

Meconopsis wilsonii subsp. *wilsonii* (Papaveraceae) Rediscovered*

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Abstract: Field studies in the Lamagetou Nature Reserve, Mianning Xian, Sichuan Province, in the summer of 2005 revealed a particularly rich and diverse flora. One particularly noteworthy plant growing in openings in the forest, at woodland margins and on exposed slopes, was the recently described *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *wilsonii* (Papaveraceae), a species previously known only from the type collection and last collected in 1908, nearly 100 years ago.

Key words: Papaveraceae; *Meconopsis*; *Meconopsis wilsonii*; Rediscovered; Sichuan

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Field studies in the Lamagetou Nature Reserve, Mianning Xian, Sichuan Province, in the summer of 2005 revealed a particularly rich and diverse flora. The vegetation in the area comprises thickets and forests of mixed shrubs (*Salix*, *Lonicera*, *Rhododendron*) and trees (*Abies*, *Picea*, *Acer*, *Prunus*) in ravines and on mountain slopes and interspersed meadow-shrub clearings on broader, more level sites. One particularly noteworthy plant growing in openings in the forest, at woodland margins and on exposed slopes was the recently described *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *wilsonii* (Papaveraceae) (Grey-Wilson, 2006). The last and only other collection of *M. wilsonii* subsp. *wilsonii* was made nearly 100 years ago, in 1908. Because of the wide horticultural and taxonomic interests in *Meconopsis* we wish to make our discovery known.

Meconopsis wilsonii had previously been included within a widespread and highly diverse *M. napaulensis* until Grey-Wilson's (2006) careful study brought to light the differences that separate the various elements. *Meconopsis napaulensis* is restricted to central Nepal and most conspicuously differs from *M. wilsonii* by having yellow petals; Grey-Wilson (2006) reports *M. wilsonii* to have "flowers wine-purple to purple or crimson." Our collections were recorded as having bluish purple petals.

Meconopsis wilsonii comprises two subspecies,

which are separated by Grey-Wilson (2006) using the following key characters:

Basal and lower leaves with 6 - 8 pairs of primary segments, middle and upper cauline leaves and bracts deeply divided, with 6 - 8 pairs of segments; hairs of peduncle and pedicel ascending to subappressed (Sichuan plants)

..... **subsp. *wilsonii*** (Figs . 1 - 3)

Basal and lower leaves with 4 or 5 pairs of primary segments, middle and upper cauline leaves and bracts shallowly divided, with 3 - 5 pairs of segments; hairs of peduncle and pedicel patent (plants of Yunnan and Myanmar)

..... **subsp. *australis*** (Figs . 4 - 6)

Grey-Wilson's description of *Meconopsis wilsonii*, with which we agree, states "... generally a large and rather coarse plant with handsome rather greyish or bluish-green leaf rosettes. It is very distinctive in flower with its erect to sharply ascending, rather short branches which give the whole inflorescence a narrow 'fastigate' appearance." He (Grey-Wilson, 2006) further states that the species is the only member of subsection *Eupolychaetia* to be found in China. *Meconopsis wilsonii* exhibits a disjunct distribution, with subsp. *wilsonii* restricted to western Sichuan and subsp. *australis* occurring in western Yunnan and northernmost Myanmar. Subspecies *australis* has been collected a number of times, but subspecies *wilsonii* was known only from the type specimens collected in 1908, in Sichuan, south of Moupin (now Baoxing).

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Fig. 1 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *wilsonii*. Habit. Sichuan Province, Mianning Xian; Lamagetou Nature Reserve. Growing with purple flowered *Pedicularis rex* C. B. Clarke ex Maxim. Photo; Hang Sun, 2005.



Fig. 2 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *wilsonii*. Upper leaves and inflorescence. Photo; Hang Sun, 2005.



Fig. 3 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *wilsonii*. Flowers. Photo; Hang Sun, 2005.



Fig. 4 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *australis* Grey-Wilson. Habit. Yunnan, Yangbi Xian, Cang Shan, 3 150-3 300 m, roughly 25.45°N, 100.03°E. Photo; Toshio Yoshida, 15 June 2006.



Fig. 5 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *australis* Grey-Wilson, Inflorescence. Yunnan, Yangbi Xian, Cang Shan, 3 150-3 300 m, roughly 25.45°N, 100.03°E. Photo; Toshio Yoshida, 15 June 2006.



Fig. 6 *Meconopsis wilsonii* Grey-Wilson subsp. *australis* Grey-Wilson. Flower. Yunnan, Yangbi Xian, Cang Shan, 3 150-3 300 m, roughly 25.45°N, 100.03°E. Photo; Toshio Yoshida, 15 June 2006.

The site of our collection, Sichuan Province, Mianning Xian: Lamagetou Nature Reserve. Niuchang, upstream from Yele Dam (Yele Xiang, above Liziping

Xiang) . 28°57'36" N, 102°6'13" E. Elevation 3800 - 4000 m D . E . Boufford, J . H . Chen, K . Fujikawa, S . L . Kelley, R . H . Ree, H . Sun, J . P . Yue, D . C .

Zhang & Y . H . Zhang 32733 (A, CAS, KUN, TI), distributed as *M. napaulensis*, is about 180 km in a straight line SSW of the type locality at Baoxing .

Associated plants can be found on the Hengduan Biodiversity web site at http://hengduan.huh.harvard.edu/fieldnotes/localities/locality_detail.zpt?locality_id=679

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资讯

《丽江高山植物园种子植物名录》一书已出版

由中国科学院昆明植物研究所王红、张长芹、李德铎等研究员编著的《丽江高山植物园种子植物名录》一书已于2007年3月由云南出版集团公司和云南科技出版社出版。该书是作者们多年来对丽江高山植物园及玉龙雪山地区种子植物进行采集及调查研究，并对历史上关于该地区植物的资料进行系统收集整理的成果，是自2000年丽江高山植物园复建以来关于该园及邻近地区最完整的种子植物名录。该书较为详尽地记录了丽江高山植物园所在的丽江玉龙雪山及其邻近地区的种子植物，包括157科、701属、2322种及235亚种或变种，每种包括中文名、拉丁学名及在该地区的分布地点、海拔和生境、凭证标本以及国内外分布情况等。该书可供植物学工作者、大专院校师生以及生物多样性、自然保护和植物资源开发等相关部门的工作者参考。全书共计655页688000字，定价88元。需要者请与昆明植物研究所标本馆王静华女士联系。

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Checklist of Seed Plants of Lijiang Alpine Botanical Garden is Published

A book titled "Checklist of Seed Plants of Lijiang Alpine Botanical Garden" (in Chinese, with latin names) was published in March 2007 by Yunnan News & Publishing Group and Yunnan Science and Technology Press . The book is the outcome of the authors' long-term collection and study on the seed plants in the region of Lijiang Alpine Botanical Garden and its neighbouring area, and the result of their literatures searching and specimens checking about the region . It is the most complete checklist of seed plants of the Botanical Garden since it was rebuilt from 2000 . The book records in detail the seed plants in the Botanical Garden and its neighbouring area, including 2322 species (containing 235 sub-species/varieties) of 701 genera in 157 families, and each species includes its Chinese name, latin name, localities in the Botanical Garden and the neighbouring area, habitat and altitude, vouchers, and finally its distribution in China and in the world . It is a good reference book for botanists, teachers and students in universities and colleges, and people doing work on biodiversity, natural reserve and plant resource . It includes 68, 8000 words and 655 pages, at the price of ¥88 .

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