



## *Petrocodon villosus* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from Guangxi, China

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### Key words

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**Abstract** A new species of Gesneriaceae from south-western Guangxi, China, *Petrocodon villosus*, is described and illustrated. It resembles *P. ferrugineus*, but is differentiated by several characters, such as the size of bracts, calyx and corolla, the indumentum of leaf blades, calyx, filaments and the outside of the corolla; the corolla tube shape, limb and lobes, the disc and stigma. A description of *P. villosus*, together with illustrations, habitat description and a diagnostic comparison are presented.

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Petrocodon* Hance (Gesneriaceae) was established in 1883 with one species, *P. dealbatus* Hance. In 1975 a second variety, *P. dealbatus* Hance var. *denticulatus* W.T.Wang was recognised. Recently a further three species, *P. ferrugineus* Y.G.Wei (2007), *P. multiflorus* F.Wen & Y.S.Jiang (2011), *P. lancifolius* F.Wen & Y.G.Wei (2012), were described. In addition, the circumscription of allied genera proved to be artificial (Möller et al. 2009) and based on molecular studies (Möller et al. 2009, 2011, Wang et al. 2011, Weber et al. 2011), some Chinese monotypic genera, namely *Calcareaoboea* C.Y.Wu ex H.W.Li (1982), *Paralagarosolen* Y.G.Wei (2004), *Dolicholoma* D.Fang & W.T.Wang (1983), *Tengia* Chun (1946), *Lagarosolen* W.T.Wang (1984) and a few species of *Didymocarpus* Wall. (1819), were incorporated into *Petrocodon*. Thus, the genus now comprises at least 20 species in China (Möller et al. 2011, Wang et al. 2011, Weber et al. 2011), and emerges as one of the florally most diverse clades of Old World Gesneriaceae (Weber et al. 2011).

In recent years, a large number of new species have been reported from limestone areas in South China and North Vietnam, most have narrowly restricted distributions and are usually endemic. In 2010, we collected a rare plant of Gesneriaceae from karst limestone hills in the south-western Guangxi. The plant at first looked like *P. ferrugineus* because of a similar leaf shape and leaf hair morphology. Unfortunately, it was not flowering. Over the past two years, the living plants were monitored in the field and an ecological survey was carried out. After we collected specimens with flowers, we were surprised to find that the flower structures of two species are different. While consulting the rele-

vant literature (Wang 1990, He & Cong 1992, Wu & Ku 1997, Wang et al. 1998, Li & Wang 2004, Wei 2007, Wei et al. 2010, Jiang et al. 2011, Wang et al. 2011, Xu et al. 2012, Wen et al. 2012), we concluded that it is an hitherto undescribed species.

*Petrocodon villosus* is morphologically most similar to *P. ferrugineus*, both found in south-western Guangxi. They have a similar elliptic-ovate or oblong shaped leaf and coriaceous or subcoriaceous leaf texture, in contrast to all other species of *Petrocodon*, where the shapes of the leaves are diverse (lanceolate, oblanceolate, elliptic, broadly ovate, orbicular, sometimes falcate) and the leaf texture is commonly herbaceous or papyraceous. However, the two can be easily distinguished by a number of characteristics (see Table 1).

***Petrocodon villosus* Xin Hong, F.Wen & S.B.Zhou, sp. nov.**  
— Fig. 1, 2

Differs from *Petrocodon ferrugineus* Y.G.Wei by leaf blades adaxially sparsely strigose to glabrous, bracts 2.5 by 0.5 mm, calyx c. 2.5 mm long inner surface glabrous, corolla 1–1.2 cm long with narrowly infundibuliform tube, limb distinctly 2-lipped, outside white, sparsely puberulent, lobes ovate-triangular to obliquely ovate, straight, glandular-pubescent, filaments and capitate stamnodes inserted at c. 4 mm above the corolla base respectively, disc 1 mm high with an elongated projection or horn on one side, stigma bipartite. — Type: *F. Wen 0173* (holo IBK; iso ANU), China, Guangxi Autonomous Region, Baise City, Debao Country, Yandong Town, growing in rocky crevices at the foot of a limestone hill, N23°9', E106°39', elevation c. 160 m, 27 Nov. 2012.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is derived from the particular villous aspect of the leaf blades and petioles.

