Analyses of Chloroplast Genomic and Morphological Evolutionomy of Yulania Sprengeri and Two New Confusable Species (Magnoliaceae)

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Abstract: To scientifically solve the taxonomical confusion of Yulania sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu in the world, the chloroplast genomic sequences of four confusable species were assembled and compared with the other species of Yulania Spach by means of the typical algorithm. The results indicated that the evolutionary system of Yulania Spach includes four natural sections: Y. sect. Yulania, Y. sect. Buergeria (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu, Y. sect. Rosula D. L. Fu, sect., nov., and Y. sect. Tulipastrum (Spach) D. L. Fu, which all have the same boundaries: PHS (17bp) = 0.96. The species Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu belong to sect. Yulania, but several confusable species such as Y. diva (Stapf. ex Dandy) D. L. Fu, sp. transl. nov., Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen, sp. segregat. nov., Y. pendula D. L. Fu, sp. nov. and Y. viridula D. L. Fu, T. B. Zhao et G. H. Tian belong to the new section Rosula D. L. Fu. According to International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu is proposed for conservation and emended with the conserved type (D. L. Fu 2017100803, CAF). The misidentified epitype of Magnolia sprengeri, the illustration in Flora of Trees of China, differing taxonomically, selected as Lectotype, with almost equal specimen, paratype (D. L. Fu 2017093001, CAF) from Weinping County, Guizhou province of China, was segregated as a new species, Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen. The other new confusable species, Y. pendula D. L. Fu, is described and illustrated based on the holotype (D. L. Fu 2012040201, CAF) from Sichuan province of China, which was once misidentified as Y. biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu or Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu. The typci-evolutionary characters including diagnostic differences and particularity of the new section and two new species, are given respectively. The evolutionary system scientifically overcomes the partiality and subjectivity of past taxonomical systems of Yulania Spach of Magnoliaceae Juss.

Keywords: Typical Algorithm, Yulania Sect. Rosula, Yulania Sprengeri, Yulania Urceolata, Yulania Pendula, Evolutionomy, Typici-Evolutionary Character, New Taxa

1. Introduction

Yulania Spach [1-9] is the most primitive taxa of Fructophyta D. L. Fu & H. Fu [10], has a very important position and will play an important role in the evolutionomy of fruit plants. The genus is also difficult taxon and its resources
have not yet been ascertained, for being tall trees, growing in the mountains with inconvenient transportation and having more cross-characters and profuse variations of most species, and some of them being very rare in number and very difficult to find. Of course, the slow progress of taxonomy of Yulania Spach is also related to the partiality and subjectivity of traditional plant taxonomy and modern phylogenetic theory. One example is the confusion of Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu.

The species was published as Magnolia sprengeri Pamp. in Nouv. Giorn. Bot. Ital. in 1915 by R. Pampanini, an Italian botanist, based on the types collected from Mountain Wudang of Hubei province of China by P. C. Silvestri in 1912 and 1913 [11]. “there have been considerable nomenclatural and taxonomical difficulties concerning M. sprengeri and its infraspecific division...because the type material of M. sprengeri...consists only of flowering specimens, and it is not possible to determine the original colour of the dried tepals. Furthermore since the flowers of M. sprengeri are precocious, the specimens lack leaves [12]” But actually the original colour of tepals was not significant, some description of the species was neglected such as the gemma, branchlet and that R. Pampanini had confirmed the species was close to Y. salicifolia (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu [1, 7, 9].

Dr. J. E. Dandy published Magnolia diva Stapf ex Dandy in 1927 to try to solve the confusion of M. sprengeri Pamp. of the time. Sadly it was not accepted for it being toughly regarded as that both were the same species just based on flower characters. Now they can be easily distinguished by different hairs of the lower surfaces of their leaves. So a new translatable species of Yulania Spach could be confirmed that is:


The first volume of Flora of trees of China published in 1983. Magnoliaceae Juss. were edited by Y. H. Liu, the famous botanist of the family [13]. The description and illustration of the species of Magnolia sprengeri (= Yulania sprengeri) were supplemented and improved. The elaborate illustration (Figure 4. 1 to 3) should be regarded as the epitype of the species according ICBN (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature) [14], for it being widely accepted by botanical authorities, such as The World of Magnoliaceae [15], Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae Tomus [16], Magnolias and their allies [12], Magnolias of China [17], Flora Yunnanica [3], Flora of China [5], Shijie Yulanshu Zhiwu Zhi [8], and Henan Yulan Zaipei [9].

