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***Arisaema lihengianum* (Araceae): A newly recorded from Vietnam**

Hoang Thanh Son*, Trinh Ngoc Bon, Nguyen Quang Hung, Pham Van Vinh, Pham Quang Tuyen

Silviculture Research Institute, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Vietnam

Email: hoangsonfsiv@gmail.com

Article Info

Received: 06-07-2015,

Revised: 17-09-2015,

Accepted: 19-09-2015

Keywords:

Arisaema lihengianum,

Araceae, new record, Na

Hang

Abstract

Arisaema lihengianum J. Murata & S. K. Wu, a previously known species only in China, is newly recorded from Vietnam. It is found in primary limestone forest in Na Hang Nature Reserve, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Arisaema* includes about 170 species (Gusman, 2001). They are distributed mainly in Asia and few species there are in East-Northern Africa and Northern America (Mayo, 1997). Before, this genus was recorded with 5 species belonging to 2 sections in Vietnam (Gagnepain, 1942; Ho, 1993). Recent studies (Truong 2013, 2014; Du, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005; Du and Boyce, 2005) have recorded 20 species of this genus known in Vietnam. All of them belong to 4 sections (Murata, 1984).

In the expeditions in Na Hang Nature Reserve (Tuyen Quang province), a species of *Arisaema* genus was collected. Through morphological analyses, we recognized that the characters of this species completely fit to the species *Arisaema lihengianum* J. Murata & S. K. Wu. This investigation surprised us because *Arisaema lihengianum* was an endemic species of China for long time but now it has been found in Northern Vietnam.

Arisaema lihengianum J. Murata & S. K. Wu, J. Jap. Bot. 78: 83 (2003) **Fig.1.**

Plants to 50-70 cm tall, monoecious or male. Rhizome creeping horizontally, purplish to brownish outside, red-purple or violet inside,

subcylindric, to 14 × ca. 3.5 cm, branching. Cataphylls to 25 cm, some encircling peduncle directly. Leaf 1, expanding simultaneously with inflorescence; petiole purplish brown to violet, mottled with green to 30 cm, lacking pseudostem; leaf blade 3-foliolate; petiolules 3.5-4 cm; leaflets subequal in size, to 20 × 15 cm; central leaflet oblong-elliptic, base rounded-cuneate, apex acuminate and caudate; lateral leaflets oblique. Peduncle 12-22 cm. Spathe tube white or pale green, narrowly funnelform, 5-6 × 8-10 cm when opened; limb proximal half white, distal half dark red-purple, narrowly deltoid to narrowly deltoid-ovate, 15-20 × 5-7 cm, apex acuminate. Spadix bisexual after sex change; female zone 20-30 × ca. 10 mm; female flowers green, bottle-shaped; male zone 10-20 × ca. 8 mm; male flowers basically white; appendix sessile, 15-18 cm, slender, exerted from throat of spathe and pendulous, proximally white, distally dark red-purple, throughout with numerous filiform neuter flowers 3-5cm.

Habitat: Primary and secondary board-leaved evergreen sub-mountain forest on very steep rocky of Na Hang Nature Reserve; 450-1000 m alt.

Distribution: Vietnam (Tuyen Quang), China (Gangxi and Yunan).

Phenology: Flowering, February - March; Fruiting, April – May.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Management Board of Na Hang Nature Reserve for their kind help in locating field surveys.

