

# Leaflet Morphology of *Pueraria* (Leguminosae) from the Miocene Shanwang Formation of Shandong Province and Its Palaeoecological Implications\*

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**Abstract:** *Pueraria* DC. is the largest papilionoid legume, trifoliolate genus of the subtribe Glycininae in the tribe Phaseoleae, the majority species of which are climbing lianas distributed in East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. The known three fossil species of *Pueraria* described from the subtropical and temperate floras of the Balkan Peninsula, the Caucasus, and eastern Asia respectively are *P. shanwangensis* (fruit) from the Miocene Shanwang of China, *P. miothunbergiana* (leaf and leaflet) from the Miocene of Shanwang and numerous localities in the Mio-Pliocene of Japan, and *P. maxima* (leaflet) from the Miocene of Croatia and Georgian Abkhazia. On the basis of observations on the newly collected *Pueraria* leaflet impressions and comparisons with the leaflets of living *P. montana*, the morphology and developmental variation of *Pueraria* leaflet fossils are studied. The result shows that the leaflets of both living species *P. montana* and fossil species *P. miothunbergiana* and *P. maxima* bear poorly developed intersecondary veins, which were not observed in former reports on *P. miothunbergiana*. Also, two adjacent secondary veins or agrophic veins at different angles are sometimes diverged respectively from the primary vein (midvein) and the exmedial side of secondary veins in both extant and fossil *Pueraria* leaflets, which is a feature that has long been neglected. Overall, the venation of fossil *Pueraria* leaflets that are widely occurred across the Miocene of middle latitudes in Eurasia is highly similar, but the lobed leaflets similar to those of living *P. montana* are only discovered from the Miocene Shanwang flora of China and Takamine flora of Japan. Extant *P. montana* bears larger leaflets than fossil *Pueraria* and seems to have developed more lobed leaflets than fossil *P. miothunbergiana* does, which might have been related to the change of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations since the Miocene onwards. Living individuals of *P. montana* growing in shady, closed habitats as well as climbing on supports (e.g., pergolas or other woody plants) develop more lobed leaflets than those inhabiting open habitats and trailing, which may efficiently enhance light interception and heat dissipation within leaves and canopies. It is inferred that populations of *P. miothunbergiana* lived in the Mio-Pliocene of China and Japan may have wider ecological tolerances than those of *P. maxima* occurred in the Miocene of Croatia and Abkhazia, so the eastern Asian populations may not only live in shady habitats more relied on forests, but also grow in open habitats less relied on forests or even sprawl.

**Keywords:** Developmental Variation; Evolution; Leaflet Fossils; Leguminosae; Miocene; Palaeoecology; *Pueraria*

## 山东中新世山旺组葛属(豆科)小叶的形态及其古生态学意义\*

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**摘要:** 葛属 *Pueraria* 是豆科蝶形花亚科、菜豆族大豆亚族中最大的、具有三小叶复叶的属, 其大多数种为攀援性藤本植物, 分布于东亚、南亚、东南亚和大洋洲。化石记录表明, 葛属早在中新世就已出现在东亚、巴尔干半岛和高加索地区的亚热带和温带植物群中, 目前已知有3个化石种, 即中国山旺中新世的荚果化石山旺葛藤 *P. shanwangensis*、山旺和日本数个中、上新世产地的叶、小叶化石鲁葛藤 *P. miothunbergiana* 以及克罗地亚和格鲁吉亚阿布哈兹中新世的小叶化石大葛藤 *P. maxima*。本文基于对中新世山旺组最近采集的葛属小叶印痕化石的观察和对现生种葛 *P. montana* 小叶的形态比较, 研究了该属化石种的小叶形态和发育变异。结果表明, 现生种葛与化石种鲁葛藤和大葛藤的小叶都具有不甚发育的间二级脉, 这个特征在先前报道的鲁葛藤小叶化石中未见保存。另外, 它们的主脉和二级脉远轴侧有时都会分别发出两条挨得很近、角度不同的二级脉和二级脉梳脉, 这个特征过去在葛属中则被忽视了。总体上, 葛属小叶化石的叶脉特征在中新世广阔的欧亚中纬度地区显示了高度的相似性。目前, 仅在中国中新世山旺植物群和日本中新世高峰山组植物群中发现了与现生的葛小叶相似的、具有裂瓣的鲁葛藤小叶化石, 但现生葛比化石葛的小叶更大些、似乎发育了更多具有裂瓣的小叶, 这可能与中新世以来大气二氧化碳浓度的变化有关。现生葛长在荫蔽生境以及攀援于支持物(如藤架或其他木本植物)上的植株比生于开阔生境以及蔓生的植株发育了更多的、具有裂瓣的小叶, 这可能有效促进了整株植物的叶片和冠层中的光照截取和通风散热。据此推测, 中国和日本中、上新世的鲁葛藤居群可能比克罗地亚和阿布哈兹中新世的大葛藤居群的生态耐受性更加宽泛, 东亚的居群既生于荫蔽的、更多依赖森林的生境中, 也长在开阔的、较少依赖森林生境中, 甚至蔓生。

