

Pellionia ronganensis sp. nov. (Urticaceae) from Guangxi, China

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Pellionia ronganensis sp. nov. (Urticaceae) is described and illustrated. *Pellionia ronganensis* resembles *P. incisoserrata* (H. Schroter) W. T. Wang, but is distinguished by leaves with obtuse theef, larger (6–10 mm long), linear stipules and tuberculate achenes.

The genus *Pellionia* Gaudich. is currently considered to consist of 70 species (Wang 1995), widely distributed in the tropical regions of Asia and Oceania, 24 species (Wang 1995) of which are found in China. In 2009, we collected a *Pellionia* specimen from the north of Guangxi, China. After thoroughly consulting the literature (Gagnepain 1929, Wang 1995, Lin et al. 2003), we consider it to represent a new species.

Pellionia ronganensis W. T. Wang and Y. G. Wei sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Species nova P. incisoserratae (H. Schroter) W. T. Wang, qua in Guangxi et Guangdong endemica, foliis penninerviibus et tepalis pistillatis persistentibus achenio brevioribus haud corniculatis affinis est; et ab ea foliis margine acute dentatis, stipulis minoribus subulatis 2 mm longis, acheniis lineolatis praeclare distinguitur.

Type: China. Guangxi province, Rongan county, Fushi town, Shangliuliao village, alt. 200 m a.s.l., 28 Apr 2009, Y. G. Wei 09185 (holotype: PE!, isotype: IBK!).

Perennial small herb, the entire plants more or less becoming black while dry. Rhizome irregularly tuberiform, ca 7 × 15 mm, Stems 1–2, arising from the top of the rhizome, slender, 7.5–15.5 cm tall, 0.8–1.0 mm in diameter near base, glabrous, simple, 4–7-leaved. Leaves sessile or subsessile, glabrous; blades herbaceous in texture, oblique, narrowly elliptic or ovate, 1.5–10 × 0.7–2.6 cm, long-acuminate or caudate-acuminate (the acumens entire and obtuse at apex, rarely slightly acute), obliquely cuneate at base, obtusely (rarely acutely) dentate at margin, cystoliths moderately dense, inconspicuous, rod-shaped, 0.10–0.25 (–0.30) mm long, venation pinnate with 4–8 pairs of lateral nerves; stipules linear, 6–10 × 1.2–1.6 mm,

inconspicuously 1-nerved. Pistillate cyme solitary axillary, about 5 mm wide, two times branched; peduncle flattened,

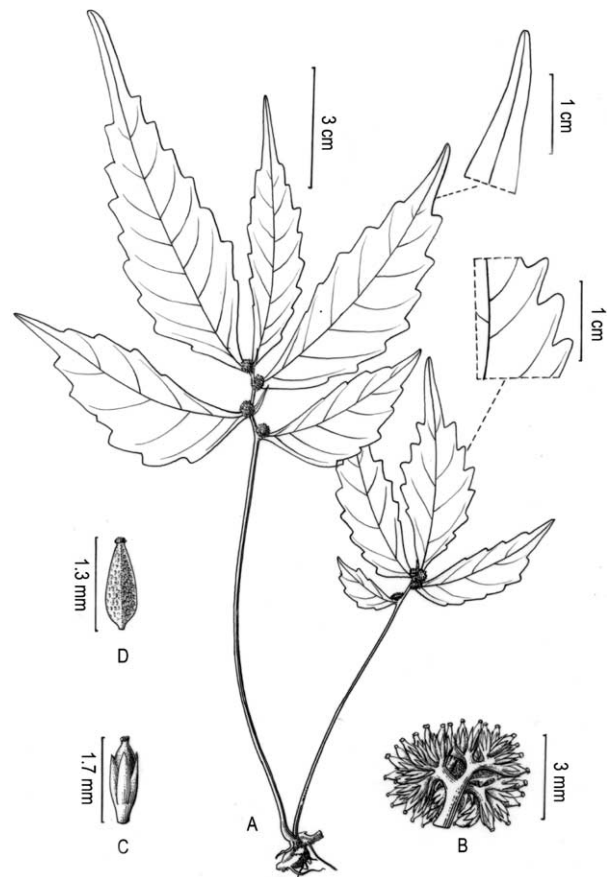


Figure 1. *Pellionia ronganensis* W. T. Wang & Y. G. Wei sp. nov. (A) habit, (B) fruiting, (C) persistent perianth and achene, (D) achene. Drawn by Ying-Bao Sun.

Table 1. Diagnostic characters of *Pellionia ronganensis* and *P. incisoserrata*.

| Characters | <i>P. ronganensis</i> | <i>P. incisoserrata</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Leaf margin | with obtuse teeth | with acute teeth |
| Stipules | linear, 6–10 mm long | subulate, 2 mm long |
| Achenes | verruculose | lineolate |

1.8 mm long, with very sparse hairs; bracts subulate, 0.4–1.0 mm long, glabrous. Achenes sessile, conferted at apex of inflorescence branches, narrowly-ovoid, about 1.2×0.5 – 0.6 mm, verruculose, persistent stigmas 0.1 mm long, persistent tepals 4 or 5, narrowly ovoid, 1.0 – 1.1×0.3 – 0.4 mm, at apex sparsely ciliolate or subglabrous. Flowering in April.

Distribution and ecology

Known only from Rongan in Guangxi province, China, growing on rocks in limestone hills at an altitude of 200 m a.s.l.

Pellionia ronganensis is very similar to *Pellionia incisoserrata* (H. Schroter) W. T. Wang, which is distributed in the Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, but the two species are morphologically distinct (Table 1).

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References

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