

Henckelia longisepala (Gesneriaceae), a new record for Vietnam

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Abstract: *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller is reported from Lai Chau and Nghe An provinces of Vietnam as a new national record of the species. An amended morphological description and photographic illustrations are provided. The distribution of *H. longisepala* is discussed with an emphasis on the floristic regions inhabited by this species. A specimen at KUN is selected for a second-step lectotypification. Two floral morphologies were found in *H. longisepala* that differ in the length of the pistil and its significance is discussed here.

Keywords: Floral phenology, Floristic regions, *Hemiboeopsis*.

Introduction

The genus *Henckelia* Spreng. (Gesneriaceae) has recently been re-circumscribed based on molecular and morphological evidence (Weber *et al.*, 2011; Middleton *et al.*, 2013; Möller *et al.*, 2016). With the current delimitation, *Henckelia* consists of at least 70 species, mainly distributed across South, East and Southeast Asia, including the Himalayan region (Weber *et al.*, 2011; Middleton *et al.*, 2013; Möller *et al.*, 2017; Krishna & Lakshminarasimhan, 2018;

Borah *et al.*, 2019; Cai *et al.*, 2019; Sirimongkol *et al.*, 2019; Yang *et al.*, 2019; Janeesha & Nampy, this issue; Kanthraj *et al.*, this issue). In Vietnam, six species of *Henckelia* have been recorded, namely, *H. anachoreta* (Hance) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller, *H. ceratoscyphus* (B.L.Burtt) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller, *H. fruticola* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller, *H. grandifolia* A.Dietr., *H. pumila* (D.Don) A.Dietr. and *H. speciosa* (Kurz) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller (Wang *et al.*, 1998; Ho, 2000; Phuong, 2005, 2017; Weber *et al.*, 2011), all of which were formerly treated in the genus *Chirita* Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don (Wang *et al.*, 2011; Weber *et al.*, 2011). These species are also recorded from the southern regions of China (Wang, 1985; Wang *et al.*, 1990, 1998; Wei *et al.*, 2010; Weber *et al.*, 2011). During field investigations in Lai Chau province, Northwestern Vietnam, and Nghe An province, North Central Vietnam, in 2018, we collected several specimens of Gesneriaceae, which after careful study of relevant specimens and taxonomic publications from adjacent regions (Pellegrin, 1926, 1930; Wang, 1985; Wang *et al.*, 1990, 1998; Weber *et al.*, 2011; Middleton *et al.*, 2013; Möller *et al.*, 2016; Xu *et al.*, 2017) were identified as *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller.

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Prior to the re-circumscription of *Henckelia* (Weber et al., 2011), this species was placed in the monotypic genus *Hemiboeopsis* W.T.Wang, which reflected its remarkable morphology (Wang et al., 1998). As highlighted by Wang (1984), *H. longisepala* was unusual at that time among Gesneriaceae in its stamen filaments being broadest at the middle and tapering towards ends (although this is now known in many other species of the family), anther connectives with a single triangular appendage, two unequal stigmas, and apparently two-loculed ovary. *Henckelia longisepala* is reported to occur in the Yunnan province of China and in Laos (Wang, 1984; Li, 1991; Wang et al., 1990, 1998; Weber et al., 2011), but was not included in the Checklist of Laos by Newman et al. (2007). The collections from Vietnam are a new record for the country. Here, we provide a detailed description and field photographs of our records to facilitate its easier identification in the future. We also confirm with specimen citations below that the reports of *H. longisepala* for Laos (Wang et al., 1998; Weber et al., 2011) are correct, and specify its localities within Laos. We summarize the available data on the distribution of this species, highlighting the floristic regions of Eastern Indochina, and discuss the flower structure and phenology in *H. longisepala*. Finally, we provide a second-step lectotypification of *H. longisepala* because there are two herbarium sheets of the type collection at the herbarium of the supposed lectotype.

