

***RHODODENDRON CHILANSHANENSE***  
**(*ERICACEAE*), A NEW SPECIES FROM TAIWAN**

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*Rhododendron chilanshanense*, a new species of *Rhododendron* subgenus *Tsutsusi* sect. *Brachycalyx*, is described from Taiwan. It is distinguished from closely related species by its leaves scattered along the upper branchlets and the stipitate glands on both the floral and vegetative parts.

*Keywords.* Alternate leaf arrangement, new species of *Rhododendron*, stipitate glands, subgenus *Tsutsusi* section *Brachycalyx*.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of a detailed investigation of flowering plants grown under the name ‘*Rhododendron lasiostylum*’, originally collected by A.S. Kirkham and M. Flanagan in Taiwan, I found that the material is recognizable as a new species. It shares characteristics of subgenus *Tsutsusi* sect. *Brachycalyx*, such as a mixed bud (vegetative buds and inflorescence enclosed within the same bud scales), monomorphic and deciduous leaves, and lack of flattened strigose hairs on young shoots (Chamberlain & Rae, 1990).

***Rhododendron chilanshanense* Kurashige, sp. nov. Fig. 1.**

Affine *Rhododendro mariesio* Hemsl. & Wilson, sed ramulusis et stylusis glanduliferis, stamibus 8–10 et inaequalis longitudinae et foliis alternatis differt.

Loosely branched, deciduous shrub to 2m tall. *Branchlets* viscid, covered with adpressed light brownish filiform hairs intermixed with short-stalked stipitate glands. *Older branches* sparsely pubescent, glandular. *Leaves* monomorphic, chartaceous, deciduous, loosely pseudovercillate of 5–8 at anthesis, scattered along the upper branchlets later. Leaf blade ovate-lanceolate, variable in size, 3–8 × 1.2–3.5cm; the apex acute and terminating into a gland, cuneate at base; the margin minutely ciliate-dentate; midvein impressed below; lateral veins 4–5 per side; upper surface light green, covered with adpressed light brownish villose hairs, also with stipitate glands; lower surface pale green, sparsely glandular, pubescent mainly on midrib. *Petioles* 7–11 × 1mm, covered with light brownish hairs that are 1–2mm long and glands, both continuing from the leaf blade, especially on upper side. *Flower bud* terminal, solitary, 1.2 × 8mm, ovate, vegetative buds enclosed; outer bud scales broadly ovate, 7 × 5mm, the margin glandular, with dense villose hairs mainly on central part, also

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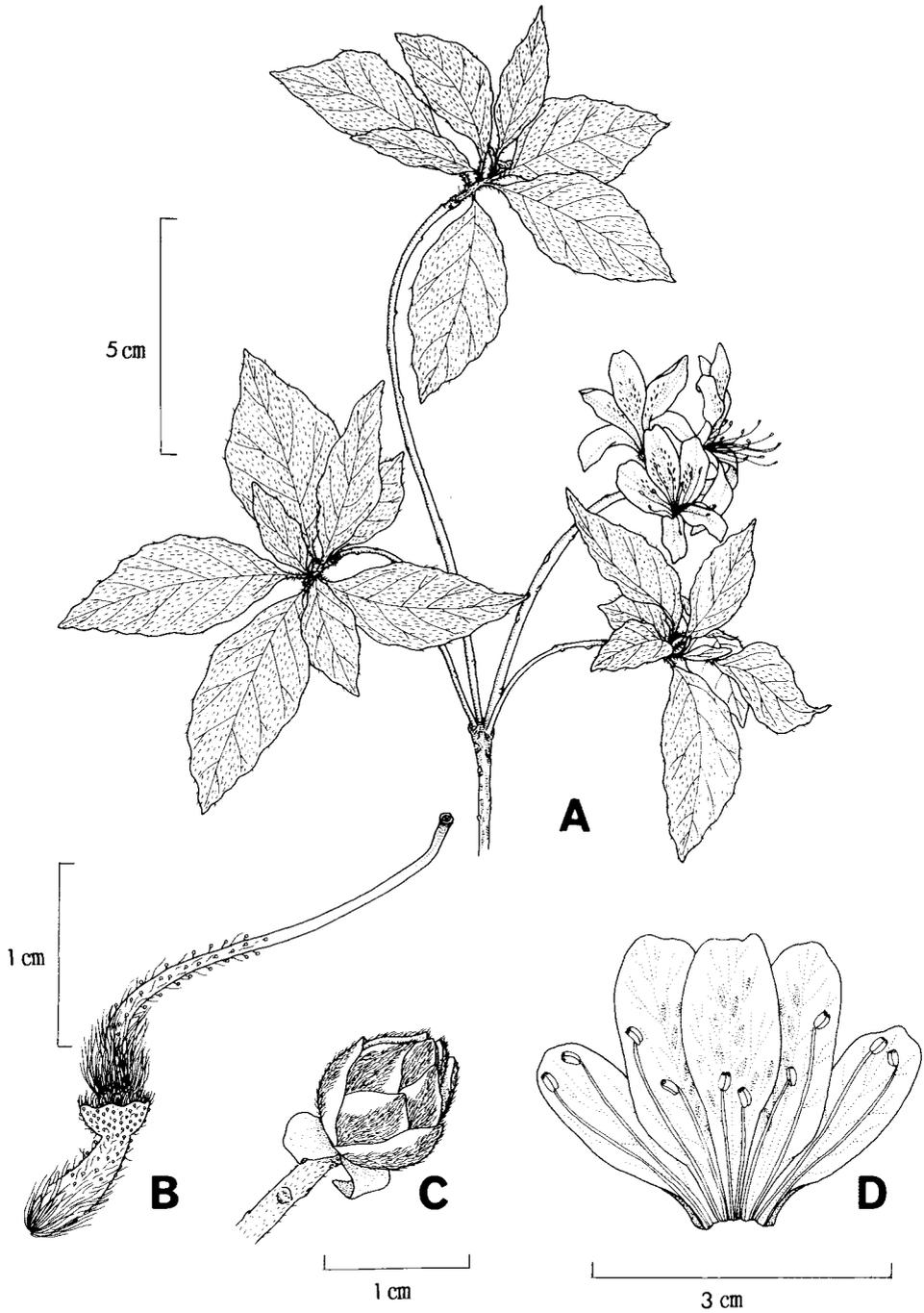