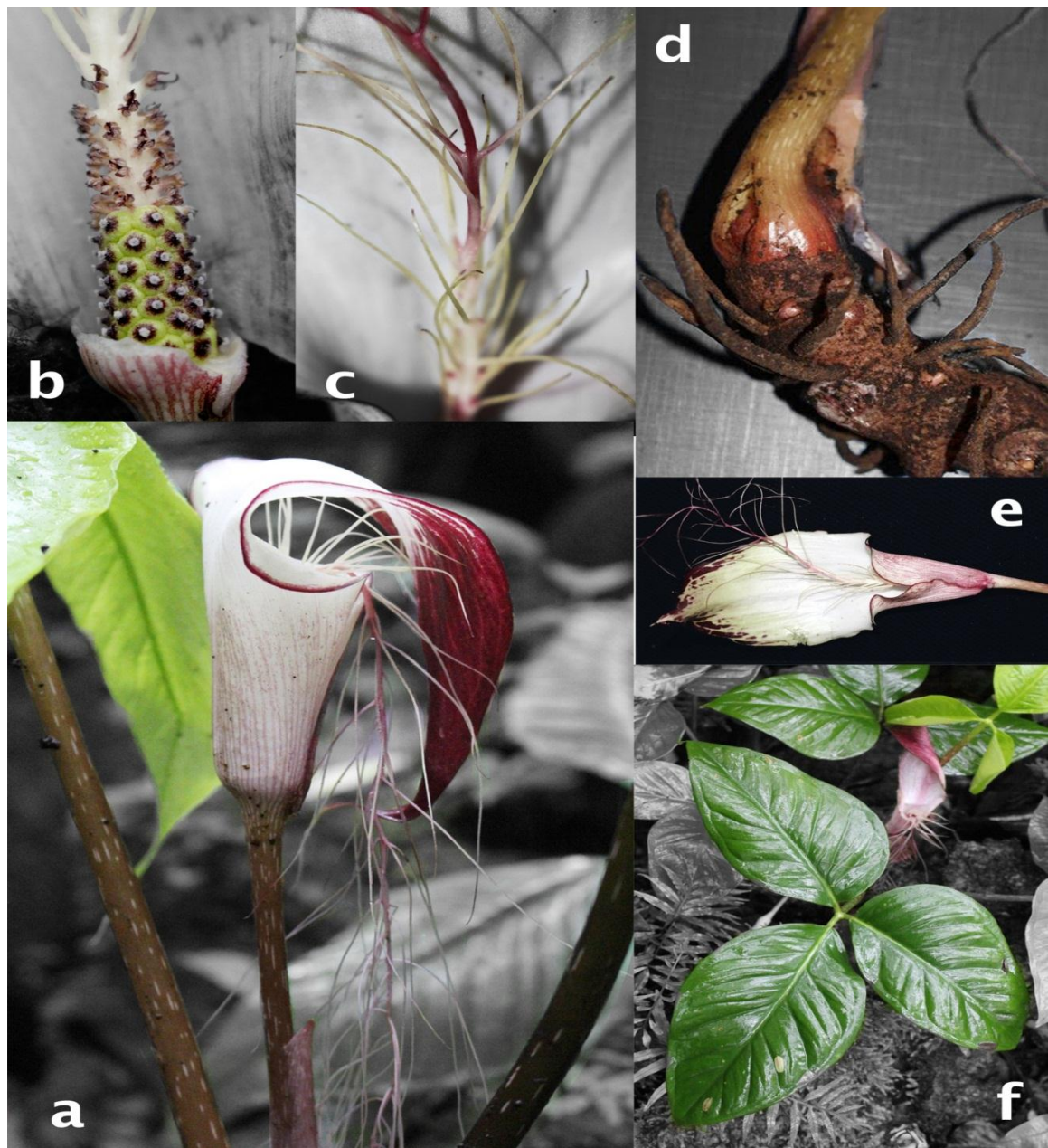


Fig. 1: *Arisaema lihengianum*- **a:** Flowering plant with tuber; **-b:** Bisexual spadix; **-c:** Filiform; **-d:** Rhizome; **-e:** Inflorescence; **-f:** Leaf blade.

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How to Cite this Article:

Hoang Thanh Son*, Trinh Ngoc Bon, Nguyen Quang Hung, Pham Van Vinh, Pham Quang Tuyen, 2015. *Arisaema lihengianum* (Araceae): A newly recorded from Vietnam. *Science Research Reporter*, 5(2):97-99.