**关键词:** 发育变异; 演化; 小叶化石; 豆科; 中新世; 古生态学; 葛属

## 1. 引言

葛属 *Pueraria* DC. 隶属于豆科蝶形花亚科, 为菜豆族大豆亚族中最大的、具有三小叶复叶的属, 约有15~20个现生种, 分布于东亚、南亚、东南亚和大洋洲<sup>[1-13]</sup>。该属在亚洲(特别是中国和日本)民间有着悠久的历史<sup>[3,4,7,8,10,14]</sup>, 一些种被用做观赏植物和药用植物(如葛 *P. montana* (Lour.) Merr., 其根含葛根素等成分, 有解表退热和止泻等功效)、食用植物(如粉葛 *P. thomsonii* Benth., 其块根富含淀粉)、饲用植物、覆盖和绿肥植物以及造纸和织布等工业用途(如葛富含纤维, 古称“夏布”)。葛属植物在1876年费城园艺博览会上被引入美国, 随后作为一种观赏植物、饲用植物和覆盖植物被广泛栽培, 但是它们生长非常迅速, 在美国东南部严重地影响了当地植物的生长, 上世纪八十年代以后被美国农业部宣布为有害的外来入侵植物<sup>[14-16]</sup>。同样, 葛属在南非也被视为外来入侵植物。然而, 引入和栽培的葛属植物在欧洲和南美的一

些国家却并未造成明显的入侵效应<sup>[3]</sup>。此外, 葛属植物还对中国和日本的文学有着深远的影响。例如, 《诗经—周南·葛覃》中的描述: “葛之覃兮, 施于中谷, 维叶萋萋。黄鸟于飞, 集于灌木, 其鸣喈喈。葛之覃兮, 施于中谷, 维叶莫莫。是刈是漙, 为絺为绌, 服之无斁”, 它以葛藤来比喻女子的缠绵柔情, 以葛叶来比喻女子的美貌容颜, 使淳朴的先秦女子在葛藤间的劳作之歌空谷流传两千多年后, 仿佛依然悦耳动听。总之, 葛属植物从古至今已经引起了文学家、植物学家、园艺学家、生态学家和保护生物学家的广泛关注。

葛属的分类主要依据其生长习性、小叶和托叶形态、花和花序特征(即花序轴上每节含花的数目、花萼上方连合的程度和旗瓣是否有胼胝体)、荚果形态、种子数目和形态<sup>[1-4,7,8,12]</sup>。古植物学家通常只能研究一些散生的、离体保存的小叶和荚果化石。化石记录表明, 葛属早在中新世就已经出现在东亚、巴尔干半岛和高加索地区的亚热带和温带植物群中, 目前已经发现了3个葛属化石种, 即山旺中新世的荚果化石山旺葛藤

*P. shanwangensis* Wang, Manchester et Dilcher、中国山旺和日本数个中、上新世产地的叶、小叶化石鲁葛藤 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney 以及克罗地亚和格鲁吉亚阿布哈兹中新世的小叶化石大葛藤 *P. maxima* (Unger) Wang, Manchester et Dilcher<sup>[13,17]</sup>。尽管葛属的现代分布中心在印度—马来西亚地区<sup>[2,5,6,10,12]</sup>,即属于热带亚洲分布型<sup>[18]</sup>,但该属的化石记录在中新世已出现在上述欧亚大陆的中纬度地区,因此其现代分布和多样性中心可能是在新近纪次生散布的结果。据此,我们亟需了解葛属小叶化石的形态在广阔的欧亚中纬度地区的演化途径以及可能的原因。本文基于对中新世山旺组最近采集的葛属小叶印痕化石的新观察,比较了所有已知化石种小叶的形态,补充描述了先前未被发现或被忽视的叶结构特征,讨论了这些小叶化石的发育变异和潜在的古生态学意义。

## 2. 材料和方法

本文描述的5块小叶均保存为印痕化石,采自山东省临朐县城东约22公里处的山旺盆地山旺组硅藻页岩地层(地理坐标为北纬36°54',东经118°20')<sup>[19-21]</sup>。山旺组富含十分精美的古生物化石,素有“古生物化石宝库”之称<sup>[20,22,23]</sup>。目前,山旺组生物群的地质时代被认为是中中新世<sup>[13,20,21,24-27]</sup>或早中新世晚期至中中新世早期<sup>[19,28-32]</sup>。