Almost being identical to the illustration of the epitype of Y. sprengeri, a specimen was collected from Weining County of Yunnan province of China by D. L. Fu in 2017. The suspicion that the illustration differ taxonomically should be scientifically verified. So four chloroplast genomic sequences of Y. sprengeri and three confusable species were assembled, which were compared with the other species of Yulania Spach by means of the typical algorithm based on the evolutionary continuity principle [10]. The results are as follows.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Chloroplast Genome Sequencing, Assembly and Annotation

The leaves of four species of Yulania Spach were collected: Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu from Mountain Wudang of Hubei province, the new segregated species Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen from cultivated plants in Zhengzhou City of Henan province, the new species Y. pendula D. L. Fu form Beichuan County of Sichuan province, Y. viridula D. L. Fu. T. B. Zhao et G. H. Tian from cultivated trees in Zhengzhou City of Henan province. Total genomic DNA was isolated from silica-dried leaves of four species using a modified CTAB method [18]. Using the Illumina Hiseq 2500 platform (Lemont, IL, USA), the high-throughput sequencing was performed after quantification and qualification, and the paired-end library being constructed. All remaining high quality sequences were assembled into contigs using de novo assembly after cleaning the raw data. Using the software SPAdes v3.9.0., the complete chloroplast genomes were assembled. The fully annotated genomes with circular map were drawn in OGDRAWv1.2 [19]. All four chloroplast genomes of Yulania Spach were deposited in the GenBank database.

2.2. Evolutionary Analyses of Chloroplast Genomes

Using evolutionary continuity principle of Evolutionomy [10], the morphological characters and the chloroplast genomes of four species of Yulania Spach were compared with other species of the genus. The typical algorithm is mainly adopted in the evolutionary analyses of chloroplast genomes, by comparing the phylogenetic similarity (PHS) between the designated type and objective species or taxon which can determine the relatively evolutionary relationships among different taxa. The formula is as follows:

\[
PHS = \frac{SPHL}{APHL}
\]

PHS = phylogenetic similarity between the type and objective taxon; \(SPHL\) = the number of same phylogenetic loci between the type and objective taxon; \(APHL\) = all number of phylogenetic loci of the type; statistics of phylogenetic loci using Nucleotide Barcodes (\(NB \geq 17bp\)).
3. Genomes of Four Species of Yulania Spach

The chloroplast genomes of the four species of Yulania, similar to the chloroplast genomes of other species, include four parts: two inverted repeats, IRA and IRB, and the remaining LSC large single copy area and SSC small single copy area. The complete chloroplast genomes of Y. sprengeri, Y. urceolata, Y. pendula and Y. viridula are 160,096 bp, 160,053 bp, 160,058 bp and 160,060 bp in length, respectively, which all are encoded 128 genes, include 83 protein coding genes, 8 rRNA genes and 37 tRNAs. *atpF*, *rpoC1*, *trnL-UAA*, *trnV-UAC*, *petB*, *petD*, *rpl16*, *rpl2*, *ndhB*, *trnL-GAU*, *trnA-UGC*, *ndhA*, *trnK-UUU*, *rps16*, and *trnG-UCC* genes with an intron for each gene, *clpP* and *ycf3* gene with two introns, and the *rps12* is trans-splicing gene, see Figure 1.

4. Evolutionary System of Yulania Spach

Although the genus Yulania had successfully been established in 1839 by E. Spach, the other genus Tulipastrum
Spach, really being same, was also done at the same time by him. Moreover another genus Buergeria was done by P. F. v. Siebold & J. G. Zuccarini in 1845. All these genera usually regarded as Magnolia L. The genus finally had become a natural genus by D. L. Fu [1] based on the results of morphology and DNA phylogeny.