Henckelia longisepala (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller, *Taxon* 60(3): 776. 2011. *Hemiboeopsis longisepala* (H.W.Li) W.T.Wang, *Acta Bot. Yunnan.* 6(4): 399. 1984. *Lysionotus longisepalus* H.W.Li, *Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin* 3(2): 1. 1983. Lectotype (first-step designated by Wang, 1984; second-step designated here): CHINA, Yunnan, Hekou, Lengshui Gou, 250 m, 20.04.1953, K.H. Cai 464 (KUN [KUN1219162 digital image!]; isolectotypes KUN [KUN1219165 digital image!], PE [PE00030765 digital image!]).

Figs. 1–3

Subshrubs, terrestrial, 25–80(100) cm tall; underground part a short vertical rhizome. Stems

simple, apically densely brownish appressed pubescent, basally glabrescent. Leaves opposite, equal to subequal in a pair; petioles 1.5–5.5 cm long, covered with long appressed brownish hairs when young, glabrescent; leaf blade ovate to oblanceolate, 9–24 × 3–6.5 cm, base attenuate to broadly cuneate, margins repand-crenulate to nearly entire, apex acuminate, glabrous to sparsely ciliate, especially abaxially on veins and especially when young, adaxially dark green, abaxially glaucous-green or sometimes dark purple; secondary veins 8–17 pairs; midvein and secondary veins prominent on both surfaces. Inflorescences axillary, 3–9-flowered dense umbel-like cymes. Peduncles 1.5–2 cm long, pubescent or (in Vietnamese plants) glabrescent. Each branch of cyme subtended by a bract; 2 basal bracts opposite, adjoining, forming a globose involucre, nearly orbicular to ovate-orbicular, 1.7–2 × 1.7–2.5 cm, thick leathery especially along midrib, glabrous or abaxially pubescent, purplish white to dark purple; other bracts similar to basal bracts but more delicate and somewhat smaller. Pedicels 3–6 mm long, glabrous, purple. Sepals apparently free (tube lacking), equal, spatulate, 12–20 × 2.5–3 mm, base cuneate, margin entire, apex rounded, glabrous, white with purple tint especially towards apex to entirely purple. Corolla zygomorphic, 3.5–4.5 × c. 1.3 cm, purple to white, inside with two elevated yellow stripes on lower (abaxial) surface; tube funnelform-tubular, not swollen, slightly bent in adaxial direction, much longer than limb, 2.5–3.5 cm long, glabrous outside and inside; limb 2-lipped, glabrous or (in Vietnamese plants) adaxially uniformly covered with dense very short hairs; adaxial lip 2-lobed, 0.5–1 cm long, shorter than abaxial lip; abaxial lip 3-lobed, 1–1.2 cm long, lobes equal; all five lobes semicircular, with overlapping margins. Stamens 2 abaxial (lower), adnate to corolla tube abaxially behind middle, included, c. 1.5 cm long; filaments conspicuously swollen in middle part (fusiform), 1–1.5 mm broad at middle, c. 0.4 mm broad at base and apex, glabrous to puberulent near apex, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, coherent by adaxial surfaces, ellipsoid, 2.8–3.2 mm long, abaxially puberulent

