Paraboea wenshanensis, a new species of Gesneriaceae from Yunnan, China

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Abstract
Paraboea wenshanensis is a new species of Gesneriaceae from Yunnan, China and is described and illustrated here. It is morphologically similar to P. angustifolia, P. martinii and P. glutinosa, but the congeners of this new taxon can be distinguished by several salient characters. A description of P. wenshanensis, together with illustrations and photographs, a distribution map and conservation assessment are presented.

Keywords
Limestone flora, karst, new taxon

Introduction
Southern and south-western China has extensive areas of karst topography (Chenet et al. 2008) so that seed plants in this region show extreme diversity and are endemic on alkaline limestone substrates (Xu 1993), a typical example being Gesneriaceae (Fang et al. 1995, Wang et al. 1998, Li and Wang 2004, Wei et al. 2010, Ai et al. 2015).

Paraboea (C.B. Clarke) Ridley has recently been redefined to accommodate Phylloboea Benth and Trisepalum C.B. Clarke (Middleton et al. 2010, Puglisi et al. 2011), distributed from south to southwest China, Indo-China Peninsula to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines (Burtt 1984, Xu and Burtt 1991, Xu et al. 2008, Triboun and Middleton 2012).
Many new taxa of this genus have been discovered and published in recent years (Chen et al. 2008, Kiew 2010, Wei et al. 2010, Chen et al. 2012, Wen et al. 2013, Wen and Wei 2016). \textit{Paraboea} is restricted to Asia and includes about 130+ species (Weber 2004, Wen and Wei 2016).

In 2009, one of the authors (WF) encountered a \textit{Paraboea} species with last year’s fruits when collecting plants specimens endemic to karst landforms in Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. Then, in the course of floristic surveys in Wenshan National Nature Reserve between 2012 and 2014, the same species was again collected by the authors. After thorough comparisons of diagnostic morphological and anatomical features of similar taxa from China, Vietnam and Thailand (Barnett 1961, Wang 1990, 1998, Xu and Burtt 1991, Xu 1994, Pham-Hoang 2000, Burtt 2001, Li and Wang 2004, Xu et al. 2008), it was concluded that it was a species new to science and thus it is described and illustrated here.

**Material and methods**

Measurements and morphological character assessments of the putative new species were undertaken and described using specimens worked on by the current authors and living material observed in the field and at the Gesneriad Conservation Centre of China. All available specimens of \textit{Paraboea} stored in the following herbaria in China, Vietnam, the United States and the United Kingdom were examined (codes according to Thiers 2015): E, GH, HN, IBK, K, KUN, MO, PE, PH, US and VNMN. In addition, images of other type specimens were obtained from Tropicos (http://www.tropicos.org), JSTOR Global Plants (http://plants.jstor.org) and the International Plant Names Index (http://www.ipni.org). All morphological characters were studied under dissecting microscopes and are described using the terminology presented by Wang et al. (1998).

**Taxonomic treatment**

\textit{Paraboea wenshanensis} X.Hong & F.Wen, sp. nov.

urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:60476045-2

Figures 1 and 2

**Diagnosis.** \textit{Paraboea wenshanensis} is similar to \textit{P. martinii} (H. Lév. & Vaniot) B.L. Burtt and \textit{P. glutinosa} (Hand.-Mazz.) K.Y. Pan in having similar corolla shape and colour, but can be distinguished by its oblong-ovate to elliptic leaf blade, crenate margin, lateral veins 4–8 on each side of midrib, petiole subsessile or up to 3 cm long, broadly obovate, glabrous bracts, 6–8 mm long, glabrous membranous calyx and capitate staminodes. It also morphologically resembles \textit{P. angustifolia} Yan Liu & W.B. Xu, but can be easily distinguished by the oblong-ovate to elliptic leaf blade, broadly obovate, glabrous bracts, oblong to oblanceolate, glabrous membranous calyx, sparsely glandu-
Figure 1. *Paraboea wenshanensis* X.Hong & F.Wen. A Habitat in fruiting period B Inflorescences C Dissection of a flower showing corolla, stamens and staminodes D Calyx and pistil, stamen (showing the glandular–puberulous, inflated and strongly geniculate).
Figure 2. *Paraboea wenshanensis* X.Hong & F.Wen. A Habitat B Adaxial surface view of leaf blade C Abaxial surface view of leaf blade D Cyme with flowers, showing wide campanulate E Frontal view of corolla F Calyx lobes G Opened corolla for showing stamens and pistil H Pistil with calyx lobes and stamens, showing anthers and strongly geniculate filaments I Inflorescence with many capsules.

