

## ***Cornus eydeana* (Cornaceae), A New Cornelian Cherry from China—Notes on Systematics and Evolution**

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### **ABSTRACT**

***Cornus eydeana*** Q. Y. Xiang & Y. M. Shui, a new species of cornelian cherry, *Cornus* subg. *Cornus*, is described from southeastern Yunnan, China. The new species resembles other cornelian cherries in having umbellate inflorescences subtended by two pairs of scale-like bracts and fruit with cavity-filled stones. However, it differs from them by the following combination of characters: evergreen habit, leathery leaves with three or four secondary veins, and densely flowered, long pedunculate inflorescences with perfect flowers. Morphologically, the species appears most similar to the African species *C. volkensii* Harms, but pollen morphology and geographic distributions suggest a closer affinity with the Eurasian species. The discovery of this species has significant implications for our understanding of the systematics and evolution of the cornelian cherry group.