我们对小叶印痕化石作了直接观察,详细描述了其叶结构特征。为了便于比较,绘制了过去发表的相关小叶化石叶结构的线条图。对栽培于北京植物研究所植物园内的葛属现生种葛 *P. montana* 的小叶形态和生态习性作了观察,并总结了前人相关的研究成果。描述叶结构的术语采纳了 Ellis 等<sup>[33]</sup>的用法。标本照相使用了数码相机(型号 Panasonic DMC-FZ30)。植物化石材料(标本编号前缀 PE、UCMP 和 LMJ)分别保存于中国科学院植物研究所国家标本馆、美国加利福尼亚大学古生物博物馆和奥地利格拉茨大学 Provincial Museum Joanneum。

## 3. 结果

### 3.1. 小叶化石描述

豆科 Leguminosae Juss., 1789;

蝶形花亚科 Papilionoideae L. ex DC., 1825;

菜豆族 Phaseoleae (Bronn) DC., 1825;

大豆亚族 Glycininae (Burnett) Benth., 1837;

葛属 *Pueraria* DC., 1825;

鲁葛藤 *Pueraria miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney, 1938(图 1. 1~5, 图 2. 1~4);

1938 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney<sup>[17]</sup>, p. 52, pl. 28, fig. 1;

1974 *P. tanaii* Ozaki<sup>[36]</sup>, p. 15, pl. 2, fig. 11, pl. 3, fig. 3;

1975 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney in Haya-shi<sup>[34]</sup>, p. 25, pl. 17, fig. 4, pl. 18, fig. 5;

1978 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney, 中国科学院植物研究所、南京地质古生物研究所《中国新生代植物》编写组<sup>[78]</sup>, p. 109, pl. 85, fig. 3, pl. 91, fig. 5, pl. 92;

1988 *Pueraria* sp., Uemura<sup>[35]</sup>, p. 149, fig. 34, pl. 9, fig. 8;

1991 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney in Ozaki<sup>[37]</sup>, p. 133, fig. 29-2, pl. 5, fig. 11;

1992 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney in Guo, Zhou<sup>[79]</sup>, p. 209, tab. 1;

1999 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney, 陶君容等<sup>[54]</sup>, p. 41, 70, pl. 28, fig. 2-3;

2010 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney in Wang et al.<sup>[13]</sup>, p. 1988, fig. 10-21, 23。

凭证标本 PE-081024, 20110529, 081023, 09513 和 09514(图 1. 1~5, 按图号依次)。

**描述** 小叶印痕化石,包括3种主要类型:对称型(1份标本)、左偏斜型(3份标本)和右偏斜型(1份标本)。因此,它们可能脱落于3小叶组成的复叶。顶生小叶对称型,叶片宽卵形,有点斜方状,15厘米长、13厘米宽,边缘全缘,顶端渐尖,基部宽楔形,小叶柄膨大,形成一个短粗的叶枕,矩形,6毫米长、4毫米宽。侧生小叶强烈不对称,向左偏斜(即叶片左半边较大)或向右偏斜(即叶片右半边较大),叶片宽卵形,8~14.8厘米长、6~11.2厘米宽,边缘全缘、轻微的波状或具有极浅钝圆裂湾的掌状三裂瓣,顶端急尖、渐尖或(稀)钝圆,基部宽楔形、钝圆或平截形,小叶柄膨大,形成一个短粗的叶枕,矩形,3~9毫米长、1.5~3毫米宽。叶质地纸质。

