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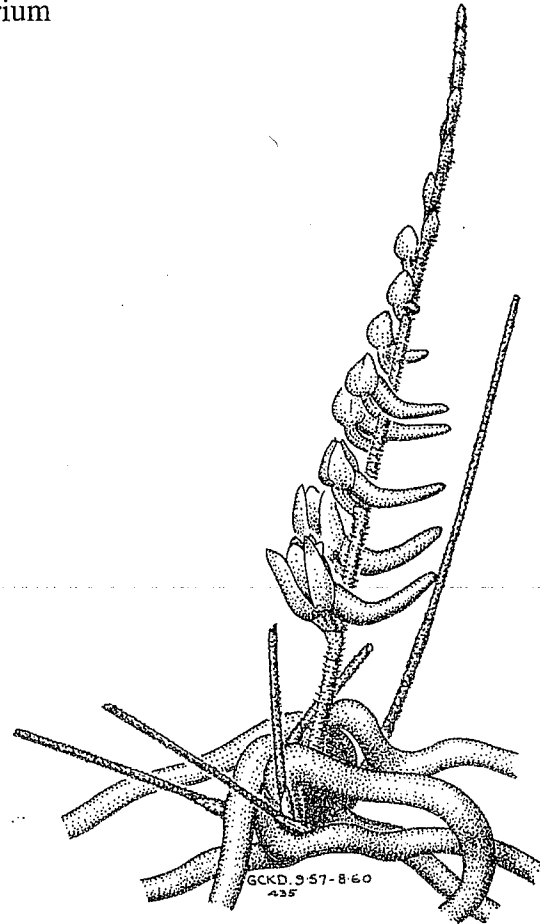
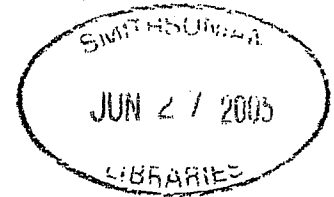
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A NEW SPECIES OF DIDYMOSTIGMA (GESNERIACEAE)
FROM SOUTHERN CHINA

CHUANG-XING YE^{1,2} AND XIANG-GANG SHI¹

Abstract. *Didymostigma trichanthera* (Gesneriaceae), an epipetric plant from southeastern China with showy white or sometimes pink flowers, is described and illustrated.

Keywords: Gesneriaceae, *Didymostigma trichanthera*, new species, China.

Didymostigma trichanthera Chuang-xing Ye & Xiang-gang Shi, *sp. nov.* TYPE: CHINA. Guangdong: Longmen Xian, Nankunshan National Forest Park, 17 August 2003, Chuang-Xing Ye 5960 (Holotype: SYS; Isotype: A). Fig. 1.

Species affinis *Didymostigma obtuso* (Clarke) W. T. Wang, *sed staminibus pilosis praecipue antheris albis lanatis, filamentis pilosis infra medium crassis, pistilo non accultanti intra tubo corollae, labio ab os tubo corollae basin versus 2 flavidis striatis, calyci ad medium 5-fido bene differt.*

Herba annua, caulibus erectis circiter 15–35 cm altis, noduliferis, sparsim puberulis vel albo-pubescentibus. Folia opposita, ovata, oblonga vel elliptico-ovata, 6.0–10.5 cm longa, 4–5 cm lata, apice acuta vel obtusa, basi late cuneata, rotundata vel cordata, interdum inaequalateralia, supra albo-puberula praeter costam glabra, subtus exceptis nervis puberulis ceteris glabra; nervis lateralibus 9–11-jugis, supra leviter impressis, subtus prominentibus elevatis; margine grosse denuata; petioli 1–5 cm longi, dorsum puberuli. Cyma axillaris, dichotoma vel interdum monochasialis, floribus 3–5, pedunculi 3.5–5.5 cm longi, albo-puberuli. Flores albi vel rosei, pedicellis 0.8–1.2 cm longis, albo-puberulis; bracteis 2 oppositis subrotundatis, 4–6 mm longis, apice acutis, margine serrulatis, utrinque puberulis; calyx circ. 8–12 mm longus, 5-fidus ad fere medium, lobis calycis subaequalibus lineari-triangularibus, extus pilosis, intus adpresso-pilosis; corolla 3.2–4.6 cm longa, graciliter infundibuliformis, super leviter dilatata parum

