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He obtained his PhD in 1994 in Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS and was promoted to full professor there in 1997. Prof. Sun obtained NSFC funding as a distinguished young scholar in 2006 and then was enrolled as a national member of "New Century Hundreds and Thousands of Talents Project". He received “Zhu Li Yue Hua Teacher Award” from the CAS in 2009. He currently serves as president of the Botanical Society of Yunnan and is the associate editor of Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society and Flora of Pan-himalayas. He is also an editorial board member for Alpine Botany and Journal of Systematics and Evolution.

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