叶片具羽状脉 pinnate。主脉(即中脉)较粗,在顶

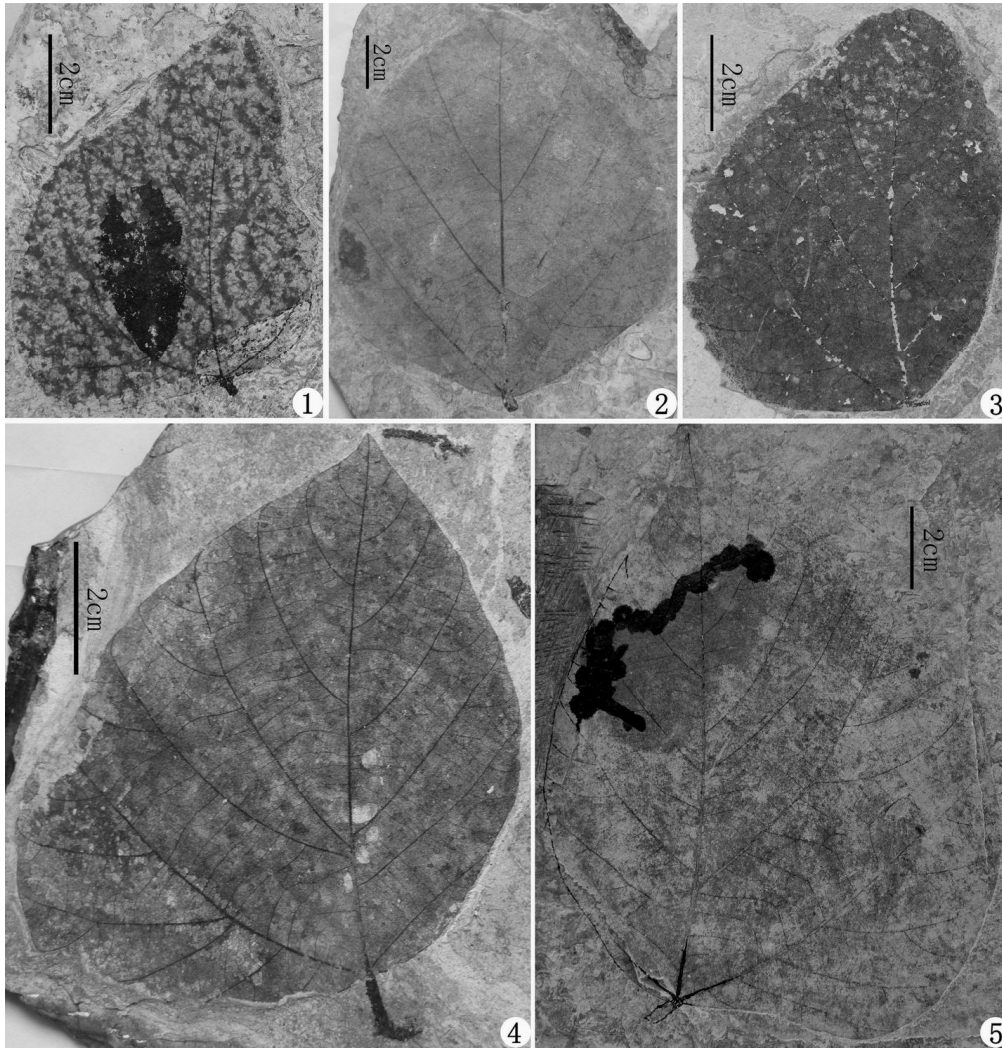


Figure 1. Leaflet impressions of *Pueraria miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney from the Miocene Shanwang Formation. 1: A lateral leaflet, showing very shallow trilobation; 2: A terminal leaflet, indicating an intersecondary vein from the upper left of the mid-vein; 3: A lateral leaflet, showing two adjacent agrophic veins at different angles diverged from the exmedial side of the left basal secondary vein; 4: A lateral leaflet, showing two adjacent secondary veins or agrophic veins respectively diverged from the mid-vein or the exmedial side of the left basal secondary vein at different angles; 5: A lateral leaflet, indicating a poorly developed, intersecondary vein from the middle-lower of the mid-vein

图 1. 山东中新世山旺组葛藤小叶印痕化石。1: 侧生小叶, 显示了极浅的三裂瓣; 2: 顶生小叶, 显示中脉上部左侧有一条间二级脉; 3: 侧生小叶, 显示了左侧基脉远轴侧发出 2 条挨得很近的、角度不同的外侧脉; 4: 侧生小叶, 显示了中脉左侧和左侧基脉远轴侧分别发出 2 条挨得很近的、角度不同的二级脉和外侧脉; 5: 侧生小叶, 显示了中脉中下部左侧有一条不甚发育的间二级脉

生小叶中很直, 而在侧生小叶中则略弯。二级脉属于真曲脉 eucamptodromous, 4~7 对, 包括 1 对强的基脉, 从中脉以  $30^{\circ}\sim 60^{\circ}$  伸出, 间距通常较宽(但有时在侧生小叶片的较大那半发出两条挨得很近、角度不同的二级脉), 对生或互生, 脉形向上弧曲, 临近叶缘急剧上弯, 与相邻的二级脉和二级脉外侧脉联成环形, 在边缘没有形成较高级的脉环。二级脉梳脉 agrophic veins 复合型, 1~7 条, 从二级脉远轴侧以  $30^{\circ}\sim 90^{\circ}$  分出, 间距通常较宽, 但有时在侧生小叶片的较大那半发出两条挨得很近、角度不同的二级脉梳脉。间二级

