

# Caragana leduensis, a new species of Leguminosae from Qinghai, China

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#### Abstract

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Caragana leduensis from Qinghai is described as a new species and illustrated. It is similar to *C. kozlovii* but differs by the corolla wing auricle being ¾ as long as the claw, the densely white-villous ovary and legumes, and the obovate-elliptic leaflets being blunt at the apex and glabrous except for the white-villous midvein and margins on the lower surface.

The genus *Caragana* Fabr. contains about 80 species, which are centred in their distribution to arid and semiarid Asia. About 60 species are found in China, preferable in the northern and western parts of the country (Liou 1993), of these about 20 species occur in Qinghai (WU 1999). Revising the herbarium specimens of *Caragana* collected in Qinghai, we discovered two older specimens that represent a still undescribed species, which is here described as new to science.

Caragana leduensis Y. Z. Zhao, Y. H. Wu & L. Q. Zhao, sp. nov.

Holotype: China, Qinghai, Ledu, mountain slope, c. 2500 m, 29.5.1966, B. Z. Guo 6755 (HNWP) – Fig. 1.

Species *Caragana kozlovii* Kom. affinis, sed auricula alae ungue ¾ longiore, ovario dense albovilloso, foliola obovati-elliptica, apice obtusa, supra glabra, infra secus costam et marginem albo-villoso differt.

Shrub, c. 1 m tall. Bark cinereous-brunescent, lacerate. Stipules ovate, rufous, membranous, densely white-villous. Leaves paripinnate, rachis persistent and becoming a rigid thorn, 1.5-3 cm long; leaflets in 3-4 pairs, obovate-elliptic, 10-12 × 3-5 mm, blunt at the apex, glabrous on upper surface, white-villous at midvein and margins on the lower surface. Flowers solitary; pedicel c. 8 mm long, with a knee at the base, densely white-villous; calyx tubular, c. 10 mm long, c. 5 mm in diam., densely white-villous, lobes triangular, c. 2.5 mm long; corolla yellow; vexillum broadly obovate, c. 21 mm long; wings c. 20 mm long, claw c. 8 mm long, auricle linear, 3/4 as long as the claw; keel c. 20 mm long, claw and blade equally long, auricle short and small, dentiform; ovary densely



Fig. 1. Caragana leduensis – holotype specimen.

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Additional specimen seen (paratype). – China, Qinghai, Zhiduo, c. 3950 m, 21.6.1966, L. H. Zhou 110 (LZU).

The new species is similar to *Caragana kozlovii* Kom. and *C. tangutica* Kom. (see Liou 1993, Wu 1999) but can be distinguished from these species as follows:

- Corolla wings with auricle ¾ as long as the claw; ovary and pod densely white-villous; leaf-lets obovate-elliptic, with blund apex, glabrous on upper surface, with white-villous midvein and margins on lower surface.
   C. leduensis Y. Z. Zhao, Y. H. Wu & L. Q. Zhao

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