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**Faberia pinnatifida** (Asteraceae; Cichorieae), a New Species from Sichuan, China

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**Abstract**—*Faberia pinnatifida* (Asteraceae; Cichorieae), a species occurring at high altitudes in Muli and Yanyuan Xian, Sichuan, China, is described as new based on morphological, palynological, and molecular phylogenetic data. The ITS data indicate that *F. pinnatifida* is closely related to *F. glaucescens* and *F. ilhetica*; but it is easily distinguished from *F. glaucescens* by its scapigerous stem with only one or two leaves, and from *F. ilhetica* in its much taller stature and elliptic to oblanceolate leaf blade. *Faberia pinnatifida* somewhat resembles *F. ceterach* in the scapigerous stem and pinnatifid leaves, but readily differs in its corymbiform synflorescence and nodding capitula bearing ca. 30 florets.

**Keywords**—Phylogeny, taxonomy.

During field studies on Huolu Shan, Yanyuan Xian, Sichuan, in August 2010, an interesting plant was collected on scree slopes and in meadows around the summit of the mountain. One more population of the same species was discovered in August 2015 at the pass between Muli and Yanyuan in Muli Xian during a botanical expedition for the Pan Himalaya Flora project (FLPH). These plants have latex, lyrate pinnatifid to pinnatifid leaves, and nodding capitula with purplish blue ligulate florets (Fig. 1), obviously belonging to tribe Cichorieae. At first glance, the plants in question resembled members of *Dubyaea* Candolle or *Faberia* Hemsley because of the purplish blue florets and phyllaries in several series gradually longer centripetally (Fig. 1C). The phyllaries of species of *Dubyaea* usually have stiff, yellowish brown, brownish, or blackish hairs, whereas those of *Faberia* are glabrous. Our plants have glabrous phyllaries (Fig. 1C) and are thus more similar to *Faberia*.

*Faberia*, as most recently circumscribed, includes eight species in central and southwestern China (Shih and Kilian 2011; Liu et al. 2013). Karyological, palynological, and molecular phylogenetic data indicate that *Faberia* may have originated via hybridization and subsequent polyplidization between a member of Lactucinae with *x* = 9 and a member of Cripedinia with *x* = 8, and is well recognized by *x* = 17 and larger, 4-porate pollen grains (Liu et al. 2013). As recognition of natural groups within Cichorieae is rather difficult due to the lack of clear diagnostic morphological features and extensive parallel evolution (Kilian et al. 2009), we applied palynological and molecular phylogenetic data to test the generic affiliation of these plants. The pollen morphology of these and five additional species of *Faberia* were examined, and two datasets (nrITS and plastid) published in a previous study of *Faberia* were adopted to elucidate the phylogenetic relationships. Results are presented below along with the description of this new species, *F. pinnatifida*.

**Materials and Methods**

**Pollen Morphology**—Pollen morphology of five species of *Faberia* and *F. pinnatifida* was examined using scanning electron microscopy. The source of the materials is given in Table 1. Pollen removed from mature florets was directly mounted onto stubs. Samples were sputter-coated with gold and then examined with a JSM-6360LV scanning electron microscope.

**Taxon Sampling, DNA Extraction, PCR Amplification, and Sequencing**—To test the phylogenetic position of *Faberia pinnatifida*, the ITS and cpDNA (*matK*, *psbA-trnH*, *rbcL*, and *trnL-F*) datasets from a previous phylogenetic study of *Faberia* (Liu et al. 2013) were adopted. The two datasets, exactly paralleling each other, contained 44 published accessions and the newly obtained sequences of *F. pinnatifida*, with *Hieracium umbellatum* L. chosen as outgroup. The leaves set to (*F*), the voucher was collected from Huolu Shan, Yanyuan Xian, Sichuan Province. Total DNA was extracted from silica-gel dried leaves using the modified CTAB procedure (Dole and Doyle 1987). Nuclear ITS, plastid *matK*, *psbA-trnH*, *rbcL*, and *trnL-F* were amplified and sequenced for *F. pinnatifida* using five pairs of primers, namely ITS5 and ITS4 (White et al. 1990), 3F-KIM (CGTACAGTACTTTTGTGTTTACGAG) and 1R-KIM (ACCCAGTCATCTGGAATCTTGTGTC) (Ki-Joong Kim, unpubl. data), psbA(F) and trnH(R) (Kim et al. 1999), rbl1-F and rcl724R (Fay et al. 1997), and tab-c and tab-f (Taberlet et al. 1991), following the same procedure described in Liu et al. (2013). GenBank accession numbers for all sequences used are given in Appendix 1, and the data used for phylogenetic analysis is available in Dryad (Liu et al. 2018). Voucher specimens of the new species are deposited in the Herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum (A), the Herbarium of the Kunming Institute of Botany (KUN), and the Herbarium of Sun Yat-sen University (SYS). For generic circumscription and species treatment within Cichorieae, we followed Kilian et al. (2009) and Shih and Kilian (2011).