脉单一型, 与中脉上相邻二级脉近平行, 但仅发至半边叶片的中部。三级脉及顶型 percurrent 为主, 稀随机网状, 互生或以对生为主, 或多或少平行, 脉形直、波状弯曲或中部向远轴方向微微拱起, 脉间距 2~10 毫米, 与中脉的角度呈  $90^{\circ}\sim 150^{\circ}$ , 但以  $120^{\circ}$  的倾斜为主, 与二级脉和二级脉梳脉呈  $70^{\circ}\sim 90^{\circ}$ 。四级脉形成规则的多边形网状。五级脉二歧式分支。脉间区 areolation 发育得很好。叶缘末级脉结成环形, 在叶片基部有时呈流苏状。

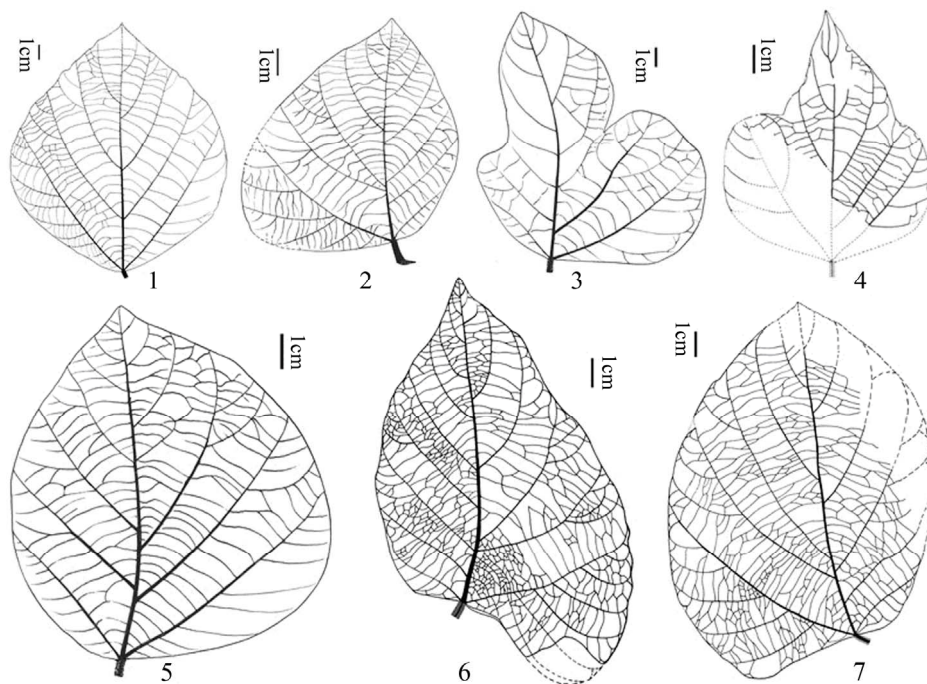
产地层位 山东省临朐县城东约 22 km 处的山旺

盆地, 中新统山旺组硅藻页岩。

**讨论** 当前描述的小叶印痕化石具有短粗的叶枕和真曲型的二级脉, 因此可以归入豆科。这种具有相似叶结构特征, 大型对称的、顶生小叶和强烈不对称的、侧生小叶主要局限于蝶形花亚科菜豆族及其近缘类群中具有三小叶复叶的属<sup>[13]</sup>。根据这些化石具有一致的真曲型二级脉(包括一对较强的基脉)、复合型二级脉梳脉、对生及顶型为主的三级脉和规则的多边形网状四级脉等叶结构特征, 它们被归入葛属 *Pueraria*, 进而归入先前描述的化石种鲁葛藤 *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney<sup>[17]</sup>。当前描述的小叶化石标本中还保存了不太发育的间二级脉, 它们先前曾发现于现生种葛 *P. montana* 和化石种大葛藤 *P. maxima*<sup>[13]</sup> 的小叶中(图 2. 5)。现生种葛与化石种鲁葛藤和大葛藤的小叶的主脉和二级脉远轴侧有时都会发出两条挨得很近、角度不同的二级脉梳脉(图 2. 2, 6~7; 图 3), 这个叶结构

