



NOTE

Botanical Names Associated with Dr. Shiu Ying Hu

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ABSTRACT: A search of the *International Plant Names Index* for records associated with Dr. Hu Shiu Ying (1910–2012), revealed that 250 plants within 35 families were named by her, and one genus and seven species were named in her honor. Her own collections served as type specimens for 22 plant names. In the 1950s, Shiu Ying Hu produced a card file of Chinese plant names, later digitized in the 1990s as “The Hu Card Index,” which provided data for previously non-indexed infraspecific names. Dr. Hu is recognized for her contributions to China’s flora.

KEY WORDS: Dr. Shiu Ying Hu, S. Y. Hu, Flora of China, International Plant Names Index (IPNI), Tropicos.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Hu Shiu Ying (胡秀英博士), emeritus senior research fellow of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, honorary professor of Chinese medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), honorary senior research fellow of the School of Life Sciences (CUHK), and senior college tutor of Chung Chi College (CUHK), passed away on May 22, 2012 at 102 years of age. Building upon the collections and discoveries of earlier botanists (see Bretschneider, 1898; Li, 1944; Hu, 1975), she was known for her field surveys in China and Hong Kong (Walden and Hu, 1977, 1988, 2005) and research on economic plants of China, particularly those used for horticulture (Hu, 1961, 1977), medicine (Hu, 1998, 1999), and food (Hu, 2005). In August 2012, her student, recently retired professor Dr. Paul P. H. But (CUHK), inquired if there was a method to locate the many plant names she proposed during her lifelong dedication to botany.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To locate type specimens collected by Shiu Ying Hu, the Harvard University Herbaria’s *Index of Botanical Specimens* (http://kiki.huh.harvard.edu/databases/specimen_index.html) was searched for “S. Y. Hu” within the ‘Collector name’ field together with ‘Types only’ selected. To find plant names published by Dr. Hu, the *International Plant Names Index* (IPNI: www.ipni.org), a standardized database of plant names, was queried for the standardized author name “S.Y.Hu.” Similarly, IPNI was checked for plants named in honor of Dr. Hu. The genus and species epithet fields were searched separately for the character strings “shiuying%” and “huae,” respectively.

RESULTS

Harvard University Herbaria’s database included type specimens collected by Shiu Ying Hu, for 22 plant names (Table 1). IPNI listed 250 names proposed by Shiu Ying Hu within a total of 35 families (Table 2), mainly published between 1946 and 2003. Sixty-seven of her names are currently accepted in the *Flora of China* (Wu and Raven, 1994–2000; Wu et al., 2001–), while the others are treated as synonyms or were beyond the scope of the project, e.g., plants occurring in regions outside of China or cultivated. Plants named by Shiu Ying Hu include 45 in the Aquifoliaceae, 10 in Araceae, 24 in Araliaceae, 15 in Asteraceae, 47 in Hydrangeaceae, 14 in Malvaceae, 10 in Melastomataceae, 45 in Orchidaceae, and 40 others in a variety of families.

Searching IPNI for names honoring Shiu Ying Hu yielded the following eight:

Scrophulariaceae *Shiuyinghua* Paclt, J. Arnold Arbor. 43: 217. 1962 (not treated in the *Flora of China*; Type Species: *Shiuyinghua silvestrii* (Pamp. & Bonati) Paclt = *Catalpa silvestrii* (Pamp. & Bonati) S.Y. Hu, based on *Paulownia silvestrii*).

Celastraceae *Euonymus huae* J.S. Ma, Harvard Pap. Bot. 10: 96 (fig. 11). 1997, [‘hui’].

Cyperaceae *Scirpus huae* T. Koyama, Naturaliste Canad. 88: 239 (–242, fig. 32). 1961.

Dryopteridaceae *Polystichum huae* H.S. Kung & L.B. Zhang, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 33: 311 (–312, fig. 2: C–G). 1995.

Orchidaceae *Hetaeria shiuyingiana* L. Li & F.W. Xing, Novon 19(2): 187 (–190; fig. 1). 2009 (= *Hetaeria youngsayei* Ormerod).

Orchidaceae *Pinalia shiuyingiana* Ormerod & E.W. Wood, Harvard Pap. Bot. 15(2): 349 (–351; figs. 1–2).