Perennial rosette herb, acaulescent. **Rhizome** subterete, erect or ascendant, 1.8–2.2 cm long, 0.5–0.7 cm diam, rooting at the nodes. **Leaves** 9–15 or more, basal; petioles 2–3 cm, brownish strigose; **leaf blade** coriaceous to subcoriaceous, slightly oblique, elliptic-ovate or oblong, 4–4.5 by 2.6–3 cm, adaxially sparsely strigose to glabrous, abaxially densely brownish villous, base broadly cuneate, upper surface green, surface below russet, margin crenate, apex obtuse, lateral nerves 3–5 nerves on each side, adaxially impressed, abaxially prominent, densely brownish strigose. **Cymes** 1–3, 8–11-flowered; **peduncles** 6–8(–15) cm long, extremely short brownish pubescent. **Bracts** 2, linear or lanceolate-linear, c. 2.5 by 0.5 mm, outside strigose, inside glabrous. **Pedicels** 3–5 mm long,

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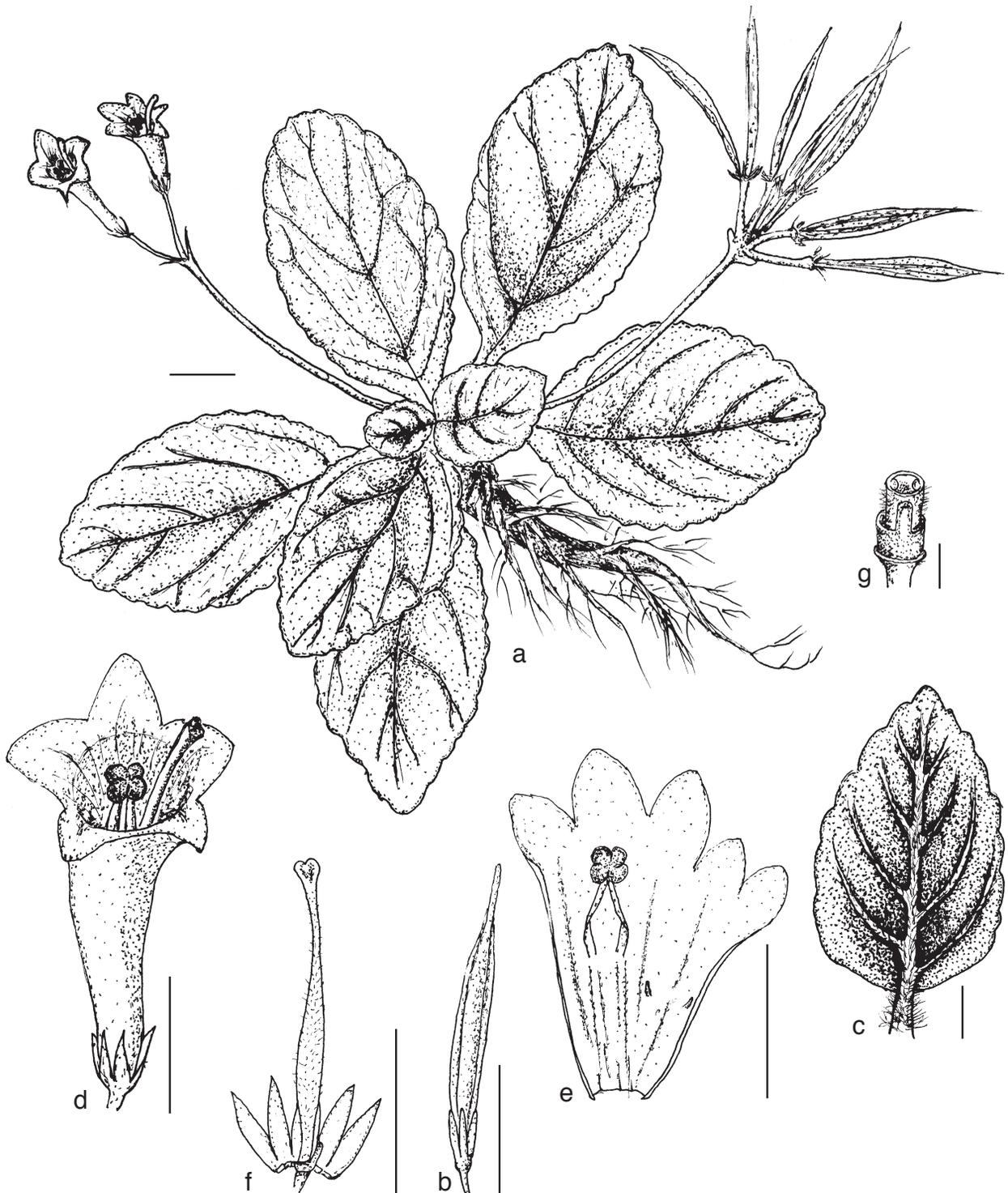
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sparsely brownish pubescent. *Calyx* 5-parted to the base, lobes narrowly lanceolate-linear, c. 2.5 mm long, outer surface extremely short brownish pubescent, inner surface glabrous. *Corolla* white, throat with two distinctly elliptic yellow spots, 1–1.2 cm long, outside sparsely pubescent, inside glabrous, orifice slightly swollen, 0.3–0.4 cm diam; tube narrowly infundibuliform, 0.7–0.8 cm long; limb distinctly 2-lipped, adaxial lip 2-parted to half-length, lobes obliquely ovate, c. 2.5 by 1.5 cm, apex acute to obtuse; abaxial lip 3-parted to one third, lobes equal, ovate-triangular, c. 0.4 by 0.2 cm, apex acute. *Stamens* 2, adnate c. 4 mm above the corolla base; filaments c. 2 mm