特征先前一直被忽视了。

除了山旺, 鲁葛藤还发现于日本中新世至上新世的多个产地<sup>[13,34-37]</sup>。我们这里排除了 Ina<sup>[38]</sup> 的图版 24 图 9 中描述于中新世可儿 Kani 盆地的葛属小叶化石, 这块标本呈非常宽的卵形, 极不对称, 较小, 约 4.5 厘米长、4.8 厘米宽, 它可能属于椴树科 Tiliaceae Juss. 中的化石种 *Plafkeria basiobliqua* (Oishi et Huzioka) Tanai<sup>[39]</sup>。值得一提的是, 在日本壹歧 Iki 岛中中新世长者原 Chōjbaru 组发现了一件比较完整的、显示鲁葛藤顶生小叶和侧生小叶有机连接的三小叶复叶标本<sup>[13,34]</sup>。另外, 在山旺组和日本晚中新世高峰山组 Takamine 都发现了具有掌状 3 裂瓣的鲁葛藤小叶(图 2. 3~4), 但标本数量很少(仅有 3 块), 这种表型迄今还从未发现于另外一个产自克罗地亚拉道博 Radoboj 植物群和格鲁吉亚阿布哈兹考多儿 Kodor 植物群的小叶化石种大葛藤(图 2. 5~7)。目前, 仅在山旺组中发



**Figure 2.** Leaflet architectures of two fossil *Pueraria* species 1-4: *P. miothunbergiana* Hu et Chaney from the Miocene of China and Japan; 1: A terminal leaflet from the Miocene Shanwang (drawn from the holotype UCMP 410001); 2: A lateral leaflet from the Miocene Shanwang (also in Figures 1-4); 3: A trilobed lateral leaflet from the Miocene Shanwang; 4: A trilobed terminal leaflet from the Miocene Takamine of Japan; 5-7: *P. maxima* (Unger) Wang, Manchester et Dilcher from the Miocene of Croatia and Abkhazia; 5: A lateral leaflet from the Miocene of Croatia (drawn from the lectotype LMJ-76781), showing an intersecondary vein from the upper right of the mid-vein; 6, 7: Two lateral leaflets from the Miocene of Abkhazia (redrawn from Kolakovsky, 1959, pl. 13, fig. 1, pl. 12, fig. 1); 6: Showing a slightly undulate margin and two adjacent secondary veins diverged from the mid-vein at different angles

**图 2.** 葛属 2 个化石种的小叶结构 1~4: 中国和日本中新世的鲁葛藤; 1: 中新世山旺产的顶生小叶(绘自主模式 UCMP 410001); 2: 中新世山旺产的侧生小叶(也见插图 1~4); 3: 中新世山旺产的三裂瓣侧生小叶; 4: 日本中新世高峰山产的三裂瓣顶生小叶; 5~7: 克罗地亚和阿布哈兹中新世的大葛藤; 5: 克罗地亚中新世产的侧生小叶(绘自后选模式 LMJ-76781), 显示中脉上部右侧有一条间二级脉; 6, 7: 阿布哈兹中新世产的 2 片侧生小叶(重绘自 Kolakovsky, 1959, pl. 13, fig. 1, pl. 12, fig. 1); 6: 显示了轻微波状的边缘和中脉右侧发出 2 条挨得很近的、角度不同的二级脉



Figure 3. Leaflet morphology of living *P. montana* (Lour.) Merr., three leaflets in each line from a trifoliolate compound-leaf, showing the developmental variation  
图 3. 现生种葛的小叶形态, 每排中的 3 片小叶来自一枚三小叶复叶, 显示了发育变异

现了葛属的荚果化石山旺葛藤 *P. shanwangensis*<sup>[13]</sup>, 它极有可能和山旺产的小叶化石鲁葛藤来自于相同的母体植物居群。

### 3.2. 现生种葛的小叶形态和发育变异

现生种葛 *P. montana* 的小叶形态变异幅度很大, 从全缘叶(有时有些波状)到不同程度的两裂或掌状三裂(见图 3), 以顶端渐尖的卵形叶片为主, 稀顶端钝圆的近圆形、扇圆形或卵形叶片。现生葛的小叶面积在一枚三小叶复叶中也存在一定差异, 根据 Tsugawa 和 Tange<sup>[40]</sup>的观察, 42%的三小叶复叶具有较大面积的顶生小叶, 25%和 33%的三小叶复叶中分别具有较大面积的左侧生小叶和右侧生小叶。

我们分 2 组观察了攀援于密闭藤架上和蔓生在开阔地上的栽培葛居群的叶子, 对于藤架上的葛叶又分成 2 小组观察它们的阳生叶 sun leaves 和阴生叶 shade leaves 的形态, 而蔓生的植株上葛叶大都“华盖状”

叶面朝上或斜上方, 似乎没有明显的阴生叶。我们在每个居群的藤株上每组随机摘取 10 枚发育完整的叶(总计 90 片小叶)进行测量, 统计结果发现攀援在藤架上的葛明显比蔓生在开阔地上的葛发育了更多的、具有裂瓣的小叶。总体上, 藤架上的阳生小叶比阴生小叶稍小些, 而藤架上的小叶比蔓生在开阔地上的小叶要大一些(表 1)。