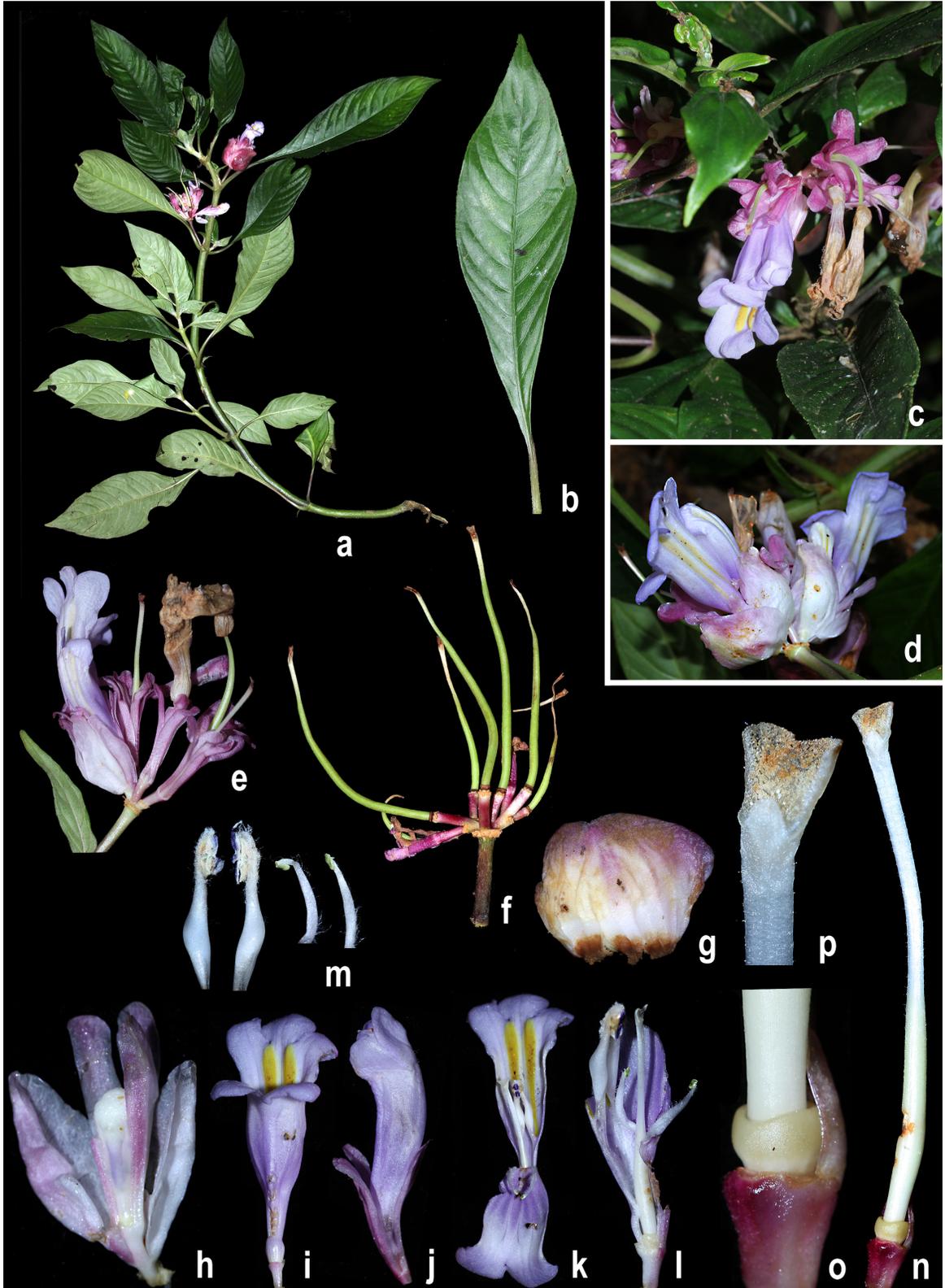


Fig. 1. *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller collected from Lai Chau province: **a.** Habit; **b.** Leaf-adaxial view; **c.** Cyme-front view; **d.** Cyme-view from below; **e.** Cyme-side view; **f.** Cyme with young capsules; **g.** Basal bract of cyme; **h.** Flower bud and two inflorescence bracts; **i.** Corolla-adaxial view; **j.** Flower bud-side view; **k.** Corolla cut-open showing pistil, stamens and staminodes; **l.** Longitudinally dissected corolla showing androecium and pistil with disc; **m.** Stamens and staminodes; **n.** Pistil and disc; **o.** Ovary base with disc; **p.** Stigmas (from *H.Q. Bui* 215; photos by H.Q. Bui).

