

## ***Eulophia geniculata* King & Pantling: a new record for Nagaland, India**

**Chitta Ranjan Deb<sup>1</sup>, Sungkumlong and Temjensangba**

Department of Botany, Nagaland University, Lumami, Mokokchung 798 619, Nagaland, India

<sup>1</sup>Correspondent author: E-mail: debchitta@rediffmail.com/dedeb@bsnl.in

### **Abstract**

The occurrence of *Eulophia geniculata* King & Pantling (Orchidaceae) in the Zunheboto district of Nagaland, India is an addition to the orchid diversity for the state.

**Key words:** *Eulophia geniculata*, New record, Nagaland

### **INTRODUCTION**

John Lindley established the chiefly terrestrial genus *Eulophia* in 1823. The name *Eulophia* is descriptive of the handsome crest on the lip. The genus has 32 species in India (Deb & Imchen 2008), 6 species in North-East India (Chowdhery 1998), and 5 species in Nagaland (Deb & Imchen 2008).

A species of *Eulophia* was in bloom in the vicinity of Nagaland University, Lumami campus in the month of July. On close observation of the specimen and perusal of the available literature (King & Pantling 1898; Bose & Bhattacharjee 1980; Kumar & Manilal 1994), this was identified as *Eulophia geniculata* King & Pantling. However, the occurrence of this species was not reported earlier from the state of Nagaland, India (Changkija *et al* 1992; Deb *et al* 2003; Hynniewta *et al* 2000). So, the present collection of *E. geniculata* from Lumami is a new record and an addition to the orchid flora of Nagaland, India.

***Eulophia geniculata* King & Pantling** in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta. 8: 1-244, 1898.

Terrestrial, rhizomatous herb. Rhizome white with thick tuberous roots and annular rings. Leaves two, arising close to scape, petiolate, plicate, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate. Scape arises from the base of pseudo-stem, sheathed. Inflorescence 10 – 14 flowered, forming a loose raceme. Flowers about 3 cm across, yellowish brown. Floral bract slightly longer than ovary, scarious when matured. Sepals broad, oblong, purplish brown. Petals connivent, shorter than sepals, broad, obtuse, pale yellow. Lip pale yellow, 3-lobed, lateral lobes slightly clasping the column, inner side purplish; mid-lobe with fleshy projection, margins erose. Spur yellow, curved, slightly gibbous. Column light yellow, slightly winged, two small horn like outgrowth on the tip of column.

**Flowering:** July – August

**Exsiccatae:** Zaphumi village, Zunheboto, Nagaland (near the Nagaland University at Lumami), *Temjensangba 132* dated July 17, 2006 (Nagaland University Herbarium).

**Distribution:** India [West Bengal (Darjeeling), Sikkim, Nagaland], Thailand.

### **LITERATURE CITED**

- Bose, T.K. & Bhattacharjee, S.K. 1980. *Orchids of India*. Naya Prokash, Calcutta, India.
- Changkija, S.; Kumar, Y. & Gurung, P. B. 1992. *Orchids of Nagaland*. Forest Department, Nagaland.
- Chowdhery, H. J. 1998. *Orchid Flora of Arunachal Pradesh*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun, India.



**Fig. 1:** *Eulophia geniculata* King & Pantling: a. Habit, b. Flower, c. Sepals, petals and lip (dorsal view) d. Column with bract, e. Pollinia

Chowdhery, H. J. 2001. