

# Two Particularly Evolutionary Loci of *trnL-ndhJ* of cpDNA of *Yulania Baotaina*, a New Species (Magnoliaceae) from China

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**Abstract:** The partial sequence of *trnL-ndhJ* of chloroplast genome of the new species of the genus *Yulania* Spach of Magnoliaceae, *Yulania baotaina* D. L. Fu, Q. Zhang et M. Xu, collected from Baotai Mountain of Yongping County of Yunnan province of China, and the similar species, *Y. campbellii* (Hook. f. et Thoms.) D. L. Fu, collected from Yongping and Gongshan county of Yunnan, and Yadong county of Xizang, were amplified and sequenced respectively, which were compared with 39 samples of the chloroplast complete genomes of Magnoliaceae in the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information, USA) database. The results indicated that *Y. baotaina* has two PEL (particularly evolutionary loci): *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTCGGAATTTCTTCTT...) not possessed by others, and the oppositely evolutionary loci of transversions *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTCGGAATTTCTTCTT...) is possessed by all contrasted experimental materials and most samples of Magnoliaceae in NCBI. So the new species was described and illustrated. Its floral buds cylindrical, ovaries subcordiform, and peduncles of flower and fruits obviously elongate are particular, which can be easily distinguished to the similar species and all other ones in the genus. The new species is distributed in Hengduan Mountain of west Yunnan province and south Xizang Autonomous Region at an altitude of 1900~3000 m, a colloquial name is Mulianhua, just as the similar species *Y. campbellii*. The designated type of the new species was collected from Baotai Mountain of Yongping County at altitude of 2600 m and kept at the Chinese Academy of Forestry. This paper will provide a new research method that can be easily verified for the evolutionary taxonomy and the new science of evolutionomy.

**Keywords:** PEL (Particularly Evolutionary Loci), *Yulania Baotaina*, *trnL-ndhJ*, Evolutionomy, New Species, Magnoliaceae

## 1. Introduction

As the most primitive taxa of Fructophyta D. L. Fu & H. Fu [1], *Yulania* Spach [2-10] has a very important position and plays an important role in the evolutionomy of fruit plants. The large and beautiful early spring flowers of *Yulania* Spach were also deeply impressed and loved by the world's gardeners. For example, *Yulania campbellii* (Hook. f. et Thoms.) D. L. Fu (*Magnolia campbellii*) [2-6, 8-14], native to a wide area of the Himalayan region, such as E Nepal, Bhutan,

N India, Burma, and Xizang Autonomous Region and Yunnan province of China, had attracted admirations from horticulturists in the world, just as that D. Hunt had written "A variable species, spectacular in bloom" [11], and that D. J. Callaway had written "This species is often considered by writers and gardeners to be the most spectacular of all magnolias, and the most desirable" [12]. In the investigation of the plant resources of *Yulania* Spach, a new species, named *Yulania baotaina*, was found by the authors. It is very similar to the most spectacular and most desirable species, *Y.*

*campbellii* (Hook. f. et Thoms.) D. L. Fu. In order to determine its evolutionary taxonomic status, the new species and the similar species were collected from Yunnan province and Xizang Autonomous Region of China, and the partial sequences of chloroplast genome, *trnL-ndhJ*, were amplified and sequenced respectively. The partial sequences were analyzed and compared with 39 samples of the chloroplast complete genomes of Magnoliaceae in the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information, USA) database, and the results are as follows.

## 2. Materials & Methods

### 2.1. Plant Materials

Seven samples of the leaves of two similar species were collected from China: two of the new species of *Yulania baotaina* from Mountain Baotai in Yongping County of Yunnan province, five of the similar species *Yulania campbellii* (Hook. f. et Thoms.) D. L. Fu from Yongping and Gongshan County of Yunnan province and Yadong county of Xizang Autonomous Region respectively (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** Experimental materials of *Magnolia* sect. *Rytidospermum*.

Species	Experimental material	Samples	Collected place
<i>Yulania baotaina</i>	leaves	2	Yongping, Yunnan, China
<i>Y. campbellii</i>	leaves	1	Yongping, Yunnan, China
<i>Y. campbellii</i>	leaves	2	Gongshan, Yunnan, China
<i>Y. campbellii</i>	leaves	2	Yadong, Xizang, China

**Table 2.** The designed primers for amplification and sequencing of partial cpDNA of *Yulania*.

Primer name	Primer sequences	Length of amplification and sequencing /bp
<i>trnL-ndhJ</i> _Y01	F: 5'-TTTAGAAATCGTGAGGGTTCAAGTC-3' R: 5'-TTCGGATGAGTAGAGCCAATAGG-3'	980