## 4. 古生态学意义

根据现生种葛与化石种鲁葛藤和大葛藤非常相似的叶结构特征, 我们可以推测, 控制葛属小叶形态分化的基因组早在中新世就已发挥其内在驱动作用, 种内和种间的小叶形态差别总体上可归因于基因调控<sup>[41]</sup>、发育变异<sup>[42]</sup>和外界环境条件的变化。就外界环境条件而言, 温度(与光照和二氧化碳浓度密切相关)、水分以及支持物是影响葛属生理代谢、生长发育、多样性和丰度以及迁移散布的最重要生态因素。

葛属现生种大多是攀援性藤本植物(稀灌木), 它们喜生长在湿润或季节性干旱的热带、亚热带和温带森林、雨林以及灌木丛植被中<sup>[2-4,10,12]</sup>, 它们对温度、水分、光照、高浓度水平的二氧化碳和环境污染等生态因素都非常敏感<sup>[16,43-47]</sup>。通过对现生葛居群的观察, 生长在阳光和水分充足的生境以及攀援于支持物(如藤架或其他木本植物)上的植株比生于开阔生境以及蔓生的植株中发育了更多的果实<sup>[48]</sup>、分枝和冠层<sup>[49]</sup>(本文的观察)。近来的生态学研究表明, 随着热带森林的扰动率增加和温带森林碎片化 fragmentation 的加剧, 藤本植物的丰度会增加, 而其多样性一般随纬度降低而增加<sup>[50-53]</sup>。除了鲁葛藤之外, 在山旺植物群中还有陶氏紫藤 *Wisteria taoiana* Wang et al.<sup>[26]</sup>、角苦皮藤 *Celastrus mioangulata* Hu et Chaney、多花藤 *Berchemia miofloribunda* Hu et Chaney、山旺蛇葡萄 *Ampelopsis shanwangensis* Hu et Chaney、山东岩爬藤 *Tetrastigma shantungensis* Hu et Chaney 和秋葡萄 *Vitis romanetii* Roman 等诸多藤本植物<sup>[53,54]</sup>, 这暗示着中新世山旺植物群可能发生了一定程度的森林碎片化。此外, 山旺中新世火山喷发可能导致了该地区生物大量非正常死亡<sup>[55]</sup>。总体上, 随着中新世到上新世以来喜马拉雅山—青藏高原的隆起和古地中海的退却<sup>[56]</sup>、亚洲内陆荒漠化<sup>[57]</sup>、亚洲季风系统的形成<sup>[58]</sup>以及地中海地区的旱化<sup>[59]</sup>, 曾经在早新生代广阔的欧亚中纬度

Table 1. Developmental variation of living *Pueraria montana* leaflets in different environmental conditions  
 表 1. 现生葛小叶在不同环境条件下的发育变异