long, straight, scattered glandular-pubescent, anthers black, fused by their entire adaxial surfaces, ellipsoidal, c. 1 mm long, glabrous; *staminodes* 2, capitate, c. 0.5 mm long, glabrous, inserted c. 2 mm from the base of the corolla. *Disc* annular, 1–2 mm high, having an elongated projection or horn on one side. *Pistil* 10–12 mm, c. 2 mm diam; ovary linear, 6–8 mm long, densely puberulent with both glandular and eglandular hairs; style linear, 3–4 mm long, glandular-puberulent. *Stigma* bipartite, c. 0.3 mm long, lobes ovate, parted to half-length, apex obtuse. *Capsule* linear, straight, 2–2.5 cm long, 1.5–2 mm diam, glandular-pubescent and sparsely pilose.



**Fig. 1** *Petrocodon villosus* Xin Hong, F.Wen & S.B.Zhou. a. Mature individual, habit; b. mature capsule; c. abaxial leaf; d. flower; e. opened corolla for showing stamens and staminodes; f. pistil and opened calyx lobes; g. transverse section of ovary with the annular nectary at base (all: F. Wen 0173, IBK). — Scale bars: a–c = 1 cm; d–f = 5 mm; g = 1 mm. — Drawn by Ms. H.M. Xiao.



**Fig. 2** *Petrocodon villosus* Xin Hong, F.Wen & S.B.Zhou. a. Habitat; b. mature individual, habit; c. open flower and cyme; d. underside of plant; e. fruits; f. indumentum of young leaves and petioles; g. brown indumentum of abaxial leaf; h. stigma; i. opened calyx lobes and annular nectary with an elongated projection or horn on one side. — Photos: a–g. Fang Wen; h, i. Xin Hong.

**Table 1** Comparison of *Petrocodon villosus* and *P. ferrugineus*.

Character	<i>P. villosus</i>	<i>P. ferrugineus</i>
Indumentum of leaves	adaxially sparsely strigose to glabrous, abaxially densely brownish villous	densely brownish villous on both surfaces
Bracts	2.5 by 0.5 mm	4–5 by 1 mm
Calyx	c. 2.5 mm long, outer surface pubescent, inner surface glabrous	1–2 mm long, with dense ferruginous pubescence on both surfaces
Corolla	1–1.2 cm long, tube narrowly infundibuliform, outside white, sparsely puberulent	4–5 mm long, tube campanulate, outside purplish brown strigulose
Limb of corolla	distinctly 2-lipped, adaxial lip 2-parted to half-length, lobes obliquely ovate; abaxial lip 3-parted to one third, lobes ovate-triangular	inconspicuously zygomorphic, adaxial lip 2-parted to the base, lobes deltoid; abaxial lip 3-parted close to the base, lobes deltate to ovate
Filaments	straight, scattered glandular-pubescent, inserted about 4 mm above the corolla base	curved, glabrous, inserted about 1 mm above the base of the corolla
Staminodes	capitate, inserted c. 2 mm from the base of the corolla	linear, straight, inserted 0.5–0.8 mm from the base of the corolla
Disc	c. 1–2 mm high, with an elongated projection or horn on one side	c. 0.5 mm high, annular
Stigma	bipartite, lobes ovate	spheroidal

Distribution — China (narrowly endemic and known only from the type locality, i.e. Yandong Town (N23°9', E106°39'), c. 11 km south-west of Debao County, Baise City, southern Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region, China.

Habitat & Ecology — *Petrocodon villosus* is locally abundant. It grows on moist and shaded rock faces on the cliff around the cave mouth at the foot of a limestone hill at an elevation of 160 m asl. The average temperature of Debao County is about 22.3 °C, the average annual precipitation is over 1 000 mm. The forest where *P. villosus* occurs is subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest. Flowering is from October to November.

*Additional specimens.* CHINA, Guangxi Autonomous Region, Baise city, Debao County, Yandong Town, alt. 160 m, 4 Aug. 2010, Wang-062 (IBK, K); *ibid.*, 160 m, 27 Nov. 2012, Hong 20121116 (ANU, K).

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