lar puberulent filaments; capitate staminodes and twisted capsule. A morphological comparison between *P. wenshanensis* and congeners: *P. angustifolia*, *P. martinii* and *P. glutinosa* is provided in Table 1. (see also Fig. 3).

**Type.** CHINA. Yunnan Province: Shaka County, Gumu Town, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, 23°9'22.5"N, 104°12'16.59"E, a.s.l. 1,500 m, 4 Jul 2014, flowering, *D.M. He* & *Y.F. Feng* WSLJS646 (holotype: KUN; isotype: AHU, IBK).

**Description.** Terrestrial lithophilic, perennial rosulate herbs. *Stems* subterete, 5–10 cm long, 5–9 mm in diameter. *Leaves* 6–20, congested at the apex of the stem, subsessile or up to 3 cm long, leaf blade oblong-ovate to elliptic, (5–)8–18 × 1–3 cm, coriaceous, bases strongly oblique and asymmetrically attenuate, margins crenate sometimes with a woolly strip, apices acute to obtuse, upper leaf surfaces with arachnoid covering when young, becoming glabrescent with age, lower leaf densely appressed greyish arachnoid hairs; lateral veins 4–8 on each side of midrib, convex
Table 1. Diagnostic character differences amongst *Paraboea wenshanensis* sp. nov., *P. angustifolia*, *P. martinii* and *P. glutinosa*.

| Characters                       | *P. wenshanensis* | *P. angustifolia* | *P. martinii*            | *P. glutinosa*                  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Petiole                          | subsessile or up to 3 cm long | subsessile or up to 2 cm long | 2–10 cm long | 3–7 cm long |
| Shape of leaf blade              | oblong-ovate to elliptic | linear-obblanceolate | elliptic to ovate or obblanceolate | obovate to elliptic, ovate or oblong |
| Margin of leaf blade             | crenate           | serrulate         | serrulate to crenulate    | serrate to subentire             |
| Number of lateral veins on each side of midrib | 4–8              | 4–8              | 7–11                      | 10–14                             |
| Shape of Bracts                  | broadly obovate   | linear-lanceolate | lanceolate to ovate,      | narrowly ovate to obovate         |
| Indumentum of bracts             | glabrous          | outside pannose   | outside pannose           | outside pannose                   |
| Shape of Calyx                   | oblong to obblanceolate | linear-lanceolate | narrowly oblong to narrowly triangular | lanceolate to narrowly triangular |
| Texture of calyx                 | membranous        | thick papery      | papery                    | papery                            |
| Indumentum of calyx              | glabrous          | pannose           | sparsely puberulent       | glandular puberulent to glabrous  |
| Indumentum of filaments          | sparsely glandular puberulent | glabrous          | bearded                   | glabrous to glandular puberulent  |
| Staminodes                       | capitate, ca. 0.2 mm long | linear, ca. 4 mm long | linear, ca. 3 mm long     | linear, 1.2–2 mm long             |
| Capsule                          | twisted           | straight          | twisted                   | twisted                           |