Traditional taxonomical and phylogenic system sometimes are inevitably partial and subjective [10]. To establish a scientific system of the genus Yulania, the PHSs among different species were analyzed based on the chloroplast complete genomes of 14 species of the genus using the types of 4 species respectively: Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Y. pendula D. L. Fu, Y. biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu and Y. acuminata (L.) D. L. Fu, and the results are shown in Table 1 to 4.

**Table 1. PHS of chloroplast genomes between Y. sprengeri and other species of Yulania Spach.**

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Species name and cpDNA number in NCBI</th>
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**Table 2. PHS of chloroplast genomes between Y. biondii and other species of Yulania Spach.**

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**Table 3. PHS of chloroplast genomes between Y. pendula and other species of Yulania Spach.**

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It can be seen from Table 1 to 4 that using the types of Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Y. biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Y. pendula D. L. Fu and Yulania acuminata (L.) D. L. Fu respectively, Yulania Spach obviously includes 4 natural sections: Y. sect. Yulania, Y. sect. Buergeria (Siebold & Zucc.) D. L. Fu, Y. sect. Rosula D. L. Fu, and Y. sect. Tulipastrum (Spach) D. L. Fu., which all have the same boundaries: PHS (17bp) > 0.96 (inner section) and PHS (17bp) ≤ 0.96 (inter sections). It can also be confirmed that the species Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu belongs to sect. Yulania, but several confusable species such as Y. diva (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xun et X. Chen, sp. segregat. nov., Y. pendula D. L. Fu, sp. nov., and Y. viridula D. L. Fu, T. B. Zhao et G. H. Tian, belong to the new section Rosula D. L. Fu. So, the confusion of Y. sprengeri are scientifically solved by the analysis of chloroplast genomic and morphological evolutionomy.

According the evolutionary continuity principle, based on PHS of 14 species of Yulania (Tables 1 to 4), the evolutionary system of the genus can be established as Figure 2.

Four sections of Yulania Spach are described or emended as follows.

I. Yulania sect. Yulania


Deciduous trees and shrubs. Branchlets often purplish-red, two species yellowish-green (Y. verrucata and Y. sprengeri). Floral (mixed) buds larger to 5 cm long. Leaves obovate to elliptic, lower surfaces puberulent, pubescent, villous or tomentose. Flowers precocious or appearing with the leaves, sepal and petals often less than 12, cup-shaped. Fruit aggregates cylindric to ovoid.


The species of this section are mainly distributed in Henan, Shanxi, Hubei, Anhui, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian, and other provinces of South China.

The species of this section are the most primitive taxa of fruit plants, and will play an important role in researching the evolutionomy of Magnoliaceae Juss. and Fructophyta D. L. Fu & H. Fu. Some species of this section, such as Y. puberula D. L. Fu, Y. shizhenii D. L. Fu et F. W. Li and Y. verrucata D. L. Fu, T. B. Zhao et S. S. Chen are in serve danger and very rare in species number, so it should be protected urgently.

II. Yulania sect. Buergeria (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu


Deciduous trees and shrubs. Branchlets often greenish, rare purplish (Y. stellata). Floral (mixed) buds often small to 3 cm long. Leaves elliptic to obovate, lower surfaces pubescent, villous or tomentose. Flowers precocious, often lageniform before spreading and tepals often less than 3 cm wide and exconvoluted after spreading. Fruit aggregates ovoid to cylindric.
The section including about 7 species: Y. salicifolia (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu, Y. biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Y. axilliflora (T. B. Zhao et al.) D. L. Fu, Y. zenii (Cheng) D. L. Fu, Y. sinostellata (P. L. Chiu et Z. H. Chen) D. L. Fu, Y. kobus (DC.) Spach, Y. stellata (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu. The species of this section are mainly distributed in China, Japan and Korea.

The species of this section are mainly cultivated as a main species for Xinyi, a Chinese traditional medicine.