**Table 3.** Contrasted chloroplast genomes of Magnoliaceae in NCBI.

Species	DNA number in NCBI	Species	DNA number in NCBI
<i>Liriodendron chinense</i>	NC030504.1	<i>Magnolia pyramidata</i>	NC023236.1
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	DQ899947.1	<i>Magnolia sinica</i>	NC023241.1
<i>Magnolia aromatica</i>	NC037000.1	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	NC024027.1
<i>Magnolia conifera</i>	NC037001.1	<i>Magnolia yunnanensis</i>	NC024545.1
<i>Magnolia dandyi</i>	NC037004.1	<i>Michelia cathartii</i>	NC023234.1
<i>Magnolia dealbata</i>	NC023235.1	<i>Michelia laevifolia</i>	NC035956.1
<i>Magnolia duclouxii</i>	NC037002.1	<i>Michelia odora</i>	NC023239.1
<i>Magnolia fordiana</i> var. <i>calcareae</i>	MF990562.1	<i>Michelia</i> sp.	KY921716.1
<i>Magnolia glaucifolia</i>	NC037003.1	<i>Yulania acuminata</i>	JX280391.1
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	JN867584.1	<i>Yulania biondii</i>	KY085894.1
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	JN867587.1	<i>Yulania denudata</i>	JN227740.1
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	NC020318.1	<i>Yulania denudata</i>	JN867577.1
<i>Magnolia insignis</i>	MF990566.1	<i>Yulania denudata</i>	JX280394.1
<i>Magnolia kwangsiensis</i>	HM775382.1	<i>Yulania diva?</i>	NC023242.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i>	JN867579.1	<i>Yulania kobus</i>	NC023237.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i>	JN867581.1	<i>Yulania liliiflora</i>	NC037005.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i>	JN867582.1	<i>Yulania liliiflora</i>	NC023238.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i>	KY085916.1	<i>Yulania liliiflora</i>	JX280397.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i>	NC020316.1	<i>Yulania salicifolia</i>	NC023240.1
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i> var. <i>biloba</i>	JN867580.1		

### 2.2. PCR Primer Design

A pairs of primers, *trnL-ndhJ*-Y01-F and *trnL-ndhJ*-Y01-R were designed using Primer Premier 6, the sequences of primers and the length of amplification and sequencing of cpDNA, see Table 2.

### 2.3. PCR Amplification

Total genomic DNA was isolated from silica-dried leaves of 7 materials belong to 2 species, 2 samples of *Y. baotaina* and 5 of *Y. campbellii*, using a modified CTAB method [15]. The

primers of PCR amplification are *trnL-ndhJ*\_Y01 (see Table 2). PCR amplifications were performed in 15µL volume containing 0.2 µL forward primer and 0.2 µL reverse primer, 1µL genomic DNA, 7.5 µL 2x Es Taq MasterMix, 6.1 µL ddH<sub>2</sub>O, and with the following cycles: 5 min initial denaturation at 94°C; 10 cycles of 30 s at 94°C, 45 s at 61°C and 2 min at 72°C; 27 cycles of 30 s at 94°C, 45 s at 56°C and 2 min at 72°C; and 5 min final extension at 72°C. All PCR reactions were performed in T-gradient (Biometra). The amplified products of PCR were extracted and purified with the Gel Extraction Kit (OMEGA).

## 2.4. DNA Sequencing

The purified DNAs were sequenced using ABI 3730 XL. The PCR amplifications were performed in 15 µL volume containing 0.2 µL forward primer and 0.2 µL reverse primer, 1 µL purified DNA, 7.5 µL 2x Es Taq MasterMix, 6.1 µL ddH<sub>2</sub>O, and with the following cycles: 3 min initial denaturation at 95°C; and 26 cycles of 10 s at 95°C, 10 s at 50°C and 4 min at 60°C.

## 2.5 DNA Sequence Analysis

The partial correct sequences of absolutely coincident sequencing using the forward primer and reverse primer were analyzed. The particularly evolutionary loci could be easily found out and verified using some software such as Microsoft Word. The contrasted chloroplast complete genomes of Magnoliaceae in the NCBI database see Table 3.

## 3. Two PEL (Particularly Evolutionary Loci) of cpDNA of *Yulania Baotaina*

There are 810 bp absolutely coincident sequences of *Yulania baotaina*, using the forward primer and reverse primer of *trnL-ndhJ*\_Y01 respectively, which can be regarded as the correct partial cpDNA sequence of the new species. The sequence is as follow:

