

# *Begonia picturata* (sect. *Coelocentrum*, Begoniaceae), a new species from limestone areas in Guangxi, China

Yan LIU<sup>1</sup>, Shin-Ming KU<sup>2,3</sup>, and Ching-I PENG<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Guangxi Institute of Botany, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guilin 541006, P.R. China

<sup>2</sup>Herbarium, Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taipei 115, Taiwan

<sup>3</sup>Department of Life Sciences, National Cheng-Kung University, Tainan 701, Taiwan

(Received April 1, 2005; Accepted September 19, 2005)

**Abstract.** *Begonia picturata*, a new species of sect. *Coelocentrum* from the limestone areas in southwestern Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, China, is described and illustrated. A somatic chromosome number of  $2n = 30$  was determined. *Begonia picturata* resembles *B. cirrosa* in having villous peduncles and the pedicels, outer tepals (abaxial surface), ovaries and capsules villous-setose or hispid-setose with red trichomes. *Begonia picturata*, however, is distinct in that the leaves are maculate (vs. maculation absent) and densely villous-setose or tomentose-setose (vs. sparsely to moderately pilose or pilose-setose) on the upper surface.

**Keywords:** *Begonia cirrosa*; *Begonia masoniana* var. *maculata*; *Begonia morsei*; *Begonia picturata*; *Begonia* sect. *Coelocentrum*; *Begonia variegata*; Begoniaceae; China; Chromosome number; Guangxi; Limestone flora; Medicinal plant; New species; Rare species.

## Introduction

In continuation of our taxonomic studies of Chinese *Begonia* (Shui et al., 2002; Ye et al., 2004; Ku et al., 2004; Peng et al., 2005a; Peng et al., 2005b; Peng et al., 2005c), we report another handsome new species of *Begonia* sect. *Coelocentrum*. The plant with remarkably attractive foliage was first observed by the first author at an annual medicinal herb market held at the 'Dragon Boat Festival' in Jingxi, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region. According to the vender, it is effective in "alleviating fever, disintoxicating, invigorating blood vessels and dispersing stasis." The plant, which was brought into cultivation, is a distinct new species in *Begonia* sect. *Coelocentrum*. We were able to follow the medicinal herb vender's directions to the plant's native locality, where we observed the species in the wild and collected *Begonia picturata* in its native habitat. Worthy of note, our local field guide informed us that this rare, new species has been gathered as food for pigs by village farmers. Conservation of this stunning species is worthy of special attention.

## Species Description

***Begonia picturata*** Yan Liu, S. M. Ku & C.-I Peng, sp. nov.— TYPE: China, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, Baise Shi, Jingxi Xian, Dizhou Xiang, Guwen Cun, 23°03'46"N, 106°17'45"E, elev. ca. 760 m, associ-

ated with *Acer*, *Myrsine kwangsiensis*, *Bauhinia*, *Garcinia*, *Paraboea*, *Pseudochirita guangxiensis* var. *glauca*, *Pilea*, *Hoya*, *Sinosideroxylon pedunculatum*, *Aster*, *Tirpitzia ovoidea*, *Nephrolepis*, *Lepisorus*, *Epipremnum pinnata*, *Asplenium*, *Sterculia*, *Smilax*. 3 May 2005, Yan Liu L1199, (holotype: IBK; isotype: HAST). 一口血秋海棠 Figures 1, 2

*Haec species nova* *B. cirrosae* pedunculis villosis, pedicellis et tepalis exterioribus (abaxialiter) et ovariis et capsulis villosa-setosis vel tomentoso-setosis et in trichomatibus rubris similis, sed in foliis maculatis (in illa non maculatis), supra dense villosa-setosis vel tomentoso-setosis (in illa sparse moderateve pilosis vel setoso-pilosis) differt.

Plant monoecious, epipetric, perennial, rhizomatous. Rhizome stout, 5-15 cm long, 0.6-1.2 cm thick, internodes 0.8-2(-3) cm long, brown or reddish brown, villous. Stipules caducous, ovate-triangular to lanceolate-triangular, ca. 10-23 mm long, 6-10 mm wide, greenish or reddish hyaline, herbaceous, weakly to strongly keeled, abaxially villous (midrib more densely so), margin ciliate, apex aristate, arista 1-3 mm long, hair-like. Leaves 2-8, alternate, simple, asymmetric, unlobed, ovate to widely ovate, rarely suborbicular, base strongly oblique-cordate, margin inconspicuously denticulate and ciliate, apex shortly acuminate, (7-)10-15(-20) cm long (basal lobes included), (5.5-)7-11 (-14) cm wide, adaxially dark green or brown (abaxially red), adorned with a wide white, greenish-white, or pale green ring (abaxially pale green) in the middle (Figure 2: D) or with digitate dark brown bands along main veins and at leaf margin, pale green, yellowish green to whitish else-

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: bopeng@sinica.edu.tw; Tel: +886-2-2789-3821; Fax: +886-2-2789-1623.