III. Yulania sect. Rosula D. L. Fu. sect. nov. Fig. 4, 5.


Large deciduous trees to 30 m, barks gray and smooth. Branchlets often yellow or yellowish green, thick, stout, short, marked with horizontal and horse-shoe-like petiolescars and longitudinally fissured. Floral buds large to 7 cm long, pubescent, villous or tomentose or lanose (hairs to 9 mm long), apices often blunt. Leaves elliptic, elliptic-ovate, oblong-ovate, obovate or ovate, apices acuminate, rounded or obtuse, lower surfaces pubescent, villous or tomentose. Flowers precocious, large, showy, single, white, purple or red; petals often more than 12 and lotiform. Fruits cylindric often purplish-red at dehiscence.

The new section is easily confused with sect. Yulania, but its particularity such as branchlets often yellow marked with horizontal and horse-shoe-like petiolescars and flowers lotiform, which can be distinguished to the species of Y. sect. Yulania often with reddish purple branchlets with triangular ±protrudent petiolescars or puberulent leaves, and cup-shaped flowers often with less than 12 petals and sepals.

The section including about 9 species: Yulania diva (Stapf ex Dandy) D. L. Fu, sp. transl. nov., Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen, sp. segregat. nov., Y. pendula D. L. Fu. sp. nov., Y. carnosa D. L. Fu et D. L. Zhang, Y. viridula D. L. Fu, T. B. Zhao et G. H. Liu, Y. sargentiana (Rehd. & Wils.) D. L. Fu, Y. dawsoniana (Rehd. & Wils.) D. L. Fu, Y. campbellii (Hook. f. & Thoms.) D. L. Fu, Y. baotaina D. L. Fu, Q. Zhang et M. Xu, sp. nov. ined.

The species of this section are mainly distributed in Hubei, Shanxi, Gansu, Sichuan, Yunnan, Xizang and other provinces of Southwest China, and Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, etc., at an altitude of 1100~3300 m in broadleaf and conifer mixing forest.

The species of this section are mainly cultivated as for fancy garden trees for the beautiful flowers in the world, and also for Xinyi, a Chinese traditional medicine in China.

IV. Yulania sect. Tulipastraun (Spach) D. L. Fu


Deciduous trees to 26 m tall, 1.65 m d. b. h., often of slender pyramidal or semi-globose habit; bark light tan smooth, gray-gray, smooth and lenticellate, in old plants exfoliating in small flakes; branchlets stout to ±slender, horotini yellowish-green rare tanish-green, and greenish-yellow or step-like petiolescars. Floral buds sericeous. Leaves elliptic to broadly ovate, apices often acuminate. Flower appearing with the leaves, often cup-shaped; tepals 9 often greenish to greenish-yellow, outer whorl 3 sepaloid. Fruit aggregates short, ovoid to cylindrical. Seeds reddish-orange.

The section including only 1 species: Yulania acuminata (L.) D. L. Fu. The species of this section are distributed in North America. A good species cultivated for garden or landscaping.