FIG. 1. *Rhododendron chilanshanense* Kurashige. A, habit; B, gynoecium; C, inflorescence bud; D, corolla with stamens. Drawn from ETOT 136 by F. Endo.

with glands abaxially, with viscid glands adaxially. *Inflorescence* a terminal umbel of 2–3 flowers, opening after the leaves. *Pedicels* at anthesis, 5–7mm long, green, densely glandular, with curved whitish hairs of c.1mm long, especially on lower part. *Calyx* minutely 5-lobed, 3–3.5mm wide, sparsely villose, densely glandular, densely villose on margins. *Corolla* broadly funnel-shaped, deep reddish purple (RHS Colour Chart 1995: 61B, 64D) with dark purple spots on upper three lobes, 3 × 3.5cm, glabrous on both surfaces; tube 7–8mm long; lobes oblong, 2.3–2.7 × 7–8mm; lower two corolla lobes divided nearly at the base. *Stamens* 8–10, filaments unequal, 1–2.2cm, pale reddish purple, glabrous; anthers c.2 × 1mm, dark purplish brown. *Ovary* ovate, 5 × 3mm, with dense whitish villose hairs, glandular; style 2–2.1mm long, pale reddish purple, with glands intermixed with sparse whitish hairs of 1mm long on lower half. *Mature fruit* not seen.

Type: Taiwan. Summit of Mt Chilanshan, Taipei County (24°41'N, 121°40'E) at 1700m altitude, ETOT 136 (the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Expedition to Taiwan 1992), 22 October 1992 (holo.: K; iso.: TAIF). Collected by A.S. Kirkham and M. Flanagan under the aegis of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute. In clearing at the edge of *Chamaecyparis formosensis* woodland, in rich understory vegetation with *Viburnum furcatum*, *Trochodendron aralioides*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, and *Pieris japonica*. On a north-west facing slope in light shade. Wet though free draining, rocky substrate with localized pockets of organic detritus (RBG Kew living collection records 1992). Additional collection: Taiwan. Lake Yuanyanghu Natural Preserved Area, Chienshih Hsiang, Hsinchu Hsien (24°34'16"N, 121°24'37"E) at c.1670m, 8 v 1995, *Hsiao-Ying Shen* 756 (E ex HAST). Along the trail of the lake. Broad-leaved and *Chamaecyparis* mixed forest, mosses and liverworts abundant. On exposed trail-side slope.

Etymology: The specific epithet is derived from Mt Chilanshan, Taiwan where this species was found.

*Rhododendron chilanshanense* bears some resemblance to *R. mariesii* Hemsl. & Wilson from south-eastern China and Taiwan (Chamberlain & Rae, 1990: 144) sharing the ovate-lanceolate leaves broadest below middle and other characteristics with this species, but the former has the following distinctive characters: (1) 5–8, loosely pseudovercillate leaves that are scattered along the upper branchlet later; (2) stipitate glands on both the floral and vegetative parts; (3) stamens fewer in number (8–10) and filaments of unequal length; and (4) flowers appearing after the leaves. This phyllotaxis type, which characterizes sect. *Tsutsusi*, is unknown in sect. *Brachycalyx*, thus this shared character indicates a close relationship between *R. chilanshanense* and species within sect. *Tsutsusi*. Of other closely related species: *R. wadanum* Makino shares the stipitate-glandular styles, but it is distinguished by its styles lacking sparse hairs, 1–2-flowered inflorescence, rhombate leaves, and vegetative organs without stipitate glands; *R. dilatatum* Miq. is quite distinct in its glabrous styles, five stamens, and rhombate leaves; *R. weyrichii* Maxim. has the glabrous or pubescent styles without stipitate glands, a vermilion corolla, and wider leaves (up to 6cm).

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