

***Holcoglossum amesianum* (Reichenbach f.) Christenson (Orchidaceae): an addition to the flora of Nagaland, India**

Nelia Lea, Limasenla¹ and Zubenthung P. Kikon

Department of Botany, Nagaland University, Lumami-798627, Nagaland, India

¹Corresponding author; e-mail: limasenla@mail.org

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Abstract

Holcoglossum amesianum (Reichenbach f.) Christenson (Orchidaceae), collected from the Phek district, is an addition to the orchid flora of Nagaland. A detailed description along with coloured photograph is provided here.

Key word: *Holcoglossum amesianum*; New record; Nagaland

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Holcoglossum* was established by Schlechter (1919) based on the plant *Saccolabium quasipinifolium* Hayata from Taiwan (Jin 2005). It is a small Asian orchid genus with about 20 species (Xiang *et al.* 2012). Phukan and Mao (2000) reported *Holcoglossum amesianum* as the only species of the genus found in India. However, based on the morphological and molecular study of the genus provided by Xiang *et al.* (2012) the inclusion of *Penkimia* Phukan & Odyuo in the genus *Holcoglossum* has increased the number of the species from one to two. Thus, *Holcoglossum amesianum* and *H. nagalandensis* Phukan & Odyuo are the two species of the genus found in India. As a part of the ongoing floristic inventory of Phek district of Nagaland, an interesting epiphytic orchid was collected. After perusal of literature the species was identified as *Holcoglossum amesianum* which was never been reported from Nagaland (Hynniewta *et al.* 2000; Deb *et al.* 2003; Deb & Imchen 2008). So, the present finding is a new addition to the orchid flora of Nagaland. A detailed description along with coloured photographs is provided for easy identification in the field. The voucher specimen is submitted in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Nagaland University, Lumami.

Taxonomic treatment:

Holcoglossum amesianum (Reichenbach f.) Christenson, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburg, 44(2): 255. 1987; Seidenfaden in Opera Botanica, 95:308, fig.201.T, XXXVI. 1988. *Vanda amesiana* Reichenbach f., Gard. Chron., ser. 3, 1: 764. 1887.

Monopodial epiphytic, stem 3-7 cm, numerous thick roots arising from the base, stem enclosed by persistent leaf sheaths. Leaves fleshy, semiterete, adaxially channelled, conduplicate, 8 – 30 cm long. Inflorescence lateral, racemes ascending, 25 – 35 cm long, laxly 5 – 11 flowered, peduncle pale green and deep purple dotted. Flowers 4 – 4.5 cm across, pinkish white becoming pale and white after 2 – 4 days. Pedicel 3 – 4 cm,



PLATE - I. *Holcoglossum amesianum* (Reichenbach *f.*) Christenson: **A.** Habit; **B.** Inflorescence; **C.** Dissected flower

slightly twisted, pinkish white. Bracts minute, 3 mm, broadly ovate. Sepals pinkish white, obtuse; lateral sepals obliquely ovate-elliptic, 20 x 12 mm; dorsal sepal elliptic, 18 x 10 mm. Petals oblanceolate-elliptic, 18 x 11 mm, obtuse. Lip trilobed, 24 x 17 mm across, deep pink; lateral lobes ascending, ovate-triangular, adnate to base of column, obtuse;

mid-lobe reniform, orbicular, margin denticulate, apex retuse; spurs small 3 – 4 mm, obtuse and bending towards the pedicel. Column thick, truncate at apex.

Flowering: March – April

Specimen examined: Tsupfume village, Phek district, Nagaland; altitude 1517 m; GPS location N 25°32'05.9" E 094°19'49.0"; dated 19.03.2016, *NLNU 0217*.

Distribution: South west China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

Notes: The species was found growing on tree tops of *Ficus* sp. and *Engelhardtia* sp. in subtropical open hill slopes. Population of the species was few and was sparsely distributed.

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