

## Validation of the name *Vitis yunnanensis* (Vitaceae) endemic to Yunnan, China

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*Vitis yunnanensis* C. L. Li, originally described from Yunnan, southwestern China, was not validly published in 1997, because two type specimens were simultaneously designated. To enable formal use of the name, it is validated here.

The genus *Vitis*, with about 70–80 species, is concentrated in the Northern Hemisphere, mostly in temperate regions, with the diversity centre primarily in China and eastern North America (Mabberley 1997, Li 1998, Chen et al. 2007). The genus is important for grapes, wine and raisins, especially *V. vinifera* L., which is cultivated worldwide. In China, 37 species have been recorded of which 30 are endemic (Chen et al. 2007).

*Vitis yunnanensis* C. L. Li was described based on material from Yunnan, China (Li 1997). However, this publication was not in accordance with Art. 37.1 in the 'International code of botanical nomenclature' (McNeill et al. 2006), because two gatherings were simultaneously cited as types in the protologue (Li 1997) and the name was thus not validly published. Unfortunately, this problem was not discovered in the English and updated edition of the family Vitaceae in 'Flora of China'. To enable its formal use, the name is validated here.

Li provided a Latin description in 1997, which is used to validate the name here, and according to ICBN Art. 36.1 and Art. 46.2, the name *Vitis yunnanensis* is still to be attributed to him.

### *Vitis yunnanensis* C. L. Li sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

**Validating Latin description:** C. L. Li, in Acta Bot. Yunnan. (1997, p. 217).

**Type:** China. Yunnan: Xishuangbanna, Menhan, Manyao, in forests, 540 m a.s.l., 10 May 1955 (fr), K. M. Feng 20840 (holotype: KUN 0458485, Fig. 1, isotypes: KUN 0458486, LBG 00062098). Yunnan: Jindong County, the way from Wenpu to Luoshuidong, 1800 m a.s.l., 17 Aug 1959 (fr), S. G. Xu 5123 (paratype: KUN 0458487).

In the protologue, the collection date of the holotype designated here (K. M. Feng 20840) was mistakenly recorded as "14 May 1955", but according to the label

the holotype was actually collected on 10 May 1955 (Fig. 1). In addition, in the herbarium KUN, the type specimens of *V. yunnanensis* are currently stored with *V. balanseana* Planch. since both type specimens were annotated "*V. balanseana*" by C. Y. Wu, and bear no handwriting of the author who described the species. However, thorough taxonomic examination revealed that these specimens differed sufficiently from *V. balanseana* and should belong to *V. yunnanensis*. In the process of checking specimens, one duplicate of the holotype, i.e. an isotype, was found deposited in Lushan Botanic Garden (LBG 00062098).

Morphologically, *Vitex yunnanensis* is most similar to *V. luochengensis* W. T. Wang, but differs by having oval leaves, acute or acuminate at apex (vs ovate-oblong or triangular-ovate oblong leaves, acuminate at apex), and only slightly raised veinlets (vs conspicuously raised veinlets). *Vitis yunnanensis* also resembles *V. balanseana*, but is easily distinguished from the latter by its pilose peduncles (vs peduncles with sparse arachnoid tomentum when young, then gradually glabrescent).

### Distribution and conservation status

*Vitis yunnanensis* is only known from the type localities, Jindong County and Xishuangbanna City, Yunnan Province, China, growing in forests at altitudes from 500–1800 m a.s.l., and should be categorized as 'Endangered' (EN) according to IUCN categories and criteria (IUCN 2001).

### Additional specimens examined

*Vitis balanseana*: China, Guangdong: Zhaoqing, Dinghushan, 1 Sep 1987, Y. L. Cao & Y. H. He 87–31 (CDBI); Yangjiang County, Zhao, 22 Jul 1956, Z. Huang 41 750 (IBK); Guangxi: Damiaoshan County, Chidong, Wentong, 820 m a.s.l., 11 Jul 1958, S. Q. Chen 14 876 (LBG); Yiling County, Fuguang, 28 Dec 1958, Z. Q.