5. Yulania Sprengeri and Two New Confusable Species

5.1. Yulania Sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu, Figure 3


Deciduous trees to 26 m tall, 1.65 m d. b. h., often of slender pyramidal or semi-globose habit; bark light tanish-gray, smooth and lenticellate, in old plants exfoliating in small flakes; branchlets stout to ±slender, horotini yellowish-green rare tanish-green, and greenish-yellow or
brownish-yellow or with purplish-red aureoles when dried, pubescent to glabrous latter. Internodes of fruit 3–5 nodes 0.2–0.3 cm per node and gradually thickening, greenish-brown, two top-nodes often with two branchlets as pseudodichotomous branching. Foliar buds long ovoid, glabrous or sparsely puberulent, densely pubescent after outer perule exfoliating. Floral (mixed) buds terminal, ellipsoid or ovoid, 2.0–3.5 cm long and 1.0–1.8 cm in diameter, densely gray-white or gray-yellow villous, apices usually with a suddenly shrinking acumination about 2–5 mm long with closely adpressed hairs like brush heads. Leaves alternate, chartaceous, obovate or obovati-elliptic, 7.0–14.5 (~20.5) cm long, 5.0–7.5 (~11.5) cm wide; apices obtuse, truncate, with abruptly short-acuminate about 3–6 mm long; bases cuneate to broadly cuneate, sometimes oblique; upper surfaces deep green, nitid, glabrous, veins reticulate when dried; lower surfaces pale green, sparsely adpressed-puberulent and hairs 1.5–2.5 mm long, midveins obviously protuberant sparsely puberulent, lateral veins 8–13 pairs, net veins reticulate; petioles glabrous 1.5–3.5 cm long, stipule scars short, 2–5 mm long or rarely to 1/2 of the petioles. Flower precocious, fragrant, cup-shaped, held erect, to 12.0 cm in diameter; pedicels 3–9 mm long glabrous or densely villous. Tepals (9–) 10–12 (~14), subsimilar, petaloid, spatulato-oblong to spatulato-ovate, 6.0–9.0 cm long and (1.5–) 2.5–3.5 cm wide, white, the abaxial midveins pale purplish-red, bases pale purplish-red aureoles; the adaxial surfaces white. Stamens numerous 1.5–1.8 cm long, filaments pale rosy-red 2–5 mm long, anthers longitudinal dehiscing laterally, connected apices triangular short mucronate. Gynoecia cylindric, 2.0–3.0 cm long at anthesis, pale greenish-yellow; disjunctive-simplicial-pistils numerous, ovaries ovoid, styles and stigma yellowish-green or pale rosy-red, glabrous. Fruit aggregates long cylindric, often asymmetrical from seed abortion, 8.0–17.0 cm long, 2.5–3.0 cm in diameter; follicles globose, tuberculate, often with 1 seed developed, dehiscing into 2 valves after mature, gray-brown; Seeds red or orange-red, widely globose 8–10 mm long, 9–13 mm wide, endotesta about 8 mm long and 9 mm wide. Flower Mar to Apr, fruit Aug–Sept.

Figure 3. Yulania sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu. A. from Magnolias of China misidentified as Magnolia elliptigemmata C. L. Guo et L. L. Huang (drawn by Y. F. Deng), B. from Acta Bot. Boreal. Occident. Sin. misidentified as Magnolia multiflora M. C. Wang et C. L. Min (drawn by Z. M. Li), C. from Henan Yulan Zaipai misidentified as Yulania campbellii var. alba (drawn by T. B. Zhao), D. the lower surface of leaf to show sparsely puberulent (drawn by D. L. Fu).

The chloroplast complete genome of this species is mostly similar to Y. cylindrica (Wils.) D. L. Fu that has known (PHS = 0.993, see Table 1).


The main typici-evolutionary characters are that the hornotini-branchlets yellowish-green rare tannish-green, the leaves obovate, apices usually acumen and lower surfaces pale green and sparsely puberulent, and the tepals 10-12, subsimilar.

It can be easily distinguished from the confusable species of Y. sect. Rosula D. L. Fu such as Y. diva, Y. urceolata, Y. pendula, Y. viridula, Y. sargentiana, Y. dawsoniana and Y. campbellii for its leaf puberulent but that of the confusable species pubescent or villous.

The species was described and illustrated as some new species or subspecies such as Magnolia elliptigemmata C. L. Guo et L. L. Huang [20], Magnolia multiflora M. C. Wang et C. L. Min [21], Yulania dawsoniana subsp. dimorphiflora T. B. Zhao, J. T. Gao et W. X. Tian [9], which all were nom. illegit.
The species was misidentified as Y. campbellii (Hook. f. & Thoms.) D. L. Fu [7, 22], but the latter’s lower surfaces of leaves usually tomentose not puberulent.

The species, a colloquial name Yingchunhua, is mainly distributed in deciduous broad-leaved forests at an altitude of 600–1700 m in Mountains Qinling and Mountains Daba of China, such as Mountain Baiyunshan in Luoyang, Wuduoshan and Baotianman in Nanyang of Henan province and Mountain Wudang of Shiyan, Shennongjia Forest Region, and Yuan’an county of Yichang of Hubei province, and Ningshan County of Shanxi province.

5.2. Yulania Urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen, sp. segregat. Nov., Figure 4


Yulania flexistyly T. B. Zhao et Z. X. Chen, nom. illegit., in T. B. Zhao et al., Henan Yulan Zaipei: 159-160. 2015.