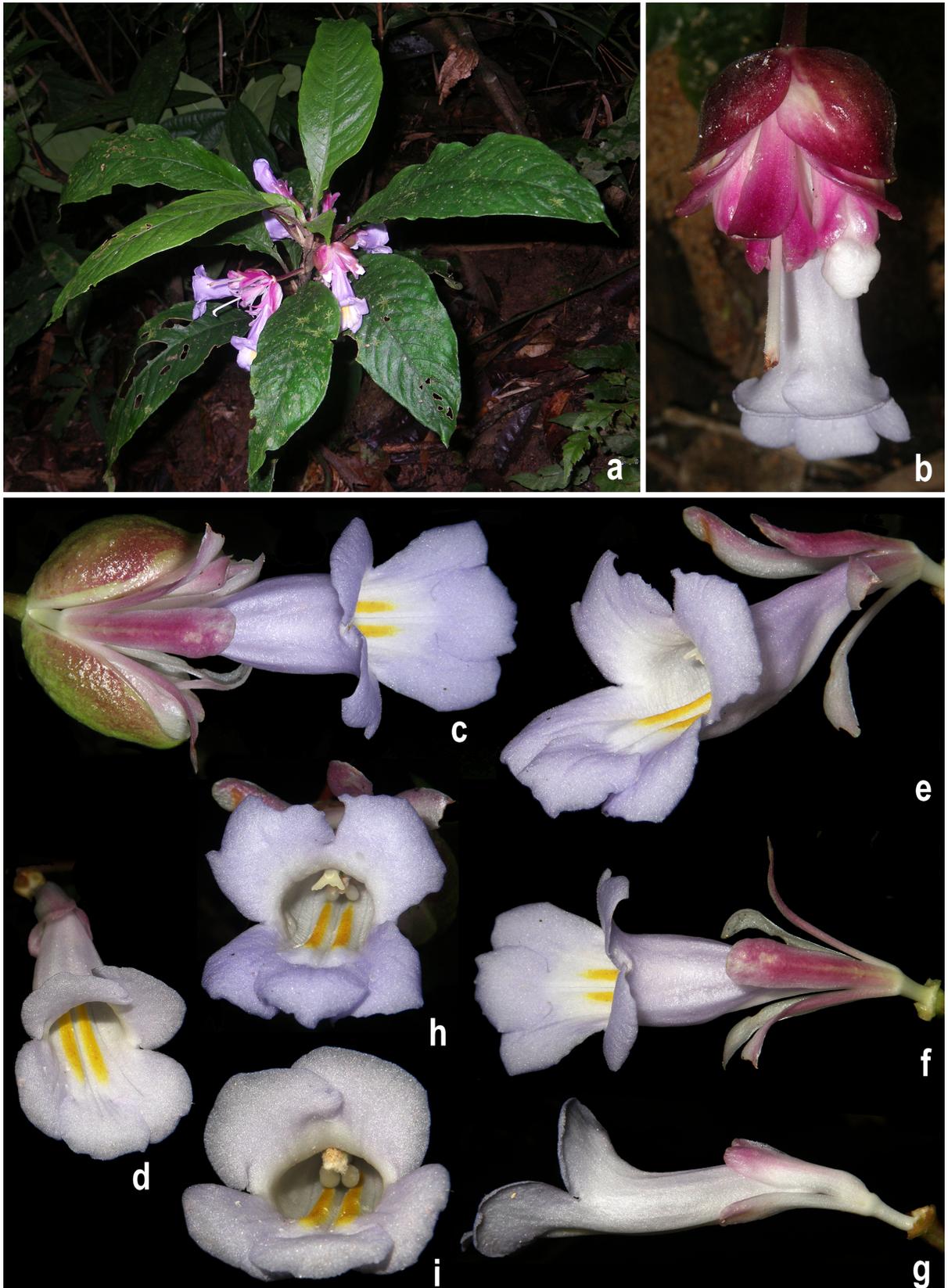


Fig. 2. *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller collected from Nghe An province: **a.** Habit; **b, c.** Cyme- adaxial view; **d, e.** Flower-oblique view; **f.** Flower-adaxial view; **g.** Flower-side view; **h.** Long-styled flower-front view; **i.** Short-styled flower-front view (from M.S. Nuraliev, A.N. Kuznetsov & S.P. Kuznetsova 2168; photos by M.S. Nuraliev).