obliqua, extus forsan sparse albo-pilosa, intus dense albo-puberula, limbus labiatus, labello postico 2-fido, labio 3-fido, lobi semiorbiculati vel subrotundatis, intra labium basin versus distichis flavidis striatis; staminibus fertilibus 2 1.4–1.6 cm longi supra medium a tubo corollae inserta, antheris prope os tubi corollae; filamentis simul sursum et interne curvatis, dilatatis basin versus, sparse albis nodis pilosis vel puberulis; antheris late ellipsoideis versatilis, apice connatis, loculis antherae parallelis, dehiscentibus longitudinalibus, extus albo-lanatis; staminodia 2 post tubo corollae staminibus fertilibus inserta, linearia, longitudine dimidio staminis fertilis aequantia, antheris minutis, abortivis, glabris; disco annuliformi brunneolo, margine integro; pistillum circ. 2.3–2.7 cm longum; ovario lineari 1.6–1.8 cm longo, albo-puberulo; stylo 4–5 mm longo, stigmatibus 2 aequalibus, oblongo-ellipsoideis, 3–4 mm longis, 1.0–1.5 mm latis, extus dense albo-puberulis, intus glabris; placentis parietalibus 2, primum introrsis dein reflexis, utrinque dense ovuliferis. Capsula linearis 3.5–10.0 cm longa, longitudinaliter loculicide dehiscens, stylo et stigmatibus persistentibus. Semina numerosa, fusiformia, longitudinalibus gracilimis striatis vel reticulatis horizontaliter connatis.

Annual herbs. Stem erect, 15–35 cm tall; nodes obvious, with dense white hairs. Leaves opposite, ovate, oblong, or elliptic-ovate, 6–10 cm long, 4–5 cm wide, base broadly cuneate or cordate, occasionally asymmetrical, margin dentate, apex acute or obtuse, upper surface white pubescent except on nerves, lower surface nearly glabrous except nerves sparsely

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FIGURE 1. *Didymostigma trichanthera* Chuang-xing Ye & Xiang-gang Shi. Photography by Chuang-xing Ye.

pubescent; lateral nerves 9–11 pairs, midrib and lateral nerves on upper surface slightly concave, nerves on lower surface prominently elevated; petiole 1–5 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescences 3- to 5-flowered cymes, axillary, dichotomous or monochasial, peduncle 3.5–5.5 cm long, white villose. Flowers: pedicel 0.8–1.2 cm long, white pilose; bracts 2, opposite, nearly round, 4–6 mm long, margin serrate, apex acute, both surfaces pubescent; calyx 8–12 mm long, lobes 5, linear-triangular, nearly half as long as calyx, subequal, abaxial surface pubescent, adaxial surface appressed villose; corolla slenderly funnelform, 3.2–4.6 cm long, white or pink, inner surface densely pubescent, outer surface sometime sparsely pubescent, tube apically expanded, lips 2, lobes of upper lip 2, lobes of lower lip 3, lobes semicircular or nearly round, nearly equal; fertile stamens 2, 1.4–1.6 cm long, adnate near opening of corolla tube, filaments upwardly curved inward, lower half of filaments thicker, sparsely pubescent; anthers broadly ellipsoid,

versatile, connate at apex, thecae parallel, divided longitudinally, lanose; staminodes 2, linear; inserted on lower part of corolla tube, half as long as fertile stamens, anthers glabrous; disc ring-like, pale brown, entire; ovary linear, 1.6–1.8 cm long, white pubescent, style 4–5 mm long, stigmas 2, nearly equal, oblong-elliptic, 3–4 mm long, 1.0–1.5 mm wide, densely pubescent outside, glabrous inside, positioned at mouth of corolla tube; parietal placentas 2, slightly projecting inward then divided and reflexed; ovules numerous, 2.3–2.7 cm long; Capsule linear, 3.5–10.0 cm long, dehiscence longitudinal, loculicidal, style and stigmas persistent; seeds numerous, spindle-like, ornamentation slenderly striate or netted.

Didymostigma trichanthera, a plant with showy white or sometimes pink flowers, grows on rocks near streams. It differs from *D. obtusum* (Clarke) W. T. Wang in having lanose fertile anthers, hairy filaments, and the pistil not hidden in the tube of the corolla.