

***Liparis gigantea* C.L. Tso (Orchidaceae): a new record for the flora of India**

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Abstract

Liparis gigantea C.L. Tso (Orchidaceae) has been recorded and described for the first time from Arunachal Pradesh that forms a new record for the flora of India. A detailed description, illustration with photographs has been provided in this communication.

Key words: *Liparis gigantea*, Orchidaceae, New record, India

INTRODUCTION

During the floristic explorations of *Manbhum Reserve Forest* in the Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh in October, 2014, a species of *Liparis* Richard was collected. It flowered on 15th April, 2016. On critical examination, it turned out to be *Liparis gigantea* C.L. Tso, which was earlier reported from Guangdong, Guangxi, SW Guizhou, Hainan, SE Xizang, Yunnan and Taiwan (Chen *et al.* 2009). Scanning through the literature (Misra 2007; Kumar & Manilal 1994; Hooker 1888 – 1890; Pradhan 1979; Rao 2010) reveals that the species was earlier not recorded from India, hence the present collection represents its first record for India. A brief description of the species with citation, illustration, habitat, and distribution are provided for its easy identification. The voucher specimen will be deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Life Science, Dibrugarh University.

Taxonomic Treatment

Liparis gigantea C.L. Tso, Sunyatsenia 1: 136. 1933; Chen *et al.* Orchidaceae, in Fl. China. 25: 219. 2009. [PLATES – I & II]

Liparis macrantha Rolfe ex Hemsley, Ann. Bot. (Oxford) 9: 156 (1895), *nom. illeg.*

Plants terrestrial, 30–50 cm including leaves. Stem green, cylindrical, 8–20 cm, thick, fleshy, with many nodes, lower part covered with several membranous sheaths. Leaves green with purple nerves, petiol sheathlike, 3–6, 10–20 × 4–10 cm, elliptic or obliquely ovate-elliptic, membranous or herbaceous, apex acuminate, margins wavy. Inflorescence terminal, 10–40 cm, narrowly 5 winged, purplish olive green, many flowered; floral bracts ovate, 0.1–0.2 cm. Flowers deep purplish red, 2–2.5 cm across. Dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, 1.6–2 × 0.2–0.3 cm, apex obtuse; lateral sepals ovate-lanceolate, 1.5–1.7 × 0.4–0.5 cm, apex obtuse. Petals linear or narrowly linear, 1.6–1.8 × 0.1 cm. Lip obovate-elliptic or broadly obovate-oblong, 0.9–1.5 × 1.2–1.8 cm, base abruptly contracted and with a pair of backward spreading auricles, margin conspicuously denticulate, apex truncate and sometimes mucronulate; disk with 2 calli near base. Column 0.6–0.8 cm.



PLATE - I. *Liparis gigantea* C. L. Tso. **Fig. 1:** Plant with inflorescence; **Fig. 2:** Inflorescence; **Figs. 3 & 4:** Close view of flowers

Flowering: April– May.

Habitat: Growing terrestrial in evergreen forests, shaded and damp places.

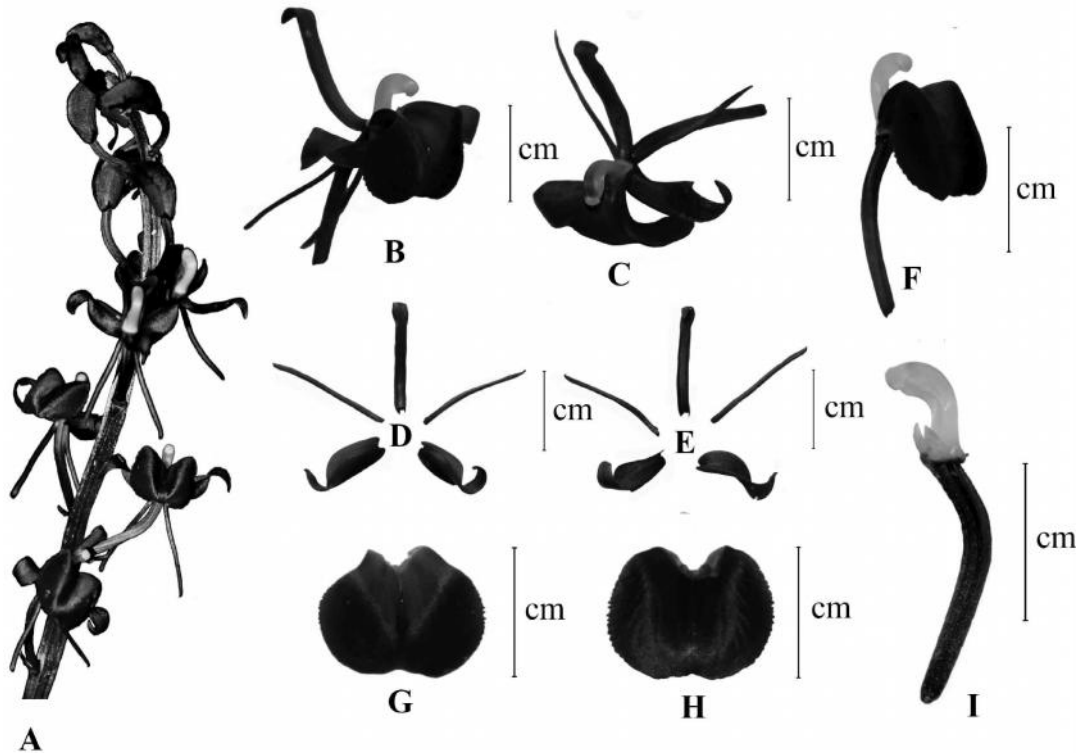


PLATE - II. *Liparis gigantea* C. L. Tso. **A.** inflorescence; **B.** Flower front view; **C.** flower distal view; **D & E.** perigone; **F.** lip with ovary & column; **G & H.** lip; **I.** ovary & column

Exsiccatae: *Manbhum Reserve Forest*, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh, *Gogoi 0763*, dated 15.04.2016.

General Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh– *Manbhum Reserve Forest*), Guangdong, Guangxi, SW Guizhou, Hainan, SE Xizang, Yunnan and Taiwan.

Status: Rare; the species was found only in one locality.

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