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Lysimachia septemfida (Primulaceae), a new species from Yunnan, China



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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Lysimachia septemfida* (Primulaceae), from Yunnan (Southwest China) is described and illustrated. The new species exhibits several unusual characters in *Lysimachia* including lack of a corolla, 7-merous flowers, leaves in whorls of 3 and distinct multicellular nodiferous hairs, which make it readily distinguishable from all other species in this genus. The diagnostic differences between this new species and its suppositive allies are given. In addition, the systematic placement of this new species is also discussed based on an ITS molecular tree.

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1. Introduction

Lysimachia L. belongs to the tribe Lysimachieae Reich. and is commonly recognized as a primitive group of traditional Primulaceae (Chen and Hu, 1989; Fang, 2003). Based on the subsequent molecular phylogenetic analyses and morphological studies, *Lysimachia* and other genera of the tribe Lysimachieae have been transferred to the traditional family Myrsinaceae (Anderberg and Ståhl, 1995; Anderberg et al., 1998, 2002, 2007; Källersjö et al., 2000; Mast et al., 2001), and then moved back to Primulaceae but as members of subfamily Myrsinoideae (Stevens, 2016).

Lysimachia is the largest genus of the tribe Lysimachieae and contains approximately 140–200 species worldwide (Hu and Kelso, 1996; Ståhl and Anderberg, 2004; Heywood et al., 2007; Mabberley, 2008). China, as one of its famous diversity centers, has about 140 species (Chen and Hu, 1979, 1989; Hu and Kelso, 1996; Zhou et al., 2015). The paraphyly of traditional *Lysimachia* has been reported by several studies (Martins et al., 2003; Hao et al., 2004; Anderberg et al., 2007; Zhou et al., 2015). For monophyly, the other genera of the tribe Lysimachieae (i.e. *Glaux* L., *Trientalis* L., *Anagallis* L., *Asterolinon* Hoffmanns. & Link, *Pelletiera* A. St.-Hil.) need to be

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merged in (Manns and Anderberg, 2009), leaving *Lysimachia* s.l. as the sole genus in this tribe.

During a plant survey of Nanjian Yi Autonomous country (Yunnan Province, China) in 2015, a distinct flowering population was found. The whole plant, especially the upper part of the stem and inflorescence, was coated with distinct multicellular nodiferous hairs. Moreover, several other characters made taxonomic assignment, even at the family level, extremely difficult. These characters include: leaves in whorls of 3, the terminal racemes, distinct bracts, 7-merous flowers, only one layer of half-divided tepals and long exserted stamens. Fortunately, we later found another two conspecific fruiting specimens collected in Xinping Yi Autonomous County (Yunnan) in 2009. These specimens indicate that they may belong to the family Primulaceae. Further studies of morphological characters and molecular phylogenetic relationships showed that the newly found population represented an undescribed species of Lysimachia s.l., which is described and illustrated below.

2. Materials and methods

The morphological description of the new species was based on careful examination of the types. The comparison between it and the two morphologically related species (*Lysimachia thyrsiflora* and *Glaux maritima*) was based on studies of the herbarium species in KUN.

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The pollen grains and seeds were directly mounted on aluminum stubs coated with gold in a sputter coater and examined using scanning electron microcopy (SEM) as in Xiang et al. (2013). Pollen terminology follows Erdtman (1960), Bennell and Hu (1983). Seed terminology follows Oh et al. (2008).

Because the new species exhibited distinct morphological characters, we adopted a molecular approach to shed light on the position of *L. septemfida* within *Lysimachia* s.l. Bayesian and Maximum Likelihood analyses were used to construct a phylogenetic tree based on ITS sequences. GenBank sequences were selected to represent all the subgenus names of *Lysimachia* s.str., and cover all the three Chinese species of the other three genera (*Glaux, Trientalis, Analgalis*) of the tribe Lysimachieae. DNA extraction, PCR amplification, sequence alignment and phylogenetic reconstruction follow protocols detailed in Wang et al. (2013).

3. Results

3.1. Taxonomic treatment

Lysimachia septemfida Z.H. Wang & E.D. Liu, **Sp.nov.** (Fig. 1)七齿 珍珠菜 (qi chi zhen zhu cai).