**Phylogenetic Analysis**—As the possible hybrid origin of *Faberia* resulted in strong incongruence between nuclear and chloroplast DNA data (Liu et al. 2013), we analyzed the ITS and combined cpDNA datasets separately. Bayesian inference (BI), maximum parsimony (MP), and maximum likelihood (ML) methods for phylogenetic estimation were conducted using MrBayes v. 3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001), PAUP* v. 4b10 (Swoford 2003), and PhyML v. 3.0 (Guindon and Gascuel 2003), respectively. Gaps were treated as missing data in a conservative approach. Datasets were analyzed in MrModeltest v. 2.2 (Nylander 2004) and Modeltest v. 3.0.11 (Guindon and Gascuel 2003; Posada 2008) to select the evolutionary models for BI and ML analyses, respectively. The GTR + G and GTR + I + G models were used for the BI analysis of ITS and cpDNA datasets, respectively. Markov Chain Monte Carlo analyses (MCMC) were performed with four simultaneous chains of 2,000,000 generations sampling one tree every 100 generations. We verified that the average deviation of split frequencies had reached a value below 0.01. Trees that preceded the stabilization of the same likelihood value found in all four chains (the burn-in) were discarded, and the remaining trees were used to construct a 50% majority-rule consensus tree with Bayesian posterior probabilities. For maximum parsimony analyses, heuristic searches were performed using 1000 random additions of taxa, the BEST trees option, and tree-bisection-reconnection (TBR) branch swapping algorithm. The trees were evaluated by bootstrap analysis with 500 replicates of 1000 random additions. For maximum likelihood analyses, the models selected for the ITS data set were SYM + 1 + G (AIC) and SYM + G (BC), those selected for the cpDNA dataset were GTR + I + G (AIC) and TPM1uf + 1 + G (BC). Models chosen by the two criteria were used separately for both datasets. The BEST tree topology search option was selected, with five random starting trees. Non-parametric bootstrap values were computed with 100 replicates to evaluate the trees.

**Results**

**Pollen Morphology**—As shown in Fig. 2, the pollen grains of *Faberia caverlareli* H. Lév., *F. faberi* (Hems.) N.
Kilian, Z.H. Wang & J.W. Zhang, *F. nanchuanensis* C. Shih, *F. sinensis* Hemsl., *F. thibetica* (Franch.) Beauverd, and *F. pinnatifida* were all spherical, echinolophate, and 4-porate with four poral, eight abporal, and eight paraporal lacunae.

**Phylogenetic Analysis**—The aligned matrix contained 605 characters in the ITS dataset and 2963 in the combined cpDNA dataset. Trees generated by the Bayesian, maximum parsimony, and maximum likelihood analyses of the same dataset had almost identical overall topologies. Only the 50%

**Fig. 1.** *Faberia pinnatifida*. A. Habit. B. Top view of capitulum. C. Lateral view of capitulum showing phyllaries. D. Achenes, scale bar = 5 mm. All from Sichuan, Muli Xian, Muli-Yanyuan Pass (voucher FLPH Sichuan Expedition 151148, PE).

