

Two ginger species reported new to Myanmar

September 25 2019



Amomum erythranthum. Credit: TAN Yunhong

Zingiberaceae, the ginger family of flowering plants, consists of 53 genera and more than 1,377 species. *Amomum* is the second largest genus in the family *Zingiberaceae* with about 150–180 species.

During floristic surveys of northern Myanmar 2016-2018, researchers

from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) found some interesting specimens of *Amomum* in Putao, Kachin state.

Based on detailed examination of the morphological characters of the collected materials and possible closely similar [species](#), the researchers confirmed that the specimens of *Amomum* were new to science.

In a recent study published in *Phytotaxa*, the researchers reported two new ginger species (*Amomum erythranthum* and *Amomum ampliflorum*) and two new ginger records (*Amomum pauciflorum* and *Wurfbainia microcarpum*) for Flora of Myanmar for the first time.

Amomum erythranthum is morphologically similar to *A. subulatum* and *A. nimkeyense* in having similar yellow flowers, but can be distinguished by its reddish floral tube, red anther connective, red and pubescent fruit.

Amomum erythranthum grows in shaded places at an elevation of 900–1100 m in tropical montane [forest](#). It flowers in April–May.

Amomum ampliflorum is similar to *A. maximum*, *A. dealbatum* and *A. odontocarpum* in white flower, but differs in its longer inflorescence and much larger flower. It grows in shaded places at an elevation of 850–1000 m in tropical montane forest and [flowers](#) in April –May.



Amomum ampliflorum. Credit: TAN Yunhong



Amomum pauciflorum. Credit: TAN Yunhong



Wurfbainia microcarpum. Credit: TAN Yunhong

Amomum pauciflorum is morphologically similar to *A. subulatum*, but can be distinguished by its bracteoles open to base and not tubular, long calyx tube, long filament, obovate labellum with dentate apex, red anther connective and semi-lunar anther crest with dentate apex.

Wurfbainia microcarpa grows at the forest edge or roadside at an elevation of 500–800 m in tropical rain forests and tropical mountain forests. It has a very large extent of occurrence and is common, with no significant threats and is therefore assessed as Least Concern.

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Citation: Two ginger species reported new to Myanmar (2019, September 25) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-09-ginger-species-myanmar.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.