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A new variety of *Aspidistra* from Guangxi, China

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Abstract: *Aspidistra arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *angustifolia* L. Wu & Y. F. Huang is described and illustrated as a new variety of *Aspidistra* from Guangxi, China. The new variety is similar to *A. arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *arnautovii*, but differs in its blade narrow lanceolate to nearly linear, 1.2－2.0 cm wide, with ca. 9 fine secondary veins at each side, stigma with ca. 24 small marginal incisions, upper surface convex.

Key words: *Aspidistra arnautovii* var. *angustifolia*; new variety; Guangxi; China

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中国广西蜘蛛抱蛋属一新变种

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摘 要: 该文描述了中国广西一新变种——防城蜘蛛抱蛋(*Aspidistra arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *angustifolia* L. Wu & Y. F. Huang),该变种与原变种 *A. arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *arnautovii* 相近,区别在于本变种的叶狭披针形至近线形,宽 1.2～2.0 cm,二级脉每边 9 条,柱头边缘约 24 浅裂,上表面凸起。

关键词: 防城蜘蛛抱蛋; 新变种; 广西; 中国

With in-depth field expedition, the number of known species from the genus *Aspidistra* Ker-Gawler increases remarkably during the past three decades. According to our recent knowledge, the genus *Aspidistra* encompasses over 100 species with distribution from southern Japan to Peninsular Malaysia, and the center of diversity in Guangxi, China and adjacent northern Vietnam (Lang *et al.*, 1999; Li, 2004; Tillich, 2005, 2006, 2008; Hou *et al.*, 2009; Lin *et al.*, 2009, 2010; Xu *et al.*, 2010; Gao & Liu, 2011). Plants of *Aspidistra* are characterized by a perennial habit, conspicuous rhizomes, a variety of fruits and a highly diversified flower structure (Lin *et al.*, 2010).

Two years ago, the authors came across a peculiar *Aspidistra* plant without flowers from Shiwandashan National Nature Reserve in Guangxi, and luckily collected its flowering plants in the recent field expedition. Consultation of herbarium material and relevant literature reveals that its flower differs from all the known species of *Aspidistra* except *A. arnautovii*, but compared with *A. arnautovii*, it also differs in its blade narrowly lanceolate to nearly linear, 1.2－2.0 cm wide, with ca.

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9 fine secondary veins at each side, stigma with ca. 24 small marginal incisions, upper surface convex. So we confirmed it is a new variety and described as below.

Aspidistra arnautovii H. J. Tillich var. *angustifolia* L. Wu & Y. F. Huang, var. nov. Fig. 1.

