

New *Ardisia* species found in Yunnan

January 24 2024, by Zhang Nannan



Ardisia chimingiana. Credit: Tan Yunhong

Ardisia (coralberry or marlberry) is the largest genus of flowering plants in Myrsinoideae, Primulaceae, distributed mainly in tropical and subtropical Asia. Several revisions based on morphology have attempted to clarify the taxonomy and systematics of *Ardisia*. However, there are still many unresolved taxonomic and nomenclatural issues, and many

characters have varying degrees of transitional expression.

Researchers from the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently reported a new *Ardisia* [species](#), which was introduced from the wild and cultivated in Yunnan. After making morphological observations and measurements on live [plants](#) and [herbarium specimens](#), the researchers confirmed it new to science.

The [new species](#) was named as *Ardisia chimingiana* in honor of Prof. Hu Chiming who has made significant contributions to the taxonomy of *Ardisia* in China and Southeast Asia. It was [published](#) in *Annales Botanici Fennici*.

Ardisia chimingiana has glandular entire leaf margins, axillary umbellate racemose inflorescences, and distinctly dextrorse imbricate calyx lobes with rounded apex. This combination of characters suggests that it belongs to *Ardisia* subgenus *Tinus*. Of the Chinese species, *A. solanacea*, *A. elliptica*, and *A. attenuata* belong to this subgenus.



Ardisia chimingiana. Credit: Tan Yunhong

"*Ardisia chimingiana* has long been misidentified in China as *A. solanacea* and *A. polycephala* because of similarities in leaf blades and inflorescences. However, it differs from these two species by having fewer leaf veins, inflorescences with fewer flowers, a shorter peduncle, glabrous calyx margin, and fruits that do not turn black," said Tan Yunhong of XTBG.

Ardisia chimingiana is known only from the type locality in Yunnan. It grows at low altitudes of about 580 meters above sea level on the edge of dense evergreen tropical forests and along riverbanks.

More information: Dong-Li Quan et al, *Ardisia chimingiana* (Primulaceae), a New Species from Yunnan, China, *Annales Botanici Fennici* (2024). [DOI: 10.5735/085.061.0102](https://doi.org/10.5735/085.061.0102)

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