

A note on the correct identity of two orchid species of Northeast India

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Abstract

Two orchid species viz. *Dendrobium kentrophyllum* Hook.f. reported from Manipur is reidentified as *D. mannii* Ridl. and a new species from Sikkim viz. *Bulbophyllum paramjitii* Agrawala, M.U.Sharief & B.K.Singh is reduced to a new synonym of *Bulbophyllum jejosephii* J.J.Verm., Schuit. & de Vogel

Key words: Orchids, N.E.India, *Dendrobium mannii*, *Bulbophyllum paramjitii*, new synonym

INTRODUCTION

During the studies on the Orchids of Northeast India, a careful and critical comparative study based on the type specimens, protologues and type illustrations, two species of orchids viz. *Dendrobium kentrophyllum* Hook.f. which was reported as an addition to Manipur (Khuraijam & Roy 2016) and *Bulbophyllum paramjitii* Agrawala, M.U.Sharief & B.K.Singh which was described from Sikkim as a new species (Agrawala *et al.* 2016) have been proved to be wrong identifications and the correct identifications are *Dendrobium mannii* Ridley and *Bulbophyllum jejosephii* J.J.Verm., Schuit. & de Vogel. respectively. Both the species are enumerated below with correct citation and relevant notes.

1. *Dendrobium mannii* Ridl. in J. Linn. Soc. 32: 246. 1896; Seidenfaden, Opera Bot. 83: 219. t. 149. 1985; A.N.Rao in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 14 (2):469. 1990. *Aporum mannii* (Ridl.) Rauschert in Fed. Repert. 94: 440. 1983. *Dendrobium kentrophyllum auct. non* Hook.f. *sensu* Khuraijam & Roy in Richardiana 16: 273. 2016.

Notes: In the taxon reported from Manipur by Khuraijam & Roy (2016) the leaves are oblong-lanceolate, acute and flattened with bases touching one another; flowers 1–2 cm long; lip obovate with dimond-shaped epichile. These characters clearly indicate that this species is *Dendrobium mannii* which belongs to the section *Aporum*. On the contrary, *D. kentrophyllum* which belongs to the section *Strongyle* is characterized by horn-like outwardly curved terete leaves with distant bases; flowers more than 2 cm long; lip spatulate with obovate epichile (Hooker 1890a&b; Hegde & Rao 1982).

2. *Bulbophyllum jejosephii* J.J.Verm., Schuit. & de Vogel in Phytotaxa 166: 106. 2014. *Trias pusilla* J. Joseph & H.Deka in J. Indian Bot. Soc. 51: 378. 1972 (publ. 1973). *Jejosephia pusilla* (J. Joseph & H.Deka) A.N.Rao & Mani in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 7: 217. 1985.

Bulbophyllum paramjithii Agrawala, M.U.Sharief & B.K.Singh, *Phytotaxa* 273 (1): 72. 2016. **syn. nov.**

Notes: Agrawala *et al.* (2016) established a new species from Sikkim by stating that their specimen differs from *Bulbophyllum subtenellum* Seidenfaden in having well developed leaves present during flowering; a rugose labellum apex, apical margin rolled to form a pouch and disc with three prominent calli, of which the middle one is confined to base and the two laterals extending up to the middle of apical lobe. Interestingly, the present author while going through the publication, could feel that the new taxon is more similar to the new genus viz. *Jejosephia* A.N.Rao & Mani (Rao & Mani 1985:216) which was established by him jointly with K.J.Mani in 1985 based on the taxon viz. *Trias pusilla* J. Joseph & H.Deka (Joseph & Deka 1973:378) discovered from Meghalaya in India. However, through a literature survey it has been noted that the genera *Jejosephia* and *Trias* have been merged with the genus *Bulbophyllum* and accordingly the species *T. pusilla* Joseph & Deka has been renamed as *B. jejosephia* J.J.Vermeulen, A.Schuitman & de Vogel (Vermeulen *et al.* 2014).

In order to clear the doubt, a critical study has been made comparing the type specimen, protologues and illustrations of *Trias pusilla* with those of *Bulbophyllum paramjithii* and found that there are no significant differences between the two taxa in vegetative and floral morphological characters. Hence, the latter is reduced to a new synonym to *B. jejosephia* in the present paper for the first time.

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