Fig. 3. *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller collected from Nghe An province: **a, b.** Androecium and gynoecium-side view; **c, d.** Adaxial half of corolla, style and stamens-abaxial view; **e.** Abaxial half of corolla, style and stamens-oblique side view; **f.** Coherent stamens-side view; **g.** Undehiscent fertile anthers-adaxial view (from *M.S. Nuraliev, A.N. Kuznetsov & S.P. Kuznetsova* 2168; photos by M.S. Nuraliev).

with dense tuft of hairs, creamy white or dark purple; thecae divaricate, confluent, dehiscing longitudinally; connectives each with 1 abaxial appendage, appendage triangular, 0.5–1.8 mm long. Staminodes 3; 2 staminodes paired, adaxial (upper), adnate to corolla tube adaxially slightly behind fertile stamens, *c.* 1 cm long, filaments without swellings, thinner than those of fertile stamens, covered by long spreading hairs throughout their length, whitish, antherodes small, greenish; median (unpaired adaxial) staminode club-shaped, ≤ 1 mm long, greenish white. Disc ring-like, 1–2 mm long, brownish yellow. Pistil

included, 2.1–2.6 cm long (but see below), white; ovary superior, linear, 2-loculed, 0.9–1.1 cm long, glabrous, becoming green after anthesis; placentas 2, axile; style *c.* 1.5 cm long, sparsely glandular puberulent; stigmas 2, strongly unequal: adaxial small, about 1 mm long, semiorbicular, abaxial large, about 2.5 mm long, broadly flabellate, emarginate; stigmatic surface densely minutely pubescent. Immature capsules straight in relation to pedicel, linear, much longer than calyx; valves probably 2, straight, not twisted. Mature capsules 6–10 cm long. Seeds unappendaged, fusiform, *c.* 0.25 mm long, dark brown.

Flowering & fruiting: Flowering from April to June and fruiting from May to August.

Habitat: *Henckelia longisepala* occurs at elevations of 100–1300 m (across its entire distribution range). In Lai Chau province, it was found on the shady sides of rocks, under the canopy of evergreen broadleaf moist forest, often near streams and in other wet habitats, together with representatives of the genera *Cyathea* Sm., *Lindera* Thunb., *Elatostema* J.R.Forst. & G.Forst., *Ficus* L. and *Carex* L. In Nghe An province (Pu Hoat Nature Reserve), it is extremely common, at least within a radius of *c.* 2 km, and was observed in a wide range of habitats, including areas along a river and by streams and on local mountain slopes.

The population of *H. longisepala* found in Lai Chau province of Vietnam is located within the overall region known to be inhabited by this species in China, with the distance from the Lai Chau population to the nearest Chinese population being only about 30 km (Fig. 4).

Populations from both Lai Chau and Yunnan lie within the borders of the Sikang–Yunnan floristic region, which belongs to the Holarctic floristic kingdom (Takhtajan, 1986; Averyanov *et al.*, 2003a, 2003b; Fu *et al.*, 2019). The population from the Vietnamese Nghe An province, together with the specimens from the neighbouring Laotian Xiangkhouang province (each is about 150 km from the former), in contrast, is found in the North Indochinese floristic region of the Paleotropical floristic kingdom. The North Indochinese populations are about 300 km south of the nearest Sikang–Yunnan populations. The distribution of *H. longisepala* confirms that the species occurs not only in subtropical, but also in tropical environments, although its habitat preferences across these regions are similar.

Distribution: China, Laos and Vietnam.

Specimens examined: CHINA, **Yunnan province**, Hekou County, Hekou Town, Basa, Huguang, N 22°37'36", E 103°51'35", 341 m, 28.07.2015, C. Rao, Y.F. Li, H.R. He, G.S. Zhang Zhang GL019