**Table 1.** Source of materials studied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Voucher</th>
<th>Figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Faberia cavaleriei</em></td>
<td>Suiyang, Guizhou</td>
<td>Tao Deng 090715001 (IBSC, KUN)</td>
<td>1A, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>F. faberi</em></td>
<td>Qiaojia, Yunnan</td>
<td>Chen Ren &amp; Long-yuan Wang 378 (IBSC)</td>
<td>1C, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>F. nanchuanensis</em></td>
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<td>Tao Deng 090624001 (IBSC, KUN)</td>
<td>1E, F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>F. sinensis</em></td>
<td>Emei, Sichuan</td>
<td>Ying Liu 2010094 (IBSC)</td>
<td>1G, H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>F. thibetica</em></td>
<td>Kangding, Sichuan</td>
<td>Ying Liu 2010089 (IBSC)</td>
<td>1I, J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>F. pinnatifida</em></td>
<td>Yanyuan, Sichuan</td>
<td>D. E. Boufford et al.42863 (A, KUN, SYS)</td>
<td>1K, L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 3. Phylogram of Bayesian inference analysis of ITS dataset showing phylogenetic position of *Faberia pinnatifida*. Species of *Faberia* are indicated in bold; branches leading to *F. pinnatifida* are indicated by bold line. Numbers on branches are Bayesian posterior probabilities, bootstrap values obtained from maximum parsimony, and maximum likelihood analyses. Bootstrap values below 50% are indicated by ‘–’.
Fig. 4. Phylogram of Bayesian inference analysis of cpDNA dataset showing phylogenetic position of *Faberia pinnatifida*. Species of *Faberia* are indicated in bold; branches leading to *F. pinnatifida* are indicated by bold line. Numbers on branches are Bayesian posterior probabilities, bootstrap values obtained from maximum parsimony, and maximum likelihood analyses. Bootstrap values below 50% are indicated by ‘–’.
majority-rule consensus trees obtained from BI analysis are shown here, with Bayesian posterior probabilities and bootstrap values obtained from MP and ML analyses indicated on the branches (Figs. 3–4). The phylogenies derived from the ITS and chloroplast datasets were identical with that of Liu et al. (2013), showing both congruence and incongruence between datasets. Although the subtribal affiliation of Faberia was strikingly different as indicated by nuclear (subtribe Lactucinae) and plastid data (subtribe Crepidinae), the Faberia clade as a whole was well recognized, with strong support by ITS data (PP = 1.0, BS MP = 99%, BS ML = 100%), and strong to moderate support by plastid data (PP = 1.0, BS MP = 60%, BS ML = 78%). Faberia pinnatifida nested firmly in the Faberia clade together with six additional species of Faberia in both trees (Figs. 3–4). In the ITS phylogenetic trees, F. pinnatifida formed a well-supported subclade with F. thibetica and F. glaucescens (Stebbins) Ying Liu, Yousheng Chen & Q.E.Yang (PP = 1.0, BS = 93% and 97%) (Fig. 3), whereas in the plastid phylogenetic trees it clustered with F. glaucescens, but with only weak support (PP = 0.91, BS < 50% and 53%) (Fig. 4).

**Discussion**

Both phylogenetic analyses and pollen morphology strongly supported the generic affiliation of Faberia pinnatifida within Faberia. Our phylogenetic analyses revealed that F. pinnatifida constantly grouped within the Faberia clade in both ITS (Fig. 3) and plastid (Fig. 4) phylogenetic trees, indicating that it should be treated as a member of Faberia. Observation of pollen morphology also showed that the pollen grains of F. pinnatifida were spherical, echinolophate, and 4-porate (Fig. 2K–I). These pollen features have been found to be shared by all species of Faberia so far examined, including F. cavaleriei, F. faberi, F. nanchuanensis, F. sinensis, F. thibetica (Fig. 2), and also F. glaucescens (Stebbins 1940). Stebbins (1940) pointed out that all species of Cichorieae with 4-porate pollen grains and known chromosome numbers were polyploids. Therefore, F. pinnatifida may also be a polyploid although we failed to determine its chromosome number because of the difficulty in collecting living material.