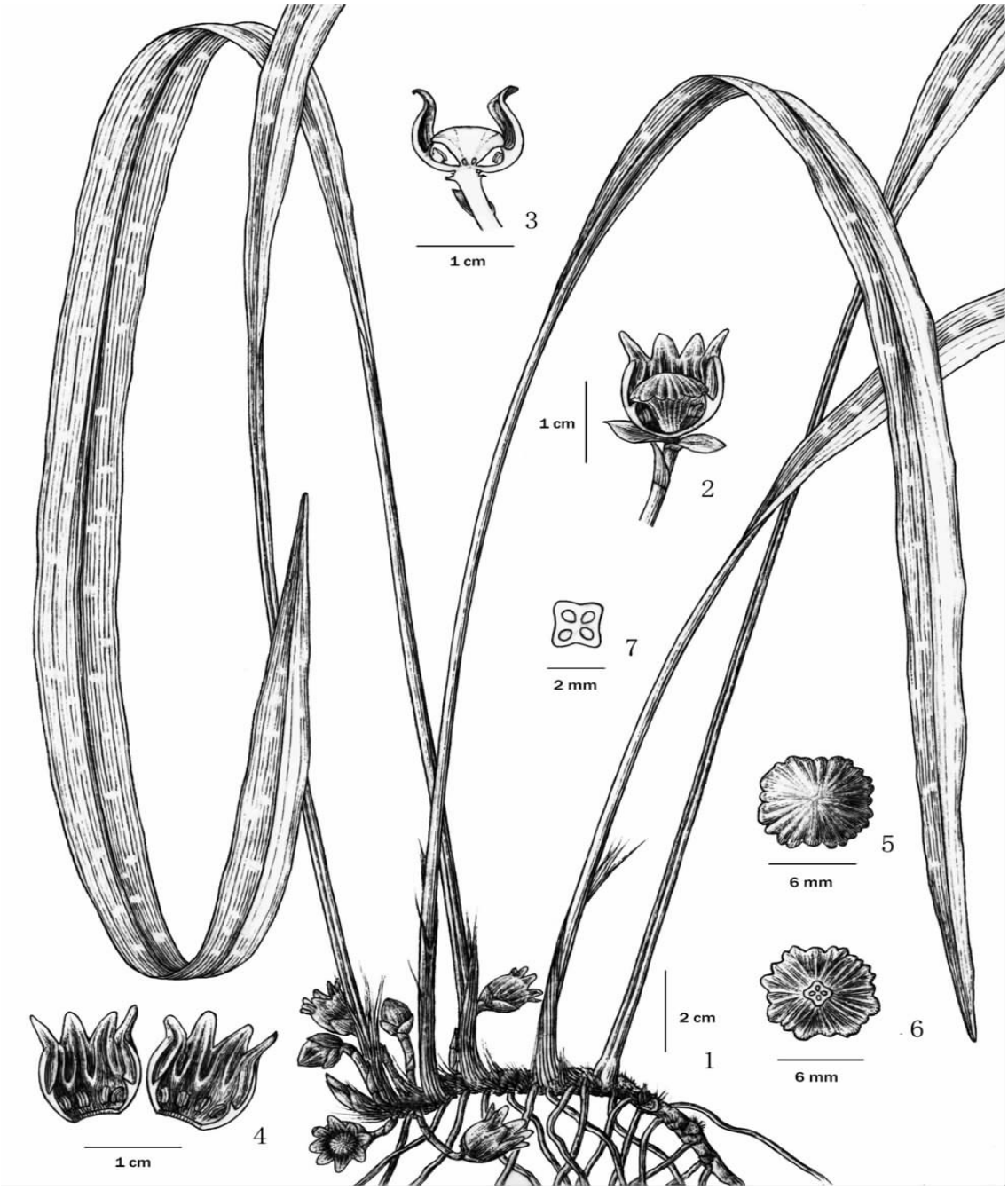

Fig. 1 *Aspidistra arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *angustifolia* L. Wu & Y. F. Huang **1**. Habit; **2**. Perianth, dissected open to show stigma; **3**. Perianth, longitudinally dissected; **4**. Perianth, dissected open to show stamens; **5**. Stigma, adaxial view; **6**. Stigma, abaxial view; **7**. Ovary, transverse section.

Affinis *Aspidistra arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. *arnautovii*, a qua differt foliis anguste lanceolate usque sublinearibus, 1. 2—2. 0 cm latis, nervis lateralibus in utroque latere 9, stigmate margine circ. 24-inciso, facie supera convexo, sulcis inconspicuis humilibus radiatisque ornato.

Herbs perennial, evergreen, rhizomatous. Rhizome creeping, subterete, ca. 5 mm thick, covered with scales, internodes congested. Vaginal leaves purple-brown, 5—15 cm long, becoming fibrous when dry.

Leaves solitary, up to 75 cm long, petiole stiff, upright, 14－22 cm long, adaxially sulcate; blade narrow lanceolate to nearly linear, 20－53 cm long, 1.2－2.0 cm wide, green, sometimes with yellow spots, basally narrow cuneate, gradually and asymmetrically tapered to petiole, midvein with a small groove on upper surface, sharply protruding on lower surface, ca. 9 fine secondary veins at each side. Peduncle 1.2－3.0 cm long, with 3－4 scales; two bracts at perianth base deltoid, purple-brown, ca. 0.7 cm long. Flower solitary; perianth campanulate or widely campanulate, dark purplish red; lobes 8, dark purplish red with yellow tips, slightly curved to curved, subequal, ovate-triangular, 5－9 mm long, 3－6 mm wide at base, with two keels running separately down to middle of tube; tube 8－12 mm high, 9－15 mm across; stamens 8, inserted at lower fifth of tube, filaments short, anthers oblong, 2－3 mm long, 1.5－2 mm wide; pistil purple-red, obconical, ca. 6.5 mm high, ovary inconspicuous, stigma with ca. 24 small marginal incisions, upper surface convex, 8－11 mm in diam., with inconspicuous shallow radial grooves, lower surface with ca. 24 radial ridges. Fruit unknown. Flowering November-December.

China. Guangxi: Fangchenggang City, Fangcheng Region, Shiwandashan Natural Reserve, under evergreen broaded-leaf forest, alt. 551 m, 2010-11-27, L. Wu, Y. F. Huang & Y. X. Zhu 3003 (holotype, **IBK**; isotype, GXMI); the same locality, alt. 670 m, 2010-12-15, L. Wu & D. X. Nong 3262 (**IBK**).

Table 1　Comparison of *Aspidistra arnautovii* var. *angustifolia* and *A. arnautovii* var. *arnautovii*

Characters	*A. arnautovii* var. *angustifolia*	*A. arnautovii* var. *arnautovii*
Leaf blade	narrow lanceolate to nearly linear, (20－53) cm×(1.2－2.0) cm	lanceolate, 20(－30) cm×(4－4.5) cm
Secondary veins	ca. 18	6, inconspicuous
Peduncle	ca. 1.2－3.0 cm	0.5(－1)cm
Stamens	inserted at lower fifth of tube	inserted at lower third of tube
Upper surface of stigma	convex, with inconspicuous shallow radial grooves	flat or shallowly convex, with a cross figure of 4 fine radial whitish lines and additionally fine radial grooves

Aspidistra arnautovii H. J. Tillich var. *angustifolia* L. Wu & Y. F. Huang is similar to *A. arnautovii* H. J. Tillich var. arnautovii mainly by sharing creeping rhizome, widely campanulate perianth, obconical pistil and inconspicuous ovary. However, the former can be easily distinguished from the latter by its much narrower leaf blade. A comparison of the salient characters of *A. arnautovii* var. *angustifolia* and *A. arnautovii* var. *arnautovii* is shown in Table 1. The new variety is widely distributed on the slopes under dense forest, and adapted to subtropical monsoon climate. Furthermore, it is distributed mainly in Shiwandashan Natural Reserve, Guangxi, growing well in this area, and does not need any additionally special protections.

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