蔓生在藤架上												蔓生在地上											
叶(阳生)						叶(阴生)						叶											
左侧生小叶(cm)		右侧生小叶(cm)		左侧生小叶(cm)		右侧生小叶(cm)		左侧生小叶(cm)		右侧生小叶(cm)		顶生小叶(cm)		左侧生小叶(cm)		右侧生小叶(cm)							
裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小	裂瓣长	大小						
11.5×7	2 7.2 0	13×6	2 8.5 2	12×7.5	0 7 2	15.7×10	1.8 9.6 0.6	15.2×12.1	2 9.2 2	15.5×10.2	0.5 9.6 1.5	6.8×4	0.7 3.8 0	7.3×5.5	0 2.8 0.4	6.6×4.1	0 3.2 0.4						
11.5×7.5	2 7.5 0.4	12.5×9	2 8 1.7	11×7	0 7.5 2	9.9×5.7	1.5 6.7 0	10.5×7.7	1.5 6.8 1.9	9.5×5.7	0.2 6.5 1.9	8.6×5.1	1.2 5.3 0	9×6.2	1 4.9 0.6	8.3×5.1	0 4.8 1.2						
8.3×7.6	2.7 5 0	10.3×9.1	2.2 6.5 2.2	10.1×7.1	0 6.5 2.1	14×8.9	2 9 0.4	15.4×12	2.6 10.1 2.9	14.9×9	0.7 10.2 2.5	13.2×9.3	1 6.5 0	13.6×11.7	0 0 0	13.7×9.3	0 7.3 0.9						
14.4×9.5	3 9.8 0.5	14.3×10.8	2.5 8.8 2.1	14.4×9.1	0 9 2.1	12.6×8.5	1.9 7.9 0.6	14.3×10.7	2 9 2.1	13×8.1	0.4 8 2.3	13.2×8.6	2.1 9 0	13.6×10.4	2 8.8 2	12.9×8.7	0.4 8.3 2.1						
14.7×10.1	2.5 9 0.5	15×11	2.4 9.8 2.2	14.2×9	0 8.5 1.5	15.2×9.9	2.3 9.5 0.5	17.1×12.2	2.7 11.7 2.4	14.8×9.5	0.5 9 2	7.8×5	0 0 0	8.1×6.6	0 0 0	8×5.2	0 0 0						
13.2×9.2	2.8 8.2 0.4	15.5×10.9	2.5 10.6 2.6	13.9×9	0 8.2 1.9	14.5×9.3	2.6 9.7 0.6	16.2×11.7	2.7 11.2 2.6	14.9×9.7	0.7 10.2 2.1	12.1×7.7	1.6 7.1 0.4	12.8×10	1.9 7.7 1.8	11.5×7.4	0.3 7 1.4						
15×9.9	2.6 9 0	15.8×12.5	2.4 10 2.2	15.4×10	0.3 9.9 2.4	15.4×10.2	2.3 9.7 0.5	15.7×12.4	2.7 10 2.1	15.5×9.8	0.4 10 2.6	8.7×5.4	0.6 4.1 0	10.2×7.6	0.9 5.3 0.5	8.9×5.5	0 4.8 0.8						
10.5×6.6	1.3 5 0	10.5×7.8	1.3 6.3 1.4	10.2×6.6	0.4 6.5 1.4	11.5×7.7	2.4 7.5 0.4	12×8.9	1.9 8 1.9	12×8.1	0.4 7.8 2.1	7.5×5.1	0.5 4.1 0	8.6×6.6	0.4 3.7 0	7.8×5.2	0 4.5 0.4						
12×8.1	2.5 7.8 0	13.5×9.8	2.2 9 2.3	12×8	0 7.8 2.2	14×8.7	2.7 9.8 0.7	15×10.5	2 10.5 1.9	13.6×8.4	0.5 8.9 2.1	14×9.5	3.2 9.4 0.4	14.2×11	2.5 9.7 2.5	13.5×9.3	0.5 9.7 3						
15×10.6	3 9.5 0	15.5×11.8	2.6 9.8 2.2	15.3×10	0.3 10 2.5	8.5×5.6	1.1 5.4 0	9.4×6.7	1.1 6.1 1.1	8.8×5.1	0.3 5.4 1	7.8×5.4	0.5 3.8 0	8.6×6.8	0.5 4 0.5	8.3×5.7	0 4.1 0.4						

地区分布的森林变得日益碎片化。东亚、巴尔干半岛和高加索地区发现葛属化石的产地可能代表了北半球新近纪亚热带和暖温带植物群和森林中喜湿成分的避难所<sup>[13,17,34,35,60-66]</sup>。巴尔干半岛和高加索地区的大葛藤居群在中新世之后(灭绝)消失了,而东亚的鲁葛藤居群在日本兜岩 Kabutoiwa 则一直延续到上新世中期的凉温带植物群中<sup>[37,67]</sup>,或许最后演化成今天生活在东亚地区的葛属居群。

大气二氧化碳浓度在中中新世暖期比现在可能低些<sup>[68-71]</sup>。最近的研究表明,现代大气二氧化碳排放速率是古新世-始新世极热事件 Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum(PETM)时期的 10 倍<sup>[72]</sup>。通过对现生葛的研究发现,大气二氧化碳浓度升高将明显增加葛属植物小叶的生长率和叶片的扩张速率<sup>[45]</sup>。现生的葛小叶(7-26 × 5-22 厘米)比化石种鲁葛藤和大葛藤的小叶(分别为 5.2-18.5 × 4.8-16 厘米和 8.3-15 × 5.5-12 厘米)都要大些<sup>[13]</sup>,这可能与新近纪以来大气二氧化碳浓度的变化有关。如果暂不考虑化石埋藏学的偏差等因素,现生种似乎比化石种发育了更多的、具有裂瓣的小叶,这一方面可能与当前高浓度的二氧化碳加快葛小叶的扩张速率有关,即同等大小的裂瓣小叶比全缘小叶的扩张速率更快。另一方面,现代生态学研究表明,裂瓣小叶能有效地促进整株植物的叶片和冠层中的光照截取和通风散热<sup>[73-77]</sup>。现生葛长在荫蔽生境以及攀援于支持物(如藤架或其他木本植物)上的植株比生于开阔生境以及蔓生的植株发育了更多的、具有裂瓣的小叶。据此我们推测,中国和日本中、上新世的鲁葛藤居群可能比克罗地亚和阿布哈兹中新世的大葛藤居群的生态耐受性更加宽泛,它们既可生活在荫蔽的、更多依赖森林的生境中,也能长在开阔、较少依赖森林、甚至蔓生的生境中。

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