

***Brassaiopsis producta* (Dunn) C.-B. Shang, a new record of Araliaceae from Vietnam**

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ABSTRACT

Brassaiopsis producta (Dunn) C.-B. Shang (Araliaceae) is herein reported to occur in Ha Giang, Lang Son and Son La provinces, Vietnam. The taxon was previously known only from China (Guangxi, Guizhou, and Yunnan provinces). It is similar to the widespread *B. glomerulata* in the prickly stems and palmately compound leaves, but is easily distinguished from the latter by *B. producta*'s evergreen and subcoriaceous leaves and its 5- or rarely 4-locular ovaries.

KEY WORDS

Araliaceae,
Brassaiopsis,
Brassaiopsis producta,
Schefflera,
Vietnam.

RÉSUMÉ

Brassaiopsis producta (Dunn) C.-B. Shang, une espèce d'Araliaceae nouvelle pour le Viêtnam.

Brassaiopsis producta (Dunn) C.-B. Shang (Araliaceae) est présent au Viêtnam, dans les provinces de Ha Giang, Lang Son et Son La. Ce taxon était auparavant connu seulement de Chine (provinces de Guangxi, Guizhou et Yunnan). Il présente des similitudes avec le très répandu *B. glomerulata* par les tiges épineuses et les feuilles composées palmées, mais s'en distingue facilement par les feuilles persistantes et coriaces et les ovaires 5- ou rarement 4-loculaires.

MOTS CLÉS

Araliaceae,
Brassaiopsis,
Brassaiopsis producta,
Schefflera,
Viêtnam.

Brassaiopsis producta (Dunn) C.-B. Shang (Araliaceae) occurs in Ha Giang, Lang Son and Son La provinces, Vietnam. The taxon was previously known only from China (Guangxi,

Guizhou, and Yunnan provinces; VIGUIER 1909; SHANG 1984, 1985; WEI 1993). We collected two specimens (*Wen et al.* 6192 and 6202) of the taxon in Lang Son, Vietnam during a recent

expedition to this province and also subsequently located a few additional specimens at HN collected from Ha Giang and Son La, Vietnam. *Brassaiopsis producta* was not included in the most recent treatment of Araliaceae of Vietnam (HO 2000).

Brassaiopsis producta was originally described as *Heptapleurum productum* Dunn (DUNN 1903), and later transferred to *Schefflera* J.R. & G. Forst. (VIGUIER 1909). HOO & TSENG (1978) in their treatment of Araliaceae for the Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae, recognized it as *Schefflera producta* (Dunn) R. Viguier. However, unlike members of *Schefflera*, *B. producta* has prickly stems, a character it shares with other taxa of *Brassaiopsis* Decne. & Planch., which prompted SHANG (1984) to transfer it to that genus. This taxon is however an unusual *Brassaiopsis* because it has 5- or rarely 4-locular ovaries whereas other *Brassaiopsis* possess 2- or rarely 3-4-locular ovaries.

The phylogenetic position of *Brassaiopsis producta* needs to be assessed because the number of locules in the ovary of this taxon is intermediate between other members of *Brassaiopsis* (mostly 2) and *Trevesia* Vis. (mostly 6-12). Morphologically *B. producta* resembles the widespread *B. glomerulata* (Bl.) Regel in its palmately compound leaves and prickly stems, but is easily distinguished from the latter by its evergreen (vs. deciduous) leaves, smaller (6-13 cm vs. 15-35 cm long) and thicker (subcoriaceous vs. papery) leaflets, smaller inflorescence (8-20 cm vs. 50-85 cm or to over 100 cm long), and 5- or rarely 4-locular (vs. 2-locular) ovaries.