Arbor decidua. Ramuli crassi horizonti virides glabri nitidi, annotini virides, viridi-flavidi v. tangerini glabri nitidi, ramulis abbreviatis 4-6-nodos viridibus a basi ad apicem trapeziformi-incrassatis, lenticellis albis rotundis protuberantibus. Gemmae foliaferae longe ellipsoideae vel ovoideae sparse flavo-pubescentes ad glabriuscule. Alabastra solitaria, terminalia urceolata vel ellipsoidoe-urceolata 2.0–3.0 cm longa et 1.0–1.4 cm diam.; perulae retentae saepi 1–2, extus dense pubescentes. Folia alterna chartacea 5.0–17.0 cmlonga et 3.0–9.0 cm lata obovata late oblanceolate elliptica vel ovato-elliptica apice acuminata vel acuta basi late cuneata margine integra supra atro-viridia glabra nitida costis sublevigatis vel leviter impressis glabris vel sparse pubescentibus subitus pallide viridia, sparse pubescentia vel dense villosa costis et nervis lateralisibus dense pubescentibus vel villosis, nervis lateralisibus 7–14-jugis; petiole 2.0–3.5 cm longi dense pubescentes ad glabri, cicatriculis stipularum longitudinali dehiscentibus, connetivis apice cum mucronibus, pedicellis 0.8–1.0 cm longi et 0.6–1.4 cm diam.; bracteis 1.0–3.5 cm longa 2.8–3.0 cm lata extus albo-pubescentes; tepala (7) 12 (~16) in quoque flore, petaliformia subsimilia, anguste oblanceolato-elliptica, apice acuminata vel subaequilaterali 1.2–1.4 cm longa, estus costis areolis pallide albo-pubescentis. Flora altera chartacea 6.5–17.0 cm longa et 3.0–9.0 cm lata obovata late oblanceolate elliptica vel ovato-elliptica apice acuminate vel acuta basi late cuneata margine integra supra atro-viridia glabra nitida costis sublevigatis vel leviter impressis glabris vel sparse pubescentibus subitus pallide viridia, sparse pubescentia vel dense villosa costis et nervis lateralisibus dense pubescentibus vel villosis, nervis lateralisibus 7–14-jugis; petiole 2.0–3.5 cm longi dense pubescentes ad glabri, cicatriculis stipularum longitudinali 1.5–3.0 cm lata extus albo-pubescentes; tepala (10) 12 (~16) in quoque flore, petaliformia subsimilia, anguste oblanceolato-elliptica, estus costis areolis pallide albo-pubescentis. Flora altera chartacea 6.5–9.0 cm longa et 1.5–3.2 cm lata; stamina numerosa ca. 110 in quoque flore, ochrica 1.2–1.4 cm longa, estus costis areolis pallide albo-pubescentis. Flora altera chartacea 6.5–9.0 cm longa et 1.5–3.2 cm lata; stamina numerosa ca. 110 in quoque flore, ochrica 1.2–1.4 cm longa, estus costis areolis pallide albo-pubescentis. Flora altera chartacea 6.5–9.0 cm longa et 1.5–3.2 cm lata; stamina numerosa ca. 110 in quoque flore, ochrica 1.2–1.4 cm longa, estus costis areolis pallide albo-pubescentis.
130 in quequo flore, ovaris pallide flavo-viridulis glabris, stylis et stigmatibus extus pallide cinereis, stylis primo curativis post rectis. Follicata cylindrica scarlatina 10.0~16.0 cm longa et 2~3 cm diam. saxe curvata; semina cordiformia vel nephroidea 0.5~0.7 mm longa et 0.9~1.2 cm lata.


The chloroplast complete genome of this new species is mostly similar to Yulania diva (Stapf ex Dandy) D. L. Fu (NC023242.1) (PHS = 0.995).

The particularity of the new species: foliar buds glabrous or sparsely pubescent, floral buds urceolate or ellipsoide-urceolate; fruit aggregates red and brown-purple when dried, and stamen scars on fruit receptacle obviously protuberant as thin verrucae, seeds widely nephroid, the width twice as length sometimes.