*Yulania baotaina*, partial sequence of *trnL-ndhJ* of cpDNA

TTCTCATTCACTCTACTCTTTCACAAATGGGTCCGACCATAAATGTTTCTCTCTTATCACAAGTCTTGTGATAGATATGATATACGTACAAATGCCCATATTATGGGCAAGGAATCTCCATTATTGAATCATTACAGTGCATATCATTA CTCTTACACTTACAAAGCCTTCTTTTTGAAGATCCAA GAAATTCAGGACCTAGGTAAGATTTTGAATGCAA TTTGAGTCCCTTTAATTGACATAGACCCAAGTCCTCT AGTAGGATGACGCATCGGGAATGGTCGGGATAGCTC AGCTGGTAGAGCAGAGGACTGAAAATCCTCGTGTCA CCAGTTCAAATCTGGTTCCTGACACGTGGTTAATGTA TCAAACGGATACTCATACAAATGAATCGATATGGATC GGGATCCATATTTATTAATAGACTAATAGTCTAGACCA TGATACATAAGTCTAGACCATGATACATACTTATCCAT CTAGGTATATAAATGGATACCTCCCTTTTTGTAGATGG GTAAAGAATATATGGGTAAGGTAAAGAAAAGAATTA GATTCTATTCCCTCTTCTTTTTGTGTTTATACTGTA CCTCCTCTCGCTCAAAAAGAATGTTAATACTTCATAC ATATCCGAAGTTAGTTGGCTTGGCTGAAAAACCCAA AAGTCTAGTCTAGAGGAGTGAAGGATAGGAATAGA CAGGATTCATTTTCAGATACAATAACAAAGAAAGAAAA TCCGATCCCTTTTCATTTTCATTTCCGAATTCCTATT TTCTTTCATATTCTATTCTTCACTTTCTATT

Compared to its similar species, *Y. campbellii*, and the other DNA data of Magnoliaceae in the NCBI database, it can be concluded that the evolutionary loci *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...) is particular because the loci are not synchronously possessed by all contrasted experimental materials and the chloroplast complete genomes in the NBCI database. The oppositely evolutionary loci

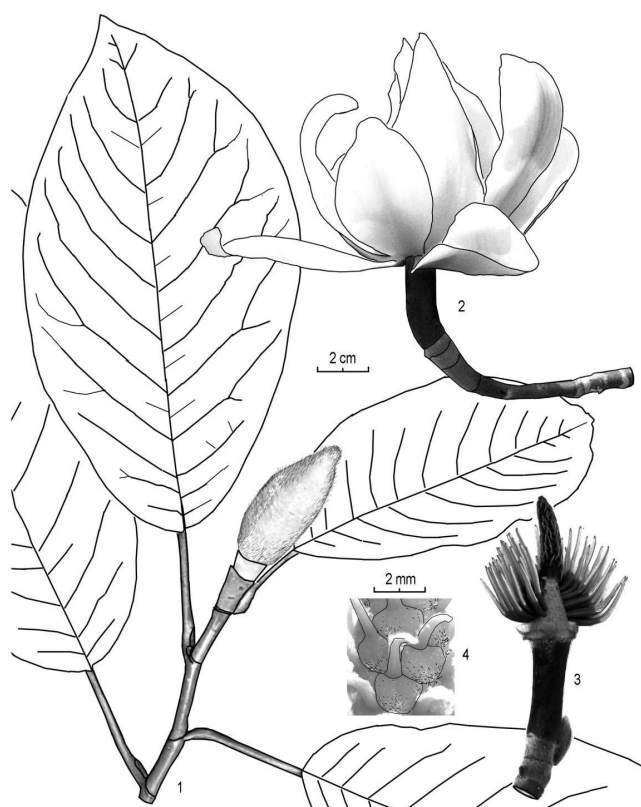
of *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...) is possessed by all experimental materials of the similar species, and most referenced chloroplast complete genomes of Magnoliaceae in NCBI, except some samples of other genera including one sample of species of *Michelia* L. (misidentified as *Magnolia insignis*\_KY921716.1 in NCBI) with the mixed loci *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...), two samples of *Liriodendron* L. (*L. chinense*\_NC030504.1 and *L. tulipifera*\_DQ899947.1) with the other transition or transversion of second loci as *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...) (P=A, C), and two samples of *Magnolia* L. (*M. yunnanensis*\_NC024545.1 and *M. sinica*\_NC023241.1) with the other transition of the second locus as (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...).

So, the new species, *Yulania baotaina*, is supported by cpDNA evolutionomy based on the evolutionary continuity principle [1] and the evolutionary particularity principle, for that it has at least two PEL of cpDNA *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGAATTTCCATATTTTCTT...). According International Code of Botanical Nomenclature [16], the new species should be described and illustrated.

