

Notes on identity of *Castanopsis megaphylla* Hu (Fagaceae), and its new record for the flora of Vietnam

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ABSTRACT. *Castanopsis megaphylla* Hu, formerly recognized as endemic to China, is discovered in Dien Bien province as a new record for the flora of Vietnam. *Castanopsis megaphylla* is morphologically similar to *C. chevalieri* Hickel & A. Camus and *C. boisii* Hickel & A. Camus, but differs from the former by much larger leaves, more pairs of secondary veins, a female flower per cupule, and from the latter by larger leaves, thicker infructescence rachis, bigger cupules and cupule completely covered by spines. Based on the collections from Vietnam, detailed description, illustration and photographs of *C. megaphylla* are provided.

KEYWORDS: *Castanopsis megaphylla*, Dien Bien, morphology, new record, taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

Castanopsis megaphylla Hu was described in 1940, based on *H.T. Tsai 60410* and *H.T. Tsai 61851* from Pingbian County, Yunnan Province of China. Govaerts & Frodin (1998) listed it as a synonym of *C. boisii* Hickel & A. Camus. Huang *et al.* (1999) recognized *C. megaphylla* with a note of “May be the same as the earlier published Vietnamese *C. chevalieri* Hickel & A. Camus”.

After examining the type specimens and consulting the relevant literature, we found that *C. megaphylla* can be easily distinguished from *C. boisii* by its much larger leaves (25–45 × 8–17 cm vs 9–16 × 3–6 cm), thicker infructescence rachis (6–9 mm thick vs 2–3 mm thick), bigger cupules (4–6 cm diam. vs 2–3 cm diam.) and spines completely or almost entirely covering cupule (vs spines

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