



Munronia petiolata (Meliaceae), a new species from Vietnam

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Key words

Meliaceae
Munronia
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Vietnam

Abstract The genus *Munronia* (Meliaceae) is briefly reviewed and its representation in Vietnam discussed. In consequence a new species, *Munronia petiolata*, is described; so far known only from Ha Long Bay, it is distinct from all known simple-leaved species, most strikingly, in its long petioles.

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INTRODUCTION

Munronia Wight (Meliaceae), a genus commemorating William Munro (1818–1880, British army general and plant-collector, some time stationed in India (Mabberley 2013)), currently comprises four species of shrublets restricted to the Indomalayan and tropical Chinese regions (Mabberley 2014: 562). The genus was reviewed by Pennington in Pennington & Styles (1975: 452–454) and Mabberley (2011), the most recent revision being that of Harms (1940).

Although, according to IPNI, 24 binomials referable to *Munronia*, are in the literature, one of these refers to a species of *Meliosma* Blume (Sabiaceae) and most of the other names are now considered synonyms of *Munronia pinnata* (Wall.) W.Theob. or *M. unifoliolata* Oliv., both of which species are widespread in the region.

To the west, there is just *M. pinnata* from Sri Lanka and India (Mabberley 1995b); to the east, only three species – *M. pinnata*, *M. humilis* Harms and *M. breviflora* (Ridl.) Muellner & Mabb. – from Malesia (Mabberley 1995a, Muellner & Mabberley 2008, Mabberley 2013); and to the north, just two – *M. pinnata* (the recently described *M. yinggelingsensis* R.J.Zhang et al. probably being referable to this variable widespread species) and *M. unifoliolata* – from China (Peng & Mabberley 2008). Representation in the central part of the distribution of the genus is less well understood (but see Pellegrin 1911, 1950) though currently for Vietnam only the two species also known from China are recognized as native (Pham 2000).

Very recently, however, a very distinctive plant, notable for its overall size and very long petioles, has been found by the first author on limestone islands in Ha Long Bay, North Vietnam, and we therefore describe it as a new species below.

MUNRONIA IN VIETNAM

The genus *Munronia* is now known to be represented in Vietnam by three species, which can be keyed out as follows:

1. Leaves imparipinnate. *M. pinnata*
1. Leaves simple 2

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2. Plants 10–20 cm tall. Petiole 0.8–2(–3) cm long; lamina 2.5–6(–12) by 1–2 cm. Thyrses with 1–3 flowers; pedicel (3–)5–10 mm long, without articulation or bracteoles. Seeds black *M. unifoliolata*
2. Plants 30–60 cm tall. Petiole 2–4.5 cm long; lamina 8.5–17.5 by 2.5–3.3 cm. Thyrses with 3–5 flowers; pedicel 10–15 mm long, articulated, bracteolate. Seeds yellowish. *M. petiolata*

Munronia petiolata N.T.Cuong, D.T.Hoan & Mabb., sp. nov.
— Fig. 1

Type. N.T. Cuong 301 (holotypus HN; isotypus HN, NY), Vietnam, Quang Ninh province, Ha Long Bay, Bo Hon Island (N20°48'18.6" E107°07'14.1"), 17 July 2014.

Shrublet 30–60 cm tall. *Stem* weakly branched; branches pubescent with simple and 3–5-branched stellate hairs to glabrescent. *Leaves* in spirals, clustered near branch apices, simple; petiole 2–4.5 cm, puberulent; lamina lanceolate or oblong-elliptic, 8.5–17.5 by 2.5–3.3 cm, membranous, abaxially puberulent along midvein and lateral veins, adaxially glabrous or sometimes sparsely pubescent along midvein, lateral veins 6–12 on each side, base cuneate or rounded, margin entire, apex acute, acuminate to caudate. *Thyrses* subterminal and axillary on apical part of branches, 3–5 cm long, with 3–5 flowers, pubescent; peduncle 1–2 cm long, pedicel 1–1.5 cm long, articulated; bracts linear, 1–2 mm long, accrescent to 5–6 mm in young fruits, pubescent. *Calyx* pubescent; lobes linear to elliptic, 2–3 mm long, free, apex rotund to weakly acuminate. *Corolla* white, 2–3 cm long; tube slender, 1.5–2 cm long; lobes obovate, oblanceolate, or elliptic, 12–15 by 5–7 mm, apex acute to rounded. *Staminal tube* exerted from corolla tube, glabrous; lobes linear, 1.5–2 mm long, apically bifid; anthers elliptic or ovate, 1.5–2 mm long, lanulose with simple hairs, apex acute to mucronate. *Ovary* subglobose, puberulent; style linear, slightly exerted from staminal tube; stigma 0.5 mm diam. *Capsule* 1–1.2 cm diam, depressed globose to pyriform, 4-lobed and -ribbed externally, pubescent; 4 locules, each locule with 1–2 seeds. *Seeds* yellowish, ovoid, 4–6 mm long, smooth, adaxially concave.

Flowering & Fruiting — June to September.

Distribution & Habitat — Apparently restricted to the islands of Bo Hon, Hang Luon and Cat Lan in Ha Long Bay, Quang Ninh province, Vietnam. It was found growing in crevices of rocks and cliffs on limestone with *Dracaena cambodiana* Pierre ex



Fig. 1 *Munronia petiolata* N.T.Cuong, D.T.Hoan & Mabb. a. Branch bearing inflorescences and infructescences; b. detail of apical bud of the shoot; c. detail of leaf; d. stellate hairs in fruit; e. bud; f. corolla lobes and staminal tube; g. detail of androecium apex with style; h. ovary and style; i. capsule; j. seed (dorsal); k. seed (ventral) (all: N.T. Cuong 302, HN). — Scale bars: a = 2 cm; b, c, e, i = 1 cm; d = 1 mm; f = 1.5 cm; g = 5 mm; h = 2 mm; j, k = 6 mm. Drawn by L.K. Chi.

Gagnep., *Pterospermum truncatolobatum* Gagnep., *Sterculia lanceolata* Cav., *Bauhinia ornata* Kurz, *Glochidion ellipticum* Wight, *Buxus latistyla* Gagnep., *Pistacia weinmanniifolia* J. Poiss. ex Franch. and *Schefflera alongensis* R. Vig.

Conservation status — *Munronia petiolata* is known only from three limestone islands in Ha Long Bay, North Vietnam, where its distribution covers over 434 km². The numbers of plants in the populations and their phenology have so far not been investigated. More research is needed so the species has to be regarded as Not Evaluated (NE) in the threat categories of IUCN (2012).

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