## 4. *Yulania Baotaina* D. L. Fu, Q. Zhang et M. Xu, sp. Nov., Figure 1

Arbor decidua usque ad 30 m alta. Ramuli crassi annotini pallide virides vel flavo-virides nitidi sub glabri, hornotini nitidi subglabri, lenticellis albis rotundis; rumulis abbreviates dense 3-nodis, crassis, dense pallide flavo-villosis. Gemmae foliiferae cylindricae 1.8~3.6 cm longae et 0.4~0.8 cm diam. virides vel flavor-virides in sicco extus sparse pallide flavo-villosae. Alabastra solitaria terminalia cylindrica 7.0~8.0 cm longa et 1.5~2.0 cm diam. extus pallide flavo-villosa. Folia alterna subcoriacea longe elliptica 15.0~23.0 cm longa et 7.5~11.5 cm lata apice acuminata basi rotundata margine integra supra viridia glabra nitida subtus pallide viridia, dense pallide albo-tomentosa, costis et nervis lateralibus dense villosis, nervis lateralibus 11~17-jugis, petioli crassi 35~4.5 cm longi dense albo-villosi, cicatricibus stipularum ca. 6~12 mm longis longitudine 1/5~1/4 petiolorum partem aequantibus. Flores ante folia aperti, grandes diam. 20.0~25.0 cm; pedicelli robusti 3.3~4.1 cm longi et 1.0~1.2 cm diam. glabri vel sparse villosi apice saepe sparse villosi; tepala 12 in quoque flore, petaliformia subsimilia, elliptica vel oblonga, 10.0~12.5 cm longa et 4.0~5.0 cm lata purpureo-rubra extus basi atro-purpurea ad purpureo-brunnea, intus pallida in colore; stamina numerosa 2.6~3.2 cm longa, filamentis 0.8~1.2 mm longis atro-purpureo-rubris, thecis lateribus longitudinali-dehiscentibus, connetivis apice cum mucronibus triangulis; gynoeceum cylindricum 3.2~3.7 cm longum purpureo-brunneum, pistillis simplicibus numerosis, ovariis subcordiformibus purpureo-brunneis sparse albo-pubescentibus, stylis et stigmatibus purpureo-rubris. Folliceta cylindrica 10.0~14.0 cm longa et 2.0~3.0 cm diam. atro-rubra apice saepe conica curvata; pedicelli fructiferi robusti 3.5~4.5 cm longi et

1.2~1.3 cm diam. apice sparse villosi.



**Figure 1.** *Yulania baotaina* D. L. Fu, Q. Zhang et M. Xu, sp. nov. 1. branchlet with leaves and floral bud. 2. flower. 3. flower with tepals removed to show gynoecium and androecium. 4. part of gynoecium to show the shape and pubescences of ovaries (drawn by D. L. Fu)

**Typus:** The holotype D. L. Fu 2018031201 (Holotypus hic designatus, CAF) was branchlets with flower collected from Mountain Baotai, Yongping county, Yunnan province at alt. 2600 m on Mar. 12, 2017, and the paratype D. L. Fu 2017093001 (Paratypus, CAF) was branchlets with fruit, floral bud and leaves, collected from the same position on Sept. 09, 2017.

The new species is similar to *Yulania campbellii* (Hook. f. & Thoms.) D. L. Fu, but its foliar buds were yellowish-green when dried, floral buds cylindrical and villous; ovaries subcordiform, purplish-brown and sparse pubescent at the bases, peduncles of flowers and fruits obviously elongate, are different from the latter's that foliar buds black-brown when dried, floral buds ovoid and long villous; ovaries rectangular, yellowish-green and glabrous, peduncles of flower and fruits not elongate. Floral buds cylindrical, ovaries subcordiform, peduncles of flowers and fruits obviously elongate are also the particular characters of the new species which can be easily distinguished to all other ones in the genus. The particularly evolutionary loci of the new species are *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGGAATTTCTATTTTCTT...).

The new species distributed in Hengduan Mountain of west Yunnan province and south Xizang Autonomous Region at an altitude of 1900~3000 m. Flowering March-April and fruiting September-October. The colloquial name is Mulianhua, just as the similar species *Yulania campbellii* (Hook. f. & Thoms.) D. L. Fu.

The flowers of the new species are large, purple and colorful, and graceful. The floral buds are large and cylindrical, and the fruit is dark red and has various shapes. It is an excellent ornamental tree species. Floral buds are used in traditional Chinese medicine for "Xinyi" and are also the raw materials for extracting essence.

## 5. Conclusion

*Yulania baotaina* has at least two PEL of cpDNA, which are *trnL-ndhJ* (...TTTCATTTTCGGAATTTCTATTTTCTT...). Its floral buds cylindrical, ovaries subcordiform, and peduncles of flower and fruits obviously elongate are particular, which can be easily distinguished to the similar species and all other ones in the genus. So the new species is supported by cpDNA evolutionomy and morphological evolutionomy based on the evolutionary continuity principle and the evolutionary particularity principle, which provides a new research method that can be easily verified for the evolutionary taxonomy and the new science of evolutionomy.

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