

New species discovered along China-Myanmar border

Chinese scientists have discovered a new endangered species of flowering plant from the Annonaceae family, and the finding has been published in an international botanical journal.



Polyalthia yingjiangensis flower and its fruits.

Polyalthia yingjiangensis, known in Chinese as Yingjiang An Luo, was named after Yingjiang County in southwest China's Yunnan Province where it was discovered. It belongs to the same botanical family as the custard apple and ylang-ylang, a tree whose fragrant greenish-yellow flowers are used to distill perfume.

"The discovery enriches the diversity of the area," said Tan Yunhong, a botanist from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Tan and other scientists from Southeast Asian Biodiversity Research Center and South China Botanical Garden discovered the plant during a field survey in Hongbenghe close to the China-Myanmar border. They believe the new species could also be found in Myanmar.

The Chinese scientists only found 10 plants during the survey conducted in April, 2016. A paper on the finding co-authored by Tan was published in the latest issue of Nordic Journal of Botany.

The plant was originally seen in 1980, but not confirmed as a new species at that time and this was the first time it has been seen again in 36 years, according to Tan.

Polyalthia yingjiangensis has been designated an endangered species, according to classification by the World Conservation Union. Currently there are only four samples available and the trees are known to grow in three localities, all in Yunnan.

Knowledge about the species is limited, however, scientists hope more field surveys can be done in areas that have not been studied, to help better understand the newly discovered plant.

Tan suggested conservation areas be set up to help preserve the rare species and public awareness be raised to save the plant from extinction.

Yingjiang, located in the transitional zone between India-Myanmar and East Himalayan flora, is rich in biodiversity. A large number of new species have been discovered in the region in recent years.

[Typhoon Mawar lands in south China](#)

Mawar, the 16th typhoon this year, landed around 9:30 p.m. Sunday in Lufeng under Shanwei city in south China's Guangdong Province, bringing gales of 20 meters per second at its eye, according to local meteorological authorities.



Torrential rain hits Lufeng City after the 16th typhoon Mawar lands in south China's Guangdong Province, Sept. 3, 2017. Mawar, the 16th typhoon this year, landed around 9:30 p.m. Sunday in Lufeng, south China's Guangdong Province, bringing gales of 20 meters per second at its eye. Mawar is the third typhoon that landed in Guangdong in the recent half month after Hato and Pakhar. [Photo/Xinhua]

Heavy rain battered the landing areas. Local government said about 2,200 fishing boats had returned to the harbor while more than 15,000 people were relocated to safe places.

The provincial meteorological bureau forecast that the typhoon would weaken rapidly after the landing and move towards northwest at a speed of about 10 km per hour, bringing downpours and gales to other cities in the province from Sunday night to Monday.

Flights and trains were suspended. Authorities have been on alert for secondary disasters.

Mawar is the third typhoon that landed in Guangdong in the recent half month after Hato and Pakhar.

[China starts radiation monitoring](#)

after DPRK nuclear test



China starts radiation monitoring after DPRK nuclear test on September 3, 2017. [File Photo: zhb.gov.cn]

China has started monitoring the radiation levels in its northeastern border areas in an emergency response to a nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) initiated the emergency response at 11:46 a.m. Sunday, MEP said in a statement.

"At present, the automatic radiation monitoring stations in the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning and Shandong are functioning properly," the statement said.

By 4 p.m., monitoring data from the four provinces showed that China's environment had not been affected by the nuclear test, the ministry said in a separate statement.

All monitoring spots saw radiation at their normal levels, the ministry added.

The China Earthquake Administration reported that a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the DPRK at 11:30 a.m. with an epicenter depth of zero km, saying that it might have been caused by explosion.

The DPRK's central television announced Sunday that the country had successfully detonated an H-bomb, a hydrogen bomb that can be carried by an intercontinental ballistic missile.

China's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement expressing firm opposition to and strong condemnation of the test.

[China on yellow alert for rainstorms](#)

China's national weather observatory issued a yellow alert for rainstorms on Monday as heavy rain is expected in most of southern China over the next 24 hours.

From Monday to Tuesday, torrential rain is expected in parts of Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Sichuan provinces as well as Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region, according to the National Meteorological Center (NMC).

Some regions will receive up to 200 millimeters of precipitation, the NMC said.

The NMC also canceled former yellow alert for Typhoon Mawar Monday.

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China has a four-tier color-coded weather warning system, with red the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

[China launches campaign against air pollution](#)

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) said Sunday that it will launch a campaign against heavy air pollution in autumn and winter.

The country should improve its forecast calculation capacity to extend the forecast period from seven to 10 days, providing sufficient time for taking effective measures, MEP said in a statement.

Emergency response plans should be improved in 28 cities in northern and central China to ensure the effectiveness of measures to cut emissions, the

statement said.

In case of heavy air pollution, inspection teams will improve supervision of local emergency response efforts.

If regional heavy pollution is forecast, MEP will forward the early warning information to affected cities as soon as possible to facilitate coordinated efforts.

MEP will also set up a Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei air environment management agency to help deal with heavy pollution in autumn and winter.