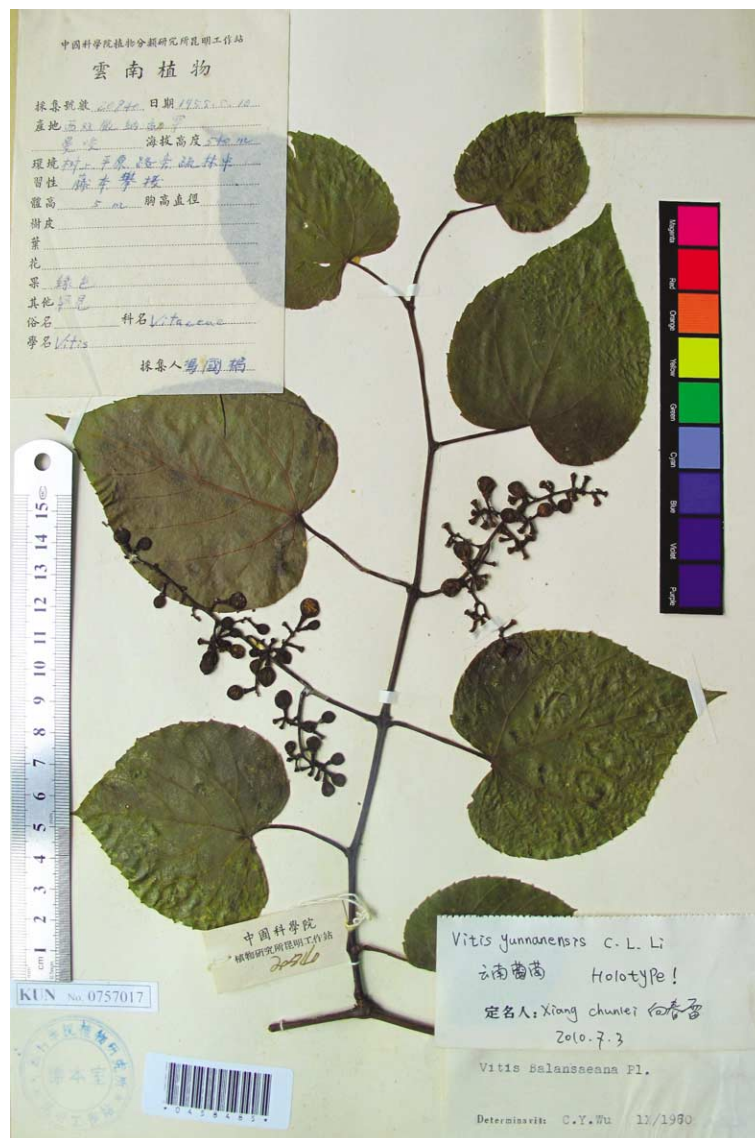


Figure 1. Photograph of the holotype of *Vitis yunnanensis* (KUN, F. M. Feng 22840, herbarium barcode: 0458485).

Zhang 14 412 (IBK); Hainan: Baisha County, Hongmao, Talong, 23 Apr 1936, X. Q. Liu 26 425 (KUN); Bashan County, Yuanmentong, 28 Mar 1936, X. Q. Liu 25 898 (IBK); Yaxian, Licairuling, 800 m a.s.l., 3 Jun 1933, K. Z. Hou 70 852 (IBK; KUN); Yunnan: Eshan County, Wenshan, 1500 m a.s.l., 7 Jul 1989, Yuxi Expedition 215 (KUN); Tonghai County, Lishan, Xiangping, 1900 m a.s.l., 12 Aug 1989, Yuxi Expedition 755 (KUN).

*Vitis luochengensis*: China, Guangxi, luocheng, Qiaoshan, 30 May 1977. Luocheng Expedition 4-1-1293 (holotype: GXMI).

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