The new species is universally misidentified as Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu in related botanical authorities, such as Flora of trees of China [13], Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae Tomus [15], Flora of China [5], Shijie Yulanshu Zhiwu Zhongzhi Ziyuan Zhi [8], Flora Yunnanica [3] and so on, but it's taxonomical characters such as that the foliar buds glabrous or pubescent, floral buds urceolate or ellipsoide-urceolate pubescent or villous, and the leaf apices acuminate or acute, lower surfaces pubescent or villous, are obviously distinguished to the latter with the foliar buds glabrous or puberulent (gemmis foliiferis glabris vel ad apicem vix puberulis) [11], floral buds ovoid or ellipsoid long sericeo-villosus (alabastris longe sericeo-villosis) [11], and the leaf apices obtuse with acumens and lower surfaces puberulent (the apices abruptly short-acuminate or rarely rounded ... lower surfaces ... finely adpressed-puberulent over the entire surface) [12]. So according to ICBN, the illustration (Figure 4. 1 to 3), misidentified eitype of Y. sprengeri, is selected as lectotype with almost equal specimen collected from Guizhou and Henan province of China, which are renamed as a new species.

The species was described and illustrated as some new species such as Magnolia biondii auct. non Pamp.: in Flora of Qinling 1 (2): fig.288 (1.4.5.). - Yulania biondii auct. non (Pamp.) D. L. Fu: T. B. Zhao et al., Shijie Yulanshu Zhiwu Zhiyu zu Zaipe Liyong: fig.9-28 (1.4.). 2013; T. B. Zhao et al., Shijie Yulanshu Zhiwu Zhongzhi Ziyuan Zhi: fig.3-28 (1.4.), 2013; T. B. Zhao et al., Henan Yulan Zaipei: fig.9-29 (1.4.). 2015. - Magnolia sprengeri auct. non Pamp.: Y. H. Liu (ed.), Magnolias of China. fig.(1). 2004. - Yulania flexistylus nom. illegit. auct. non T. B. Zhao et Z. X. Chen: T. B. Zhao et al., Henan Yulan Zaipei: fig.9-2.2 (1). 2015.  

Arbor decidua, ca. 20 m alta. Ramuli crassissulci purpureo-tangerini hornotini viriduli vel flavo-viriduli glabri nitidi cum maculis alutacea, lenticillii sparsus rotundus vel ellipticus; florum ramuli abbreviati 3-6-nodis, internodis 0.5~1.2 cm longis, leviter incassatis, viridibus, cum gemmis foliiferis 3~6, in quoque nodis, gemmis magistrinus diversis a ramuli basi ad ejus apicem gradatim ampliatis, ea basali subglobosa ca. 0.2 cm in diam. pubescentibus, ea apicali claviformi 3.5~5.5 cm longa 0.5~1.0 cm in diam. dense incano-villosa. Alabastra solitaria, terminalia ellipsoideae longa dense flavo-lanosa, pilis 5.0~9.0 mm longis, cito ampliata antithesin; perulae saepe 1~2 retentae, 6~8 cm longae et 4.5~6.0 cm latae extus dense flavo-lanoseae; bracteae 1 rare 2, 5.5~6.5 cm longae et 3.0~5.5 cm latae extus a glabriusculae ad dense flavo-lanoseae. Folia anguste elliptica crasso-chartacea vel subcoriacea 8.5~13.0 cm longa 4.0~6.0 cm lata acuta, acumina vel obtusa, basi cuneata margin integra supra atro-viridia, nervulis reticulatis in sicco, subitus pallide viriditia costis dense albo-tomentosis, nervis lateralis 8~12-jugis; stipulae lineares, 3.5~5.5 cm longae pendulae, dense flavo-pubescentes; petioli 1.5~4.0 cm longi; cicatriculis stipularum rotundae vel alutaceae, 1~3 cm diam., cito ampliata antithesin; petalae 12~16 in quoque flore, 4 rare 5 in quoque verticillo, intime interdum 1~3, petaloformia subaequalia, anguste oblanceolata-elliptica, rubra vel roseola, 8.0~12.5 cm longa 2.5~4.5 cm lata pelatum tenuatis a basi ad
apicem. Stamina numerosa ca. 120, 1.5–2.0 cm longa pallide flavodo-alba, utrinque costis atro-purpureo-rubris, thecis lateribus longitudinally-dehiscentibus, connectivis apice mucronibus triangularibus ca. 1.0 mm longis praeeditis, filamentos ca. 5.0 mm longis rectangularibus atro-purpureo-rubris. Gynoecium cylindricum ca. 2.0 cm longum, pistilla simplisia numerosis ca. 80–100, ovarii flavo-viridibus glabris, stylis et stigmatibus extus pallide cinereis intus albis stylis primo curvativis post rectescientibus. Folliceta cylindrica 11.0–14.0 cm longa et 2.5–3.5 cm diam. interdum curvata. Semina ossea subcordata vel depresso-globlsa ca. 9 mm longa et 8 mm lata.