Type: CHINA. Yunnan province, Nanjian Yi Autonomous county, Baohua town, Yongzheng village, Mt. Wuliang, peak of



Fig. 1. *Lysimachia septemfida.* A. Flowering plant; B. Opened flower; C. Fruit with persistent style; D. Bract; E. Seeds; F. Leaves in whorls of 3; G: Multicellular nodiferous hairs.

Dazhongshan. 24°50′08.56″N, 100°25′17.90″E. Alt. 2790 m. 2015-06-28, Liu En-de et al. *4178* (holotype KUN; isotypes KUN, IBSC).

Perennial herbs or subshrubs, 25-150 cm tall, horizontal rhizomes densely with roots. Stems erect, usually simple, lower part glabrous, upper part densely with yellowish transparent multicellular nodiferous hairs. Leaves on lower part opposite, reduced to be scalelike, glabrous, and gradually become whorls of 3 and normal upwards. Leaves sessile, rarely indistinctly petiolate; leaf blade ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, $4-9 \times 1.5-3.5$ cm, with black glandular spots punctuated on both sides and yellowish transparent multicellular nodiferous hairs on the adaxial veins, lower part tapering toward semi-clasping base, apex acute to acuminate, margin entire. Racemes terminal, dense and floriferous, 2–3 cm long, elongating to 7 cm in fruit; peduncle 0.3–2 cm, with vellowish transparent multicellular nodiferous hairs; flowers sessile. Bracts ovate-lanceolate, 5-7 mm, with sparse yellowish glandular punctuate and marginal fringe-like multicellular nodiferous hairs abaxially. Calyx yellowish white, sub-transparent, shorter than bract; Calyx tube 3 mm; lobes 7, triangular, 1.5 mm, apex acuminate, sparsely with yellowish glandular spots outside and marginal fringe-like multicellular nodiferous hairs. Corolla absent. Stamens 7, long exserted, almost twice as long as calyx; anthers elliptic, dorsifixed, ca. 1-1.5 mm; pollen spheroidal, tricolporate, medium-sized [27.24 (24.28-29.29) × 23.04 $(21.54-24.50)\mu m$], P/E = 1.07 (Fig. 2A-D). Ovary and style both with yellowish transparent multicellular nodiferous hairs; style 4–5 mm in length, persistent. Capsule globose, ca. 3 mm in diam., dehiscing by valves. Seed dorsiventrally and laterally flattened (Fig. 2 E&G). Flowering in June, fruiting in September.

3.1.1. Diagnosis

The new species shares most characters with *Glaux* (*G. maritima*) and *Lysimachia* subgen. *Naumburgia* (*L. thyrsiflora*) (Table 1). It is probably related to *G. maritima* by their apetalous flowers (i.e. corolla absent, calyx half divided, persistent and surrounded the capsule), but differs from the latter by its 7-merous flowers, leaves in whorls of 3 and the distinct multicellular nodiferous hairs. Otherwise, given their shared characters of non-5-merous flowers and furry fells, it is probably related to *L. thyrsiflora*, but the absent corolla, terminal raceme and the arrangement of leaves in whorls of 3 makes it readily distinguishable from the latter (Chen and Hu, 1989; Hu and Kelso, 1996; Fang, 2003).

3.1.2. Other specimens examined

CHINA. Yunnan province, Xinping Yi Autonomous county, Gasa town, Mt. Ailao, Yuenanjin. 23°59′59″N, 101°33′36″E. Alt. 2400 m, 2009-09-14, Wang Jia-he *XPALSC518* (KUN, Paratype).

3.1.3. Distribution and habitat

Lysimachia septemfida is currently known from two separate localities in Yunnan, China (Fig. 3). It grows among shrubs on the peaks of mountains (Fig. 4) or in mountain valleys.

3.1.4. Etymology

The specific epithet "septemfida" is derived from the 7-merous flowers of the new species, indicating the calyx is 7-lobed. The "septem-" is a Latin prefix, which means "seven"; the "-fidus" is a Latin suffix, which means "half lobated".

3.1.5. Conservation status

To date, *Lysimachia septemfida* has only been collected from two separate locations in Yunnan, China. Its distribution range still needs further investigation to assess whether it is endangered. It is, therefore, classified as Data Deficient (DD) in the IUCN Red List (IUCN Standards and Petition Subcommittee, 2014).

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