

***Zeuxine goodyeroides* Lindley (Orchidaceae): A new record for Assam, India**

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Abstract

The occurrence of *Zeuxine goodyeroides* Lindley (Orchidaceae) reported from Assam is presented in this paper. Detailed description, illustration and major threats are provided.

Key words: *Zeuxine goodyeroides*; New record; Threats; Assam.

The terrestrial orchid genus *Zeuxine* Lindley, consisting about of 50 species, is distributed in tropical Africa, Madagascar, India, Malaysia, Samoa and Fijii. It is widely distributed in India with about 17 species. The North-east India is the richest for *Zeuxine* and is sharing distribution of 12 species (Singh *et al* 2001). There are 7 species in Arunachal Pradesh and is followed by other states of NE India, viz. Assam and Meghalaya with 4 species each, Nagaland with 2 species and Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura with one species each (Singh *et al* 2001). Barua (2001) reported 3 species, viz. *Z. clandestina*, *Z. longilabris* and *Z. strateumatica* from Kamrup district of Assam. So far, there is no record of the collection of *Z. goodyeroides* from Assam in the ASSAM Herbarium. Recently, a terrestrial orchid was collected from Athgaon in central Brahmaputra valley at Kamrup district in Assam, growing in moist localities in natural habitat with muddy soil rich in humus and associated with low grasses. The plant has been primarily identified with the help of literature (Barua 2001; Chowdhery 1998; Hynniewta *et al* 2000) and authenticated by matching in ASSAM Herbarium. The specimen was turned out as *Zeuxine goodyeroides* Lindley.

The habitat is severely damaged due to over grazing and other anthropogenic pressure and only few plants have been located. The present record of the specimen is new and an addition for the state flora of Assam. The specimen will be deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, Gauhati University.

Zeuxine goodyeroides Lindley, Gen. & Sp. Orch. 486. 1840; Hook.f., FBI. 6: 107.1890; Chowdhery, Orch. Arunac. Prad. 694. 1998; Hynniewta *et al.*, Orch. Nagaland 280. 2000. *Monochilus goodyeroides* (Lindl.) Lindley in J. Proc. L. Soc. Bot. 1: 187. 1857. (Fig. 1)

Leafy, terrestrial, decumbent herbs to 40 cm high. Rooting from lower nodes. Stem erect, prostrate below 7 – 15 × 0.4 cm. Lamina oblong or elliptic, 2.5 × 4.5 cm, acute, green with a pure white stripe along the midrib, 3-nerved; petiole sheathing, 0.8 – 2 cm long. Spike 7 – 10 flowered, 10 – 25 cm long, scape and rachis pubescent; bracts ovate, acuminate, pilose along the dorsal surface. Flowers with pinkish tinge, 0.5 × 0.3 cm; pedicel and ovary longer than bracts; petals 4 × 1.5 mm long, greenish white; sepals membranous; pollinia with stripe; ovary 0.8 cm long, pubescent.

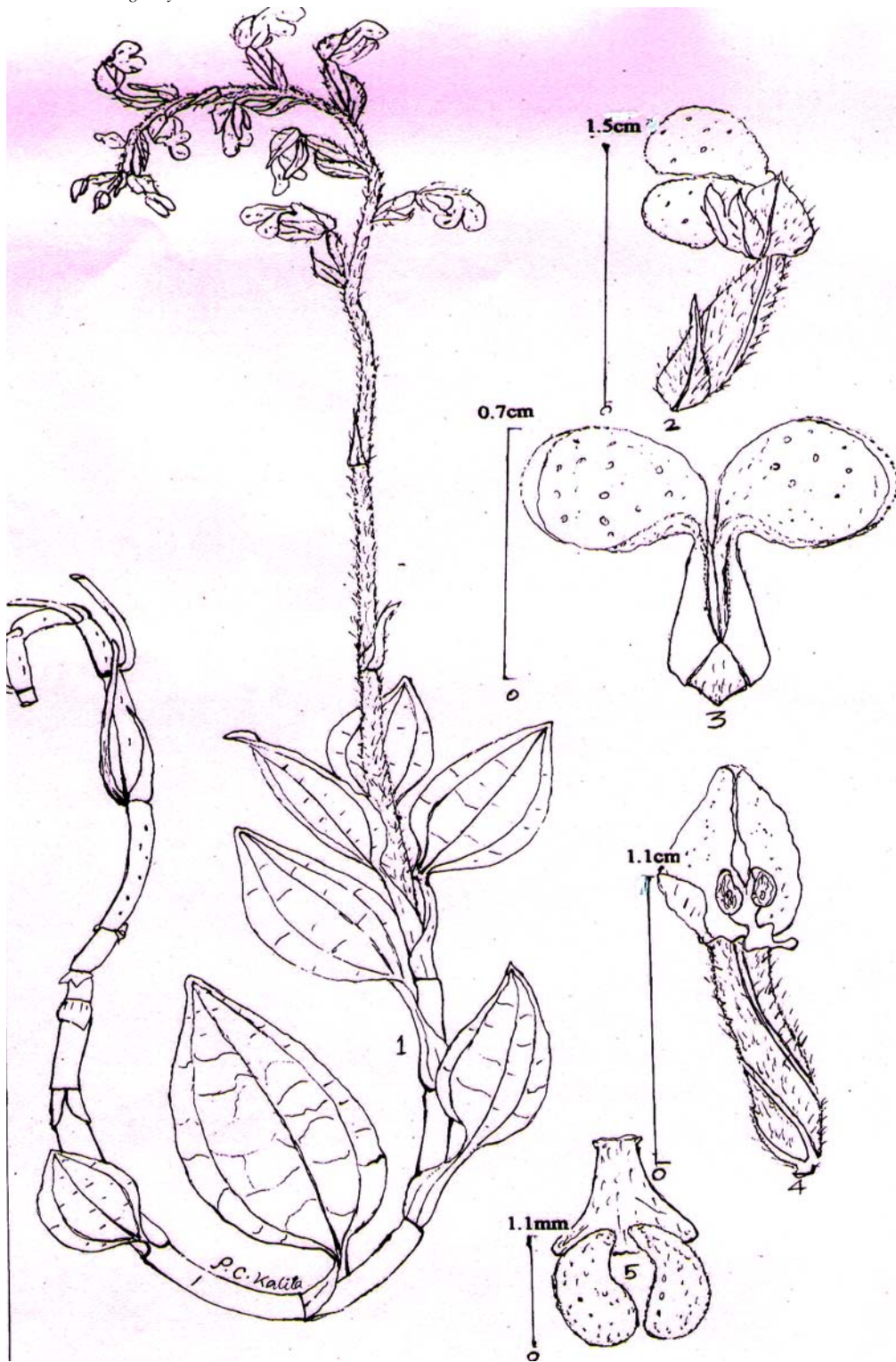


Fig. 1: *Zeuxine goodyeroides* Lindl. (Orchidaceae):
1. habit; 2. flower; 3. lip; 4. column; 5. pollinia

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