

## *Chirita ningmingensis* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China

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*Chirita ningmingensis* Yan Liu & W.H. Wu, a new species of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi, China, is described and illustrated. It is similar to *C. baishouensis* but differs in the peduncle and pedicel glandular-pubescent, bracts broadly lanceolate, the corolla 3–3.5 cm long, outside glandular-pubescent, filaments ca. 6 mm long, anthers glabrous, staminodes 3, the pistil glandular-pubescent, stigma cordiform, and apex retuse.

There are more than 60 species of *Chirita* (Gesneriaceae) in Guangxi (Qin & Liu 2010), including some recently described ones (Liu & Wei 2004, Li *et al.* 2006, Wei *et al.* 2007, Li & Wang 2008, Pan *et al.* 2009). In the recent years, we carried out some floristic surveys in the limestone caves resulting in the discovery of three new species from Guangxi (Liu *et al.* 2007, Xu *et al.* 2008, 2009). In this paper, another new species of *Chirita* from a limestone cave in the karst areas of southwestern Guangxi is described.

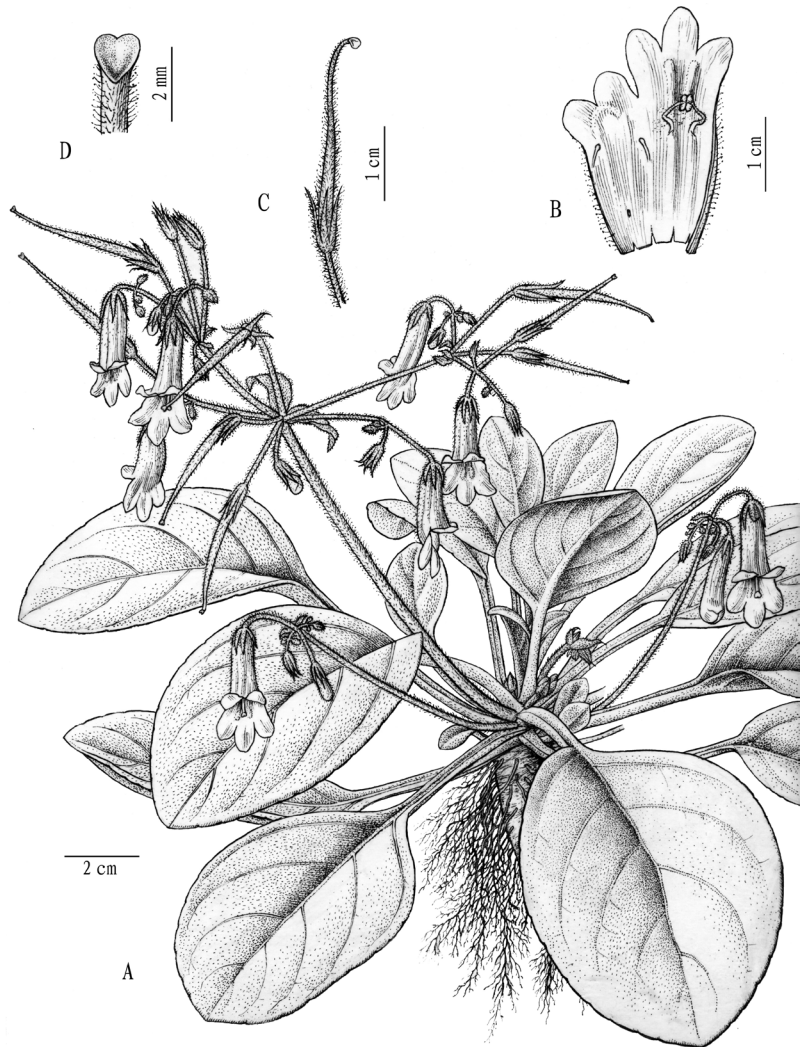
***Chirita ningmingensis*** Yan Liu & W.H. Wu, *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)

*Species nova C. baishouensi similis, sed pedunculis pedicellisque glanduloso-pubescentibus, bracteis late lanceolatis, corolla 3–3.5 cm longa, extus glanduloso-pubescentibus, filamentis circ. 6 mm longis, antheris glabris, staminodiis 3, pistillo glanduloso-pubescenti, stigmatibus cordato, apice retuso differt.*

TYPE: China. Guangxi, Ningming County, Longgang National Nature Reserve, at the entrance of a limestone cave, rare, alt. 250 m, 18.VIII.2002 Yan Liu L0718 (holotype IBK; isotype PE). — PARATYPE: China. Guangxi, Ningming County, Longgang National Nature Reserve, rare, alt. 250 m, 23.VIII.2009 Wang-Hui Wu W09155 (IBK).

ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet is derived from the type locality, Longgang National Nature Reserve, Ningming County, Guangxi.

Herbs perennial. Rhizome subterete, 2–4 cm long, 0.8–1.2 cm wide. Leaves petiolate; petiole applanate, 3–8 cm long, 3–4 mm wide, appressed pubescent; leaf blade herbaceous, ovate or broadly elliptic to subrounded, 4–9 × 3–7 cm, appressed pubescent on both surfaces, apex acute to obtuse, base cuneate, sometimes inequilateral, margin entire, lateral veins 3–5 on each side. Cymes 5–10, axillary, 1–2-branched, 8–20-flowered; peduncle 4–11 cm long, 1.5–3 mm wide, glandular-pubescent; bracts broadly lanceolate, 0.8–2.5 × 0.4–1.1 cm, apex acute, margin entire, appressed pubescent on both surfaces, pedicel 1–3 cm long, ca. 1.2 mm wide, glandular-pubes-



**Fig. 1.** *Chirita ningmingensis* (from the holotype, drawn by S. Q. He). — **A:** Habit. — **B:** Corolla opened with stamens and staminodes. — **C:** Calyx and pistil. — **D:** Stigma.

cent. Calyx 5-parted nearly to base, 7–9 × ca. 1 mm, lobes linear-lanceolate, outside glandular-pubescent, inside glabrous, apex acuminate, margin entire. Corolla pale purple-red, 3–3.5 cm long, outside glandular-pubescent, inside sparsely glandular-pubescent, tube 1.8–2 cm long, 8–10 mm in diam. at mouth, ca. 4 mm in diam. at base; limb distinctly 2-lipped, adaxial lip 2-lobed to over middle, lobes oblong, 3–4 × ca. 6 mm, abaxial lip 3-lobed to near middle, lobes oblong, 5–6 × ca. 5 mm, with 2 yellow stripes inside. Stamens 2, adnate ca. 1.5 cm above the corolla base; filaments ca. 6 mm long, glandular-pubescent, strongly geniculate near middle, anthers ca. 2 mm long, glabrous.

Staminodes 3, lateral ones ca. 3.5 mm long, apex capitate, sparsely pubescent, adnate to 1.1 cm above corolla tube base, middle one 0.5–1 mm long, adnate to 5 mm above corolla tube base. Disc ca. 1.5 mm high, margin repand, glabrous. Pistil 2.2–2.5 cm long, ovary 1.2–1.5 cm, long, 1.5 mm wide, glandular-pubescent; style 8–10 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, glandular-pubescent; stigma cordiform, apex retuse, 1.3 mm wide. Capsule not observed. Flowering from August to September.

*Chirita ningmingensis* is known only from one population at the entrance of a limestone cave in the Longgang National Nature Reserve, Ningming County, Guangxi. It is similar to *C.*

**Table 1.** Morphological comparison of *Chirita ningmingensis* and *C. baishouensis*.

Characters	<i>Chirita ningmingensis</i>	<i>C. baishouensis</i>
Peduncle and pedicel	glandular-pubescent	pubescent
Bracts	broadly lanceolate	narrowly lanceolate
Calyx	lobes outside glandular-pubescent, inside glabrous, margin entire	lobes appressed pubescent on both surfaces, margin sparsely denticulate
Corolla	3–3.5 cm long, outside glandular-pubescent, with 2 yellow stripes inside	(3.7–)4.5–6.8 cm long, outside pubescent; with 4 purple stripes inside
Filaments	ca. 6 mm long, glandular-pubescent	1–1.4 cm long, glabrous or lower part sparsely glandular-pubescent
Anthers	ca. 2 mm long, glabrous	(1.5–)5 mm long, densely barbate on backside
Staminodes	3, sparsely pubescent	2, sparsely glandular-pubescent
Pistil	glandular-pubescent	densely appressed pubescent
stigma	cordiform, apex retuse	2-lobed, lobes narrowly triangular
Flowering	August to September	March to April

*baishouensis* (Wei et al. 2000), but it can be distinguished e.g. by the peduncle and pedicel glandular-pubescent, bracts broadly lanceolate, the corolla 3–3.5 cm long, outside glandular-pubescent, filaments ca. 6 mm long, anthers glabrous, staminodes 3, the pistil glandular-pubescent, stigma cordiform, and apex retuse (see Table 1).

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