Camellia Dilinhensis: A New Yellow Species from Viet Nam

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Camellia dilinhensis Tran & Luong, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Small tree, 3-4 m high; young branches glabrous. Leaves stalked, petioles 1.4 -1.9 cm; blades oblong-elliptic or elliptic, 16.0-24.5 cm. long, 5.5-9.5 cm. wide, deep green above, light green below; midribs sunken above and protruding below, glabrous on both sides: base cuneate, apex acuminate, leaf margin shallowly serrulate; lateral veins 8-14 pairs. Flowers light yellow, 3.5-3.7 cm. in diameter, 1-3 in each group in axillary; pedicels 5-7 mm long, bearing two or three tiny bracteoles, glabrous. Sepals 5, scale shape nearly rounded, 4-8 mm. high, 8-11 mm. wide, glabrous. Petals 8 -9, nearly rounded or elliptic, 1.2 -1.4 cm. wide, 1.5-1.7 cm. high, glabrous. Androecium over 350 stamens, 5-9 mm. long, glabrous, outer filaments united from the base and forms a short cup, united with petals 2-2.5 mm. at the base. Gynoecium 3, ovaries cylinder, pubescent, 3-4 mm wide, 7-8 mm high, 3 loculi; styles 3, free to the base, 5 mm. long, pubescent. Fruits obvoid, immature fruits scarred white hairy; mature fruits glabrous, 3.5-4 cm. wide, 5.5-6.5 cm. high, 3 loculi, 5-6 seeds in each loculus. Seeds cuneate, 7-10 mm. high, 8-11 mm. wide, pubescent.

Blooming season: winter

This species was collected in evergreen forest of Dilinh district (Lamdong province), at altitudes of 850-900 m.

typus: Vietnam, Lam Dong, Dilinh, evergreen forest, at altitudes of 850 -900 m, 22/10/2012, Dung, Ninh 121001 (Holotypus, Isotypus HNU).

Taxonomic remarks: Camellia dilinhensis possesses some morphological characteristics common to the species belonging to Section Chrysantha Chang such as flowers axillary, medium large, yellow, pedicellate but there are some differences: pedicels bear two or three tiny bracteoles (Sect. Chrysantha have 5-7 bract.); ovary cylindrical (Sect. Chrysantha ovary globose); fruits obvoid (Sect. Chrysantha fruits globose). Based on these differences we affirm that this species belongs to a new Section and will be named Obvoidea Tran et Luong, Sect. nov.
Fig. 1 *Camellia dilinhensis* Tran & Luong

A, B. leaf; C. bud of flower; D. flower; E. sepals; F, G. petals; H. stamens; I. sepals and gynoecium; K. fruit; L. seeds.
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Literature cited


