slope, and the [soil type](#) is red soil.

The researchers proposed the conservation status of the new species as "Data Deficient," as field surveys are still limited.

More information: Xing-Da Ma et al, *Isotrema cangyuanense*, a new species of Aristolochiaceae from Yunnan, China, *Taiwania* (2023). [DOI: 10.6165/tai.2023.68.323](https://doi.org/10.6165/tai.2023.68.323). taiwania.ntu.edu.tw/abstract/1943

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Citation: New Aristolochiaceae liana species found in Yunnan, China (2023, August 29)
retrieved 2 May 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2023-08-aristolochiaceae-liana-species-yunnan-china.html>

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