(KUN [KUN1396175 digital image]); Mafengzhai village, 200 m, 08.05.1953, *K.H. Cai* 990 (paratypes KUN [KUN0207552, KUN0207859 digital images]); Napai Town, 24.04.1940, *H.D. Zhang* 1259 (IBSC [0549824 digital image]); Wangjiaokaqinggou, 260 m, 13.04.1953, *K.H. Cai* 308 (paratype KUN [KUN1219150 digital image]); Xin An Zhai village, 120 m, 06.04.1953, *K.H. Cai* 84 (paratype KUN [KUN0200861 digital image]); Huguang, 08.04.1953, *K.H. Cai* 146 (KUN [paratype KUN0207858 digital image]); Jiangcheng County, Qushui Town, Nuna Village, Ganmazhai, Sanguozhuang, N 22°29'54", E 102°15'37", 1242 m, 11.05.2012, *Jiangcheng Investigation Team* 5308260204 (IMDY [IMDY0020653 digital image]); Jinping County, Mengla Town, Xinmeng Village, 15.04.1954, *Zhong Su Team (Chinese-Soviet Joint Expedition to Yunnan Prov.)* 1685 (PE [PE00154615 digital image]); Mengla Town, mountain behind Xinmeng Village, 15.04.1956, *Chinese-Soviet Joint Expedition to Yunnan Prov.* 1747 (paratype KUN [KUN0207551 digital image]); Jingping, Taoman, 800 m, 27.04.1953, *Y.C. Xue* [*Y.B. Xu*] 284 (paratypes E [E00628132], KUN [KUN0207862, KUN0207863 digital images]); Youshan Qinggou, 400 m, 16.04.1956, *Chinese-Soviet Joint Expedition to Yunnan Prov.* 292 (paratype KUN [KUN0207553 digital image]); Lvchun County, Banpo Town, Er'pu Village, Niuboliangzi, N 22°39'27.62", E 102°19'38.06", 1109 m, 14.08.2019, *F. Wen s.n.* (IBK photos). LAOS, **Xiangkhouang province**, entre Nadon et la Mine après km 12, 04.1949, *J.E. Vidal* 875B (P [P03851426]); Chieng Kwang [Muang Khoun], Pu Muten, 1300 m, 20.04.1932, *A.F.G. Kerr* 21170 (K, L [L.2824346 digital image]); VIETNAM, **Lai Chau province**, Muong Te district, Pa U commune, N 22°33'41.7", E 102°40'17.6", 983 m, 25.05.2018, *H.Q. Bui* 215 (HN, IBK, MW); **Nghe An province**, Que Phong district, Hanh Dich municipality, Pu Hoat Nature Reserve, 21 km NW of Kim Son town, disturbed forest, not far from river, N 19°45'34", E 104°48'05", 850 m, 07.05.2018, *M.S. Nuraliev, A.N. Kuznetsov & S.P.*