and densely appressed brown to greyish woolly hairs along the abaxial veins. *Cymes* dichotomous, axillary or subterminal, dichasias 1–3(–5), (2–)4–16-flowered; peduncles 3–10 cm long, ca. 5 mm in diameter, sparsely greyish matted woolly hairs, green; bracts 2, opposite, broadly obovate, 7–9 × ca. 5 mm, margins entire, apices blunted to obtuse, glabrous, whitish to purple; pedicels 0.8–1 cm long, ca. 2 mm in diameter, sparsely greyish matted woolly, greenish. *Calyx* membranous, 5-parted to the base, lobes oblong to obblanceolate, 6–8 × ca. 2.6 mm, glabrous, margins entire, apex obtuse or rounded, white to purplish. *Corolla* zygomorphic, 1–1.5 cm long, purple outside, bluish or purplish inside, glabrous; tube obliquely wide campanulate, 0.6–1.2 cm long, ca. 1 cm in diameter at the mouth; the limb two-lipped; adaxial lip 2-lobed to near base, lobes semi-orbicular, apex rounded, 2–4 × ca. 3 mm, abaxial lip 3-lobed to base, central lobe ovate, lateral lobes obliquely ovate, the apex of 3 lower lobes rounded, 5–6 × ca. 3 mm. *Stamens* 2, included, adnate to abaxial side of corolla tube near base; filaments 4–5 mm long, inflated and strongly geniculate on the upper part, wide along its length and narrowly constricted at base, white, sparsely purple glandular–puberulous near the base; anthers dorsifixed, ca. 3.5 mm long; transversely spindle-shaped, coherent at the lateral sides, dehiscing longitudinally, white, glabrous; *staminodes* 2, capitate,
ca. 0.2 mm long, adnate to ca. 1.5 cm above the corolla tube base. Pistil glabrous; ovary narrowly ovoid to conical, ca. 1 cm long, ca. 1.1 mm in diameter, placentas 4, axile, undivided; style ca. 6 mm long, stigma capitate, with numerous papillae. Capsule linear, spirally twisted, ca. 3 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm in diameter, glabrous, slightly curved, dehiscing loculicidally to base.
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**Etymology.** The specific epithet is derived from the type locality, Wenshan National Nature Reserve, Yunnan Province, China.

**Vernacular name.** Wén Shān Zhū Máo Jù Tái (Chinese pronunciation); 文山蛛毛苣苔 (Chinese name).

**Distribution and habitat.** To date, *Paraboea wenshanensis* is locally abundant and endemic to south-western China, from type locality: Wenshan Nature Reserve, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan province. This species grows on moist shady cliffs of limestone hills, at an elevation of 1,500 m a.s.l. The average temperature is 14.5 °C, the average annual precipitation has been calculated as ca. 1,022 mm. The forest is a subtropical monsoon climate evergreen broad-leaved forest, with main community types of *Ilex polyneura* (Hand.-Mazz.) S.Y. Hu, *Triadica rotundifolia* (Hemsl.) Esser and *Debregeasia orientalis* C.J. Chen.

**Conservation status.** Current information for this new species is only known from very few collections and details on the size of the population are known in Wenshan Nature Reserve, where the plants’ protected status is guaranteed. Based on five careful field investigations in the past years, this species appears to be locally abundant. Considering that not enough is known about the population, it is proposed that *Paraboea wenshanensis* should currently be classed as data deficient (DD) (IUCN 2016).

**Notes.** The geographical distributions of *P. wenshanensis* and its similar species are identified in Map 1.

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**Map 1.** The geographical distribution of *P. wenshanensis* sp. nov., *P. angustifolia*, *P. martinii* and *P. glutinosa*. 
Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Prof. Yi-Bo Luo and Dr. Wei-Bin Xu for the photographs of *Paraboea martinii* and *P. angustifolia* and Miss Le-Ping He and Miss Wen Ma for the beautiful hand-drawing. This study was financially supported by the Anhui University Doctor Startup Fund, Key University Science Research Project of Anhui Province (No. KJ2017A022), Fund of Guangxi Key Laboratory of Plant Conservation and Restoration Ecology in Karst Terrain (16-B-01-01), Plant germplasm resources projects of the germplasm bank of Wild species of Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (WGB-1411), the Chinese Academy of Sciences under the Guangxi Natural Science Foundation (2015GXNSFBB139004) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences under the STS initiative “Development of Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens (KFJ-1W-NO1)”.

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