

## A NEW SPECIES OF *HETEROSMILAX* FROM CHINA

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The new species *Heterosmilax longiflora* (Smilacaceae) belonging to section *Polyandrae* and known only from the male plant from Yunnan, China, is described and illustrated.

### ***Heterosmilax longiflora* K.Y. Guan & Noltie, sp. nov. Fig. 1.**

Species *H. polyandrae* affinis, sed perianthiis staminalibus longioribus, 11–20mm longis, filamentis longioribus,  $\frac{4}{5}$  supra basin conjunctis differt.

Climber; stems rigid, branching above, internodes 8–11cm long, 1–1.5mm thick, terete; flowering branches 5–7cm, internodes 2–3cm. Leaf blades lanceolate to ovate, 9–12 x 2.5–7.5cm, cordate to rounded at base, acuminate or acute at apex, herbaceous, thin, slightly shining above, margins weakly undulate; costae 7, median 3 slightly raised on underside, transverse veinlets very slender, conspicuous on underside; petioles 1–1.5cm, slender, subterete to laterally compressed; sheath 2–3mm with wings 0.5mm wide, herbaceous; tendrils 7–10 cm, slender. Staminate umbels solitary at nodes of branches, 15–30-flowered, peduncles 3.5–6.5 cm long, 0.5–1mm wide, compressed; receptacle 2–3.5mm diameter; pedicels 10–18mm. Staminate perianth 11–20mm long, 1.5–4mm wide at base, 0.6–1mm wide at apex, lanceolate-urceolate, gradually tapering from above base, apical orifice 3–6-lobed, lobes c.0.3–0.5mm, rounded. Stamens 12; column of filaments 2–3.5 mm, fused for lower  $\frac{4}{5}$ ; anthers 1–1.5 mm, ovoid. Female plants not known.

Type: China, Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna, Menglun, 23 v 1961, Y. H. Li 003287 (holo. KUN, iso. YUN).

Other specimens seen:

CHINA: Yunnan Province, I-wu, Henry 13458 (K, NY).

*Heterosmilax longiflora* is known only from the extreme southwest of Yunnan, close to the border with Burma and Laos where it occurs on forested hills. The type locality is situated c.50km to the west of the Henry locality.

This species is remarkable for having the largest flowers so far known in the genus. It is closely related to *H. polyandra* which, however, differs in having much smaller flowers (to 6mm long) and a much shorter column of filaments (under 1mm) which are not free in their upper  $\frac{1}{5}$ . Koyama (1984) examined the Henry collection cited above and concluded that the large flowers were abnormal and due to a fungal infection. This

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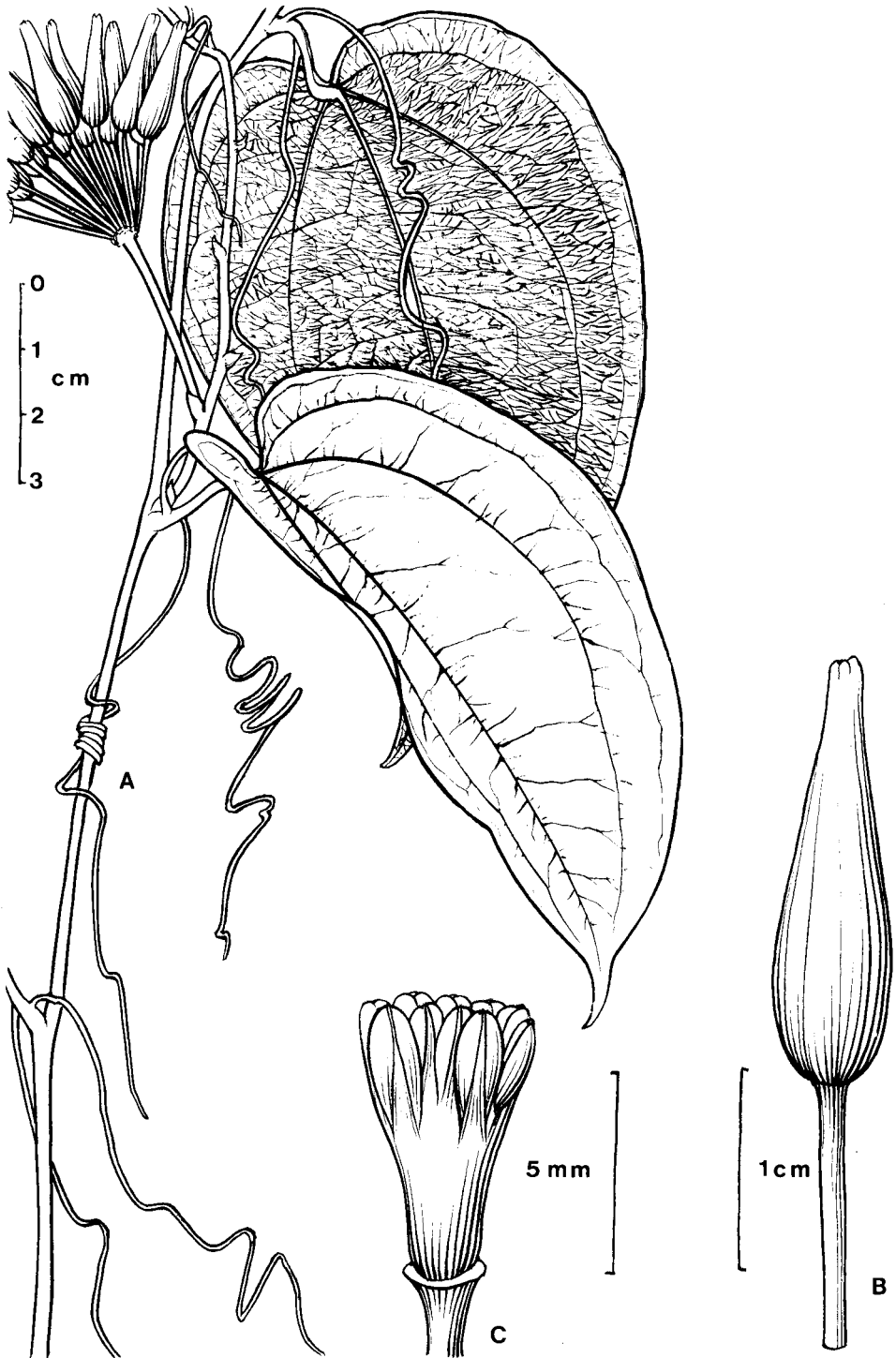


FIG. 1. *Heterosmilax longiflora*. A, habit; B, staminate perianth; C, stamens showing partly fused column of filaments.

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appears not to be the case and having seen further, more recently collected material we can be sure that this represents a new and distinctive taxon.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### REFERENCE

KOYAMA, T. (1984). A taxonomic revision of the genus *Heterosmilax* (Smilacaceae). *Brittonia* 36: 184–205.