**Faberia pinnatifida** also resembles Faberia in gross morphology and geographic distribution. Since the transfer of the morphologically distinctive *Prenanthes faberi* Hems.l. to Faberia as *F. faberi* (Shih and Kilian 2011), Faberia was re-circumscribed as being more diverse in gross morphology. Nevertheless, most species of Faberia are scapigeroius or subscapigeroius herbs with somewhat leathery leaves, a corymbiform or paniculiform synflorescence, narrowly cylindrical to campanulate involucres, several series of glabrous phyllaries becoming gradually longer toward the apex of the involure, reddish or bluish purple florets, achenes narrowly ellipsoid with a truncate apex, and brownish pappi. *Faberia pinnatifida* resembles most species in its corymbiform synflorescence, narrowly campanulate involucres, glabrous phyllaries in several series gradually longer centripetally, bluish purple florets, narrowly ellipsoid achenes, and brownish pappi (Fig. 1). Geographically, it is narrowly endemic in Muli and Yanyuan Xian, Sichuan, China, within the range of Faberia as a whole (Fig. 5).

The ITS data suggest a closest relationship among *Faberia pinnatifida*, *F. glaucescens*, and *F. thibetica*, while plastid data place *F. pinnatifida* somewhat near *F. glaucescens* clade. In total, we detected 27 to 29 substitutions and two indels between *F. pinnatifida* and *F. glaucescens*, and 21 substitutions and three indels between *F. pinnatifida* and *F. thibetica*, showing *F. pinnatifida* to be well differentiated from its potentially closest relatives. All three species occur in Sichuan and resemble each other in their nodding capitula, but *F. pinnatifida* is easily distinguished from *F. glaucescens* by its scapigeroius stem having only one or two leaves (vs. leafy stem), and from *F. thibetica* by its much larger stature 46–75 cm tall (vs. 15–35 cm), and its elliptic to oblanceolate (vs. triangular-ovate) leaf blade. *Faberia pinnatifida* somewhat resembles *F. ceterach*, a species endemic to Yunnan, in its scapigeroius stem and pinnatifid leaves, but readily differs in its corymbiform synflorescence (vs. narrowly paniculiform) and nodding capitula (vs. not nodding) having ca. 30 florets (vs. 10–15). Therefore, both molecular data and our herbarium and field observations show that *F. pinnatifida* does not match well with any of the species of Faberia so far described, leading us to recognize it as a new species. The description of *F. pinnatifida* and a key to separate it from other species of Faberia are provided below.

**Taxonomic Treatment**


Herbs, perennial, 46–75 cm tall, with short rhizomes. Stems erect, glabrous, branched apically. Rosette leaves narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate; petiole 3–8 cm long, blade 6–16 × 2.5–6.7 cm, lyrate pinnatifid to pinnatipartite, base cuneate and narrowly decurrent along petiole, apex acute to acuminate, abaxially pale glaucous, adaxially green and glabrous; lateral lobes 8–14, triangular to broadly ovate, gradually smaller toward leaf base; terminal lobe triangular to lanceolate. Stem leaves usually 1 or 2, only one leaf similar to rosette leaves; upper leaf often linear and bract-like. Synflorescence laxly branched, corymbiform, with 2–7 capitula. Capitula nodding, with ca. 30 florets. Involucr eca. 15 × 6 mm. Phyllaries abaxially dark green, glabrous, apex obtuse or acute, margin and apex shortly whitish fimbriate; outer phyllaries ovate to triangular-ovate, largest 5–7 × 3–4 mm; inner phyllaries ca. 14, 13–15 × 3–4 mm. Florets
Fig. 6. Faberia pinnatifida. A. Habit. B. Capitulum showing phyllaries. C–D. Young and mature florets. E. Style and stigma. F. Stamen.
purlplish blue. Achenes brown, narrowly ellipsoid, 4–5 mm long, apex truncate. Pappus brownish, ca. 6 mm long. Flowering August–September, fruiting September–October. Figure 6.

**Distribution and Ecology**—Known from northern Yanyuan Xian and southern Muli Xian, Sichuan, China, on scree slopes, in meadows, thickets, and primary *Picea* forests over limestone.

**Etymology**—The epithet is based on the pinnately lobed to partite leaves.

**Conservation Concerns**—*Faberia pinnatifida* is known only from a small area around northern Yanyuan and southern Muli xian. Of the two populations known, the one at the Multi-Yanyuan Pass included no more than 50 clumps. The extent of the population on Huolu Shan was not determined.


