

Rare ants discovered in south China

A rare ant species has been discovered in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local authorities said Sunday.

Opamyra hungvuong, an ancient ant species, was spotted for the first time in Guangxi by experts on an ant survey at a national reserve near Guangxi's tourist city of Guilin.

Staff with Huaping National Nature Reserve said that the ants live under some small bush-covered rocks in a primary forest with moderate humidity. About 30 ants were collected for research.

The discovery of *Opamyra hungvuong* will provide new evidence for the evolution and distribution of ants, according to staff with the nature reserve.

Opamyra hungvuong mainly feeds on tiny Arthropoda species. The ant only lives in well-preserved primary forests with little human activity, and is a good indicator of the environmental quality.

The Huaping National Nature Reserve was among the first nature reserves established in China.

Heavy rain causes big losses in Liaoning

Heavy rain in northeast China's Liaoning Province has killed one person and another is missing, causing a direct economic loss of about 4.2 billion yuan (620 million U.S. dollars), authorities said.

Xiuyan Man Autonomous County under Anshan City experienced heavy downpours this week, and 358,000 people suffered losses, according to Anshan publicity department. More than 1,000 houses collapsed, and bridges, roads, electricity and telecommunication facilities sustained damages.

More than 2,300 rescuers are at the scene and about 100,000 people have been evacuated.

Giant mushroom discovered in southwest China

A giant mushroom has been discovered in southwest China's Yunnan Province, authorities said Sunday.

The mushroom was found next in the Pu'er Sun-River National Park in Pu'er City. It has a circumference of 1.8 meters and weighs 8 kilograms, according to staff at the park.

"Half of it was covered by leaves and the other half was in the air," said a staff. "It had different layers, and appeared brown. It had many wrinkles."

The mushroom is the biggest ever discovered in the region. Mycologists say that it is not edible.

"I have been living here for more than 40 years, but I have never seen anything quite like this before!" said a local villager.

The park is at the transitional area of tropical zone and subtropical zone, and it boasts a variety of plants and wildlife.

CPC strives to build world's strongest party

2017 is an eventful year for China, with several marquee activities on the political calendar, including the upcoming 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the 90th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army early this week.

The world's attention has once again shifted to China with the CPC as the center of that attention.

Tasked with leading the country to rejuvenation, the CPC also has its own mission: to be the strongest party in the world.

The mission is determined by China's national conditions. The country's vast population, unbalanced economy, and the pressure of its two centennial goals require the leadership of a stronger CPC.

The mission is also the CPC's response to the international community. Under the CPC's leadership and endeavors of the generations of Party members, China's progress in social development has made the Party an example to all and the world looks forward to its contribution to global governance.

Over the years, the CPC has established an efficient organizational structure and strict party discipline, which helped it survive wars and revolutions and to continue to thrive after almost a century.

But the Party never rests on its laurels. The leadership has repeatedly warned that the biggest threat to the Party is corruption and the CPC must better serve the people and lead the second largest economy in the world.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, an anti-corruption campaign has swept across the country, putting at least 240 senior officials under investigation.

The campaign has reinforced people's confidence in the Party. In a survey conducted by Pew Research Center in 2016, 64 percent of the interviewees believed that corruption would lessen over the next five years.

Grassroots Party members and organizations are crucial to the strength of the Party. The CPC is setting up a better appraisal mechanism to allow more mobility within its organizational structure, so that any capable candidate from its 89 million members has a chance to shine.

Over the past year, the catchphrase of the Party has been "staying true to our founding mission", which is to serve the people.

"We won't have the support of the people if we cannot strive for the people's benefit," said Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China, in 1934.

"To meet the people's desire for a happy life is our mission," said Xi Jinping when meeting the press after being elected as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee in 2012.

Considering the achievements of China, the CPC is fulfilling its promise.

More than 700 million people have been lifted out of poverty since 1978. In the past more than four years alone, China has seen over 55 million reach a reasonable standard of living.

Under the leadership of the Party, China is sharing the benefits of its economic boom with the people.

Antaeus, the giant in Greek mythology, can absorb inexhaustible power from the earth. Similarly, as long as the CPC stays close to the people, it will never lose its vitality.

Throughout its history, the CPC has debunked and defanged so many prejudices and stereotypes. Now, as China finds itself at a critical point of its revival, the world is waiting to see how the CPC continues to impress.

China issues alert for flash floods

The meteorological authority on Saturday warned that flash floods would likely follow torrential rain in the northeast and southwest of the country.

Parts of Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan will likely see floods from Saturday night to Sunday night, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said.

Rain in these regions will be accompanied by thunder and strong winds, or hail in some areas, according to the CMA. Local authorities were told to prepare for mud-rock flows and landslides.

Since June, floods and droughts have hit north and south China, with some regions severely affected.

Last week, floods caused by heavy rain destroyed hundreds and damaged thousands of houses in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.