Brassaiopsis pentalocula G. Hoo was described from southeastern Yunnan, China as an unusual *Brassaiopsis* with 5- or rarely 4-locular ovaries (HOO & TSENG 1965). SHANG (1985) placed *B. pentalocula* in synonymy under *B. producta*, and our examination of the type specimens supports this treatment. SHANG (1985) also treated *B. lepidota* Feng & Y.R. Li as a synonym of *B. producta*. *Brassaiopsis lepidota* was described to be characterized by its 3-locular ovaries and adaxial leaflet surface with yellowish scales (FENG & LI 1979). Few specimens of *B. lepidota* are available for study and the yellowish scales are not present in *B. producta*, suggesting that *B. lepidota* may be distinct. Field observations are required

to ascertain the taxonomic status of *B. lepidota* in relation to *B. producta*.

***Brassaiopsis producta* (Dunn) C.-B. Shang**

Brassaiopsis producta (Dunn) C.-B. Shang, Candollea 39: 485 (1984). *Heptapleurum productum* Dunn, J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 35: 499 (1903). — *Schefflera producta* (Dunn) R. Viguier, Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., ser. 9, 9: 351 (1909). — Type: *Henry 9350*, China, Yunnan, Mengtze, in mountains, 1600 m (holo-, BM; iso-, NY!).

Brassaiopsis pentalocula G. Hoo, Acta Phytotax. Sin., Addit. 1: 150 (1965). — Type: *Feng 11970*, China, Yunnan, Xichou, in forest, 1500-1600 m (holo-, PEI; iso-, KUN!).

Evergreen shrub c. 1-8 m tall; stem with conical prickles. Leaves palmately compound, with (3-)5-7 leaflets, stipulate, base of stipules slightly adnate with petiole, stipules narrowly triangular, 3-4 × 2-2.5 mm, coriaceous; leaflets oblong, elliptic to ovate, 6-13 × 3-6.5 cm, subcoriaceous, glabrous on both surfaces, petiolules 1.5-3.5 cm long, apex acuminate to acute, base broadly acute to rounded, lateral veins 9-10 per side, veins and veinlets prominent on both surfaces, margin sparsely toothed at the upper 1/2-2/3, teeth somewhat recurved; petioles (3-)10-22 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescence terminal, main axis 8-20 cm long, densely covered with reddish brown hairs, with 20-35 paniculately arranged umbels, peduncles 1-2.5 cm long, each umbel with 15-25 flowers, bracts boat-shaped, coriaceous, 5-6 × 4-5 mm, pubescent, bracteoles (bracts subtending the flowers) narrowly triangular, persistent, 3-4 × 2-2.5 mm; pedicels inarticulate, stellately pubescent, 3-5 mm long. Floral buds and young flowers densely pubescent; sepals triangular, 0.7-0.9 × 0.6-0.7 mm, petals 5, ovately triangular, 2-2.5 × 1.5-1.8 mm, stamens 5, 2-2.5 mm long, ovaries 5- or rarely 4-locular, styles connate, floral disc projected. Fruits ovately globose, 7-9 mm long, 7-8 mm wide, 5- or rarely 4-ribbed; persistent styles c. 2 mm long, undivided.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED. — VIETNAM. *Ha Giang*: *Phuong 282*, Pho Bang, 10 Aug. 1977, bud (HN); *Phuong 327*, 13 Aug. 1977, bud (HN); *Russia – Vietnam Joint Medicinal Exped. Team 7032*, 1400-1500 m, 4 Dec. 1966 (HN); *Russia – Vietnam Joint Medicinal*

Exped. Team 7057, 9 Dec. 1966 (HN). *Lang Son*: Wen *et al.* 6192, Huu Lung Dist., Huu Lien Protected Area, Khao Kinh village, 21°42'15"N, 106°23'17"E, 400 m (F, HN, MO); Wen *et al.* 6202, 21°42'59"N, 106°23'26"E, 430 m (F, HN, MO). *Son La: Ha 270*, Muong Va, Song Ma, 22 Apr. 1977, fl. (HN).

Brassaiopsis producta is distributed in Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, China, and Ha Giang, Lang Son and Son La provinces, Vietnam. It occurs in dry evergreen forests on limestones at altitudes of 400-1600 m. It blooms from August to April and fruits from January to April.

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