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**Key**

1. Leaves pinnatipartite to lyrata pinnatifide ................................. 10
2. (1) Terminal leaf lobe much larger than lateral lobes, to 2/3 of entire leaf .......................... *F. sinensis.*
3. (2) Terminal leaf lobe never conspicuously larger than lateral lobes .......................... 4
4. (3) Leaf blade lanceolate to narrowly elliptical or oblanceolate, at least ca. 3 × as long as wide .......................... 5
5. (4) Leaf blade broadly elliptic, ovate, or pentagonal, mostly not more than ca. 2 × as long as wide .......................... 6
6. Synflorescence narrowly paniculiform, usually with 10–20 capitula; involucre 1.1–1.3 cm long; capitula erect, with 10–15 florets .......................... *F. ceterach.*
7. Synflorescence corymbiform, with 2–7 capitula; involucre 1.5 cm long; capitula nodding, with more than 25 florets .......................... 8
8. (3) Capitula many in a leafless narrowly paniculiform synflorescence .......................... *F. lancifolia.*
9. (4) Capitula 1–3 on short branchlets subtended by upper stem leaves .......................... 10
10. (5) Stem leafy; leaf petiole usually shorter than blade; leaf blade triangular-ovate to ovate; capitula with more than 3 florets .......................... 11
11. (6) Stem scapigerous or subscapigerous, leaf petiole distinctly longer than blade; leaf blade broadly elliptic to ovate; capitula with more than 10 florets; inner phyllaries at least 8 .......................... 12
12. (7) Stem leafy, base leaf base attenuate to an auriculately clasping base .......................... *F. glaucescens.*
13. (8) Stem scapigerous with only 1 or 2 leaves; leaf base cuneate to petiole-like .......................... *F. pinnatifida* species complex
14. (9) Herbs 60–80 cm tall; leaf blade mostly more than 5 cm long; capitula not nodding .......................... *F. caverlieri* species complex
15. (10) Herbs 5–15 cm tall; leaf blade at most ca. 4 cm long; capitula nodding ..........................

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Kilian, N., B. Gemeinholzer, and H. W. Lack. 2009. Tribe Cichorieae. Pp. 3 (1). Leaf blade lanceolate to narrowly elliptical or oblanceolate, at least ca. 3 × as long as wide

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KF196071; Notoseris, Not. macilenta (Vaniot & H.Lév.) N. Kilian, KF154389, KF196004, KF196136, KF196048, KF196092; Not. macilenta, KF154390, KF196005, KF196137, KF196049, KF196093; Not. melanantha (Franch.) C. Shih, KF154391, KF196006, KF196138, KF196050, KF196094; Not. porphyrolepis C. Shih, KF154388, KF196003, KF196135, KF196047, KF196091; Not. triflora (Hems.) C. Shih, KF154387, KF196002, KF196134, KF196046, KF196090; Paraprenanthes, Par. diversifolia (Vaniot) N.Kilian, KF154392, KF196007, KF196139, KF196051, KF196095; Par. sororia (Miq.) C.Shih, KF154393, KF196008, KF196140, KF196052, KF196096; Picris, Pic. hieracioides L., KF154362, KF195977, KF196109, KF196021, KF196065; Pic. hieracioides, KF154361, KF195976, KF196108, KF196020, KF196064; Sonchus, Son. oleraceus L., KF154364, KF195979, KF196111, KF196023, KF196067; Son. oleraceus, KF154365, KF195980, KF196112, KF196024, KF196068; Sonchus sp., KF154363, KF195978, KF196110, KF196022, KF196066; Soroseris, Sor. umbrela (Franch.) Stebbins, KF154370, KF195985, KF196117, KF196029, KF196073; Youngia, Y. heterophylla (Hems.) Babc. & Stebbins, KF154372, KF195987, KF196119, KF196031, KF196075; Y. paleacea (Diels) Babc. & Stebbins, KF154373, KF195988, KF196120, KF196032, KF196076; Y. racemifera (Hook.f.) Babc. & Stebbins, KF154371, KF195986, KF196118, KF196030, KF196074.