

***Taeniophyllum scaberulum* Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) - a new record for Nepal**

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Abstract

The occurrence of *Taeniophyllum scaberulum* Hook. f. is reported as an addition to the orchid flora of Nepal. A brief description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

Keywords: *Taeniophyllum scaberulum*, New record, Nepal

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Taeniophyllum* Blume consists of about 120 species distributed from Tropical Africa, Srilanka, India, China and South Japan to New Guinea and Pacific Islands (Rao 1998). Eight species of *Taeniophyllum* are recorded from India (Rajesh *et al* 1997). So far the genus has not been recorded from Nepal (Hara *et al.* 1978; Banerji & Pradhan, 1984; Koba *et al.*, 1994; Press *et al.* 2000). There is no specimen of this genus deposited in the National Herbarium, Kathmandu (KATH).

Taeniophyllum scaberulum was described by Hooker f. based on the specimen collected by Rev. E. Johnson from 'Cottayam, Travancore', India in 1854. The species was later rediscovered from Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala State after 140 years (Rajesh *et al* 1997).

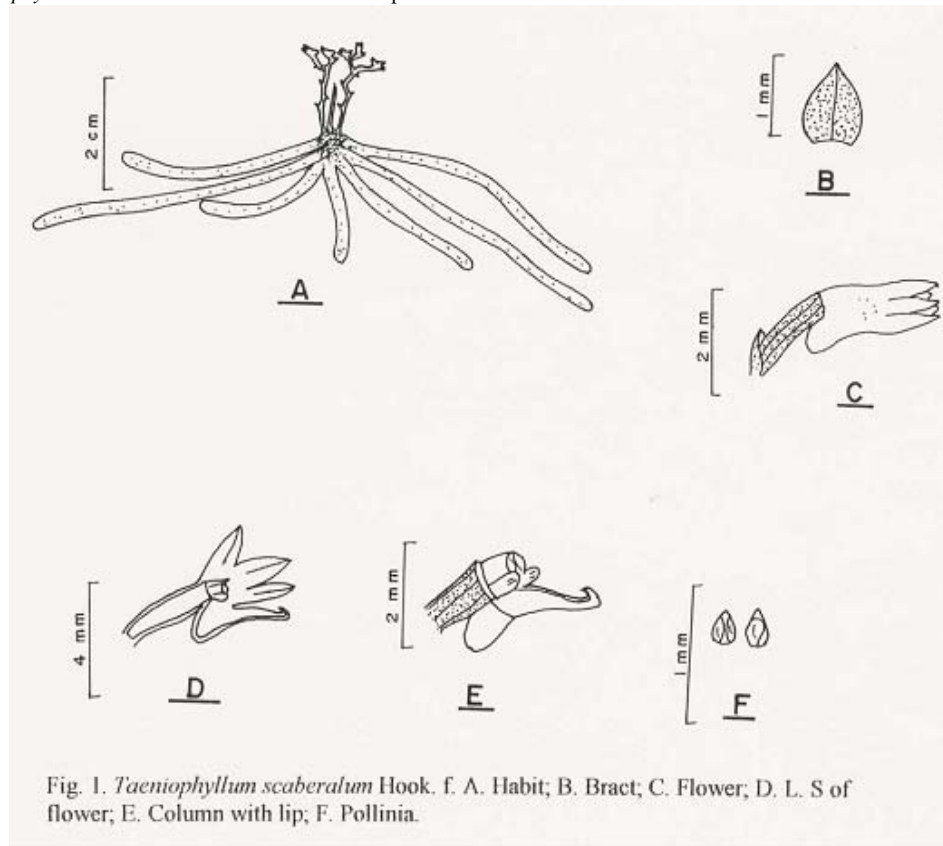
Recently, a leafless orchid with the flowers lasting for one or two days, epiphytic on *Ficus neriifolia*, was collected from Kaskikot (alt. 1500m), Gandaki Zone, Nepal. After critical study from fresh collection the specimen was found to be *Taeniophyllum scaberulum*. This species is confined to the small area and is found in scarce population in its natural habitat. The present record of this species is new to Nepal, and more over the genus *Taeniophyllum* itself is new addition to the flora this country. Thus, we report an addition of the genus and a species to the orchid flora of Nepal.

***Taeniophyllum scaberulum* Hook. f. in *The Flora of British India*. 6: 77. 1890 [Fig. 1]**

Small leafless epiphytes with much reduced stem. **Root** subterete, 20-40 x 2 mm. **Spike** ca. 15 mm long produced from the center of the reduced stem, 1-6 flowered; peduncle ca. 6 mm long, angular, scaberalous. **Bract** ca. 1 x 0.75 mm, ovate, acute, entire, persistent. **Flower** subsessile, ca. 3.75 x 1.5 mm creamy white. **Dorsal sepal** 1 x 1 mm, oblong subacute one veined; lateral sepals 1 x 1 mm, oblong subacute, one veined. **Petals** 0.9 x 0.9 mm, oblong, subacute, one veined. **Lip** 2.75 x 1 mm, ovate, acute, tip recurved, and base saccate. **Column** 0.4 mm long with two lateral oblong, rounded outgrowth at base; rostellum acute. **Anther** terminal; pollinia 4 of two unequal superposed pairs, 0.25 mm long, pyriform. **Fruits** capsule, oblong, ribbed, scaburulous.

Flowering: May – July

Specimen Cited: Kaskikot, Kaski District, Gandaki Zone, 1500 m, March 03, 1998, *Subedi 152* (KATH).



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