The new typici-evolutionary characters of the new species: the foliar buds long columned obviously higher than the gynoecia and the stipules linear and pendulous before falling, which can be distinguished to all other species of genus Yulania Spach.

The new species is similar to Yulania carnosa D. L. Fu et D. L. Zhang [31], but its narrow elliptic leaves, pendulous stipules, long column foliar buds, membranous bracts are obviously distinguished to that of latter with ovato-round leaves, not pendulous stipules, ovoid foliar buds and carnose bracts.

The species was misidentified as Yulania biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu (or Magnolia biondii Pamp.) in Flora of Qinling [32], Shijie Yulanshu Zhifu Zhongzhi Ziyuan Zhi, etc. [7-9], but the flower of Y. biondii with 3 sepals and 6 petals not 12-15 petals and floral buds ovoid not ellipsoid (see Figure 6. (1)). The species was also misidentified as Magnolia sprengeri Pamp. in Magnolias of China [17], but the latter with leaves obovate and lower surfaces puberulent, not narrow elliptical and lower surfaces tomentose (see Figure 6. (2)).

The species is distributed in northeast of Sichuan province in deciduous broad-leaved secondary forest at an altitude of 1200–2000 m, and cultivated as a main species for Xinyi, a Chinese traditional medicine. So, it is named “Chuan Xinyi” in Chinese for that it was misidentified as Y. biondii (Pamp.) D. L. Fu and Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu for many years in some botanical authorities and it was really mainly cultivated for “Xinyi” in North Sichuan Province.

6. Conclusion

The evolutionary system of Yulania Spach includes 4 natural sections: Y. sect. Yulania, Y. sect. Buergeria (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu, Y. sect. Rosula D. L. Fu, sect., nov., and Y. sect. Tulipastrum (Spach) D. L. Fu, which all have the same boundaries: PHS (17bp) = 0.96. The species Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu belong to Y. sect. Yulania, but several confusable species such as Y. diva (Stapf. ex Dandy) D. L. Fu, sp. transl. nov., Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen,
sp. segregat. nov., Y. pendula D. L. Fu, sp. nov. and Y. viridula D. L. Fu, T. B. Zhao et G. H. Tian belong to the new section of Y. sect. Rosula D. L. Fu. So, it can be scientifically solved by the genomic evolution using the typical algorithm that the long-standing problem of the taxonomical confusion of Yulania sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu in the world. According to International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Y. sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu is proposed for confusion of Yulania sprengeri (Pamp.) D. L. Fu in the world. A new confusible new species, Y. urceolata D. L. Fu, B. H. Xiong et X. Chen, sp. segregat. nov., and Y. pendula D. L. Fu, sp. nov., are described and illustrated. Furthermore, two new translated species of Yulania genus, Y. stellata (Sieb. & Zucc.) D. L. Fu, sp. transl. nov. and Yulania diva (Stapf ex Dandy) D. L. Fu, sp. transl. nov. are finally legitimately achieved. The evolutionary system of Yulania Spach scientifically overcomes the partial and subjective of past taxonomical systems of the genus.

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