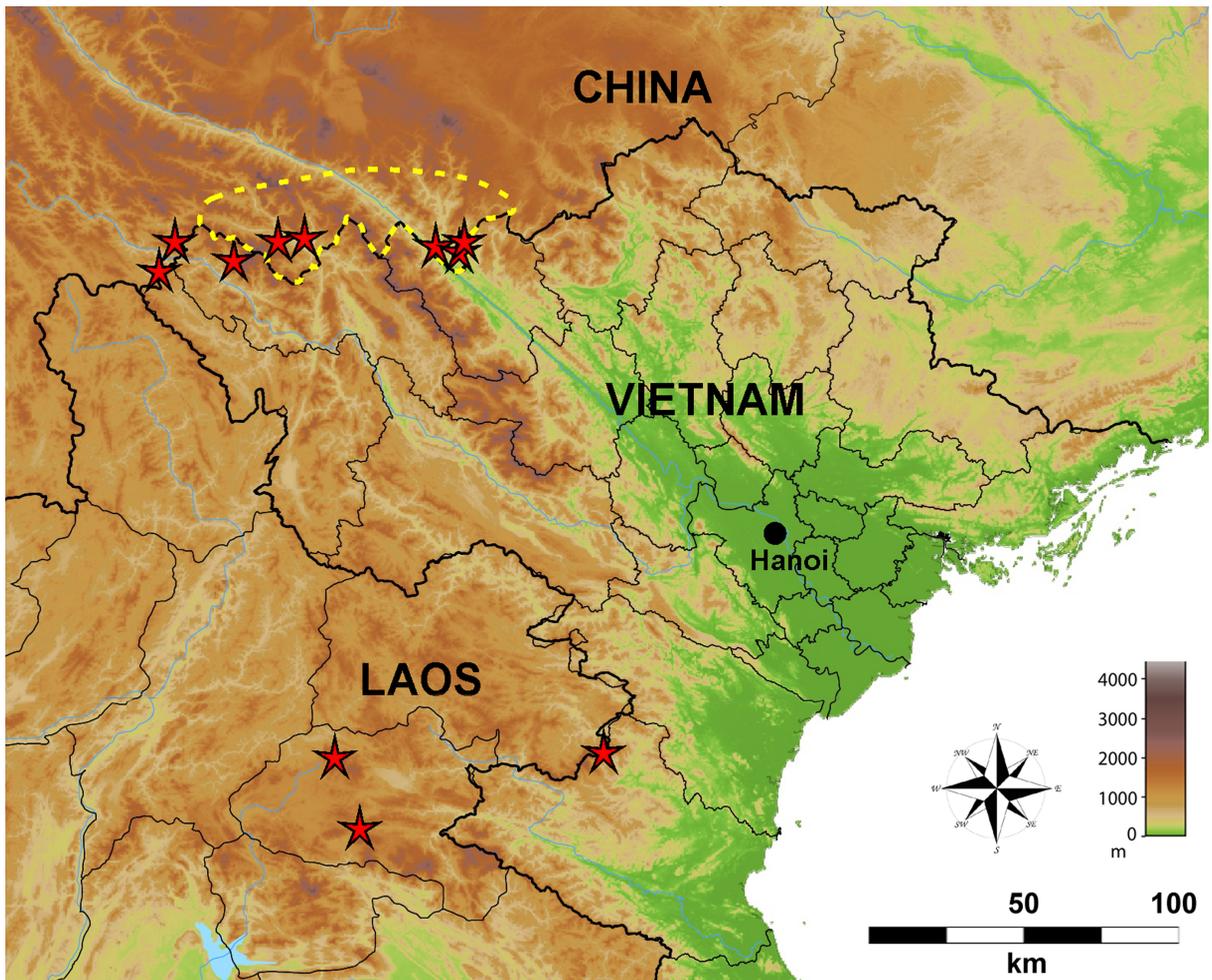


Fig. 4. Distribution map of *Henckelia longisepala* (H.W.Li) D.J.Middleton & Mich.Möller. Red stars indicate specimens cited in this study; yellow dashed line indicates approximate area inhabited by this species in China, according to Wang *et al.* (1998).

Kuznetsova 2168 (IBK, MW [MW0756077], SING [SING0283527]).

Conservation status: The Extent of Occurrence (EOO) and probable Area of Occupancy (AOO) are both greater than the limits of any of the threat categories and >10 populations are known to exist, even if the actual AOO is actually lower than our estimate and below the threshold for Vulnerable. Consequently, *H. longisepala* is assessed here as Least Concern (LC) (IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee, 2019). In Vietnam at the Pu Hoat Nature Reserve the species is common and the number of mature plants is estimated to be at least several hundreds. In Yunnan, however, *H. longisepala* has been listed amongst ‘Plant Species with Extremely Small Populations (PSESP)’ (Yang

& Yang, 2014), suggesting that it may require a national assessment in China in one of the threat categories.

Nomenclatural notes: The protologue of *Lysionotus longisepalus* (Li, 1983) contains a list of studied specimens, of which one collection (“*K.H. Tsai* [Cai] 464”) was indicated as “Typus!”. When he published the combination in *Hemiboeopsis*, Wang (1984) indicated a duplicate of this specimen at KUN as “holotypus” and another duplicate at PE as “isotypus”, which at that time met the conditions for effective lectotypification (Art. 7.11 of ICN, Turland *et al.*, 2018; see also McNeill, 2014). However, we have found that there are two specimens of the collection *K.H. Cai* 464 deposited in KUN (KUN1219162 and KUN1219165).

Wang's choice (1984) is a first-step lectotypification (Art. 9.17) and a second step is desirable. We have selected the specimen at KUN with barcode KUN1219162 as the lectotype in a second step because it is in better condition and better shows the salient characters of the species. The specimens at PE (PE00030765) and KUN (KUN1219165) are isolectotypes.

Notes on inflorescence bracts: *Henckelia longisepala* was previously described as having only two basal bracts in the cymes (Li, 1983; Wang, 1984; Wang *et al.*, 1998). This is consistent with the descriptions provided for other species of this genus, irrespective of the number of flowers in a cyme (e.g., Borah *et al.*, 2019; Cai *et al.*, 2019; Sirimongkol *et al.*, 2019; Yang *et al.*, 2019). According to Möller *et al.* (2018), it is also the most common condition for the family Gesneriaceae in general. In our investigation of *H. longisepala*, in contrast, each of the cyme branches (including the single lateral flowers) was found to be subtended by a bract (Figs. 1e, h, 2b). We suppose that the subtending bracts of the branches of higher order were overlooked in previous studies of *H. longisepala* because the basal bracts are most evident and easily observed. In fact, in angiosperms in general, the branching nearly always occurs in an axil of a phyllome, and thus one (in case of monochasial branching) or two (in case of dichasial branching) bracts are normally observed at each node of a cymose inflorescence (Endress, 2010). Examples of an apparent lack of a subtending phyllome are usually the result of phyllome reduction, whereby the reduced bracts can frequently be observed at early stages of inflorescence development. The latter phenomenon is perhaps characteristic of most Gesneriaceae.

Notes on variation in flower morphology: Observations conducted by one of the authors (MSN) in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve revealed that *H. longisepala* shows variation with respect to the relative position of the stigmas and the fertile anthers. The difference is most probably due to differences in the pistil length, whereas the fertile stamens within the two morphologies are of the same structure. In the short-styled flower (Figs. 2d, i, 3b, d, e), the stigmas

occupy a significantly more proximal position than the fertile anthers (behind them), being located approximately at the level of the vestigial anthers of the staminodes, while in the long-styled flower (Figs. 2e, h, 3a, c), the stigmas occupy a slightly more distal position than the fertile anthers (*i.e.*, in front of them). A possible explanation for the different floral morphologies is that the flowers are strongly protandrous and that the flowers have simply been observed at different stages of anthesis. Indeed, significant ovary and style elongation during anthesis is known in genera of Gesneriaceae other than *Henckelia*, particularly in species of *Aeschynanthus* Jack (Middleton, 2007) and *Oreocharis* Benth. (Möller *et al.*, 2018). Strong protandry is often associated with bird pollination in Gesneriaceae (Burt & Woods, 1975), although this would appear to be unlikely in *Oreocharis* and *H. longisepala* which otherwise have flowers typical for insect pollination. In our study, there did indeed appear to be some correlation between style length and the stage of anthesis of the flower as assessed by the appearance (freshness) of the corolla. However, in some cases, the short style morph was found in flowers with anthers which had dehisced some time before, which indicates that the possible pistil elongation takes place unusually long after the male stage of flowering is over (Fig. 3b). In *Aeschynanthus*, in contrast, the elongation of the style and ovary begins as soon as the stamens begin to wither and not after (*pers. obs.*, DJM). The differences between *Aeschynanthus* and *H. longisepala* would suggest that the great lengthening of the styles is not necessarily employed for the same reasons or at least that the relative timing of each stage is markedly different.

Variation in pistil length among flowers of a given species is known in angiosperms that possess such kinds of stylar polymorphism as stigma-height dimorphism and heterostyly. Heterostyly implies a difference between the floral morphs in the position not only of the stigmas, but also of the anthers, *i.e.*, stamen polymorphism as well as stylar polymorphism with opposite occurrence of short and long types of corresponding organs. Stylar polymorphism other than enantiostyly is quite rare in the family

Gesneriaceae and has so far only been reported for one New World genus, *Besleria* L. (Podolsky, 1993; Barrett *et al.*, 2000; Gao *et al.*, 2006; Möller *et al.*, 2019; Raju, 2019).

It is currently still unclear whether the polymorphism in *H. longisepala* is due to especially strong protandry or whether the species really possesses different floral morphs. A comprehensive study of the floral morphologies in *H. longisepala* is needed, including direct measurements of floral parts in a representative number of flowers and individuals, and observations on the dynamics of floral architecture from flower opening until withering. In particular, studies are lacking on the relative role of the various flower organs in pollination processes at the supposed different stages of anthesis. Finally, our results highlight the need for careful field studies and observations in other species of Gesneriaceae, particularly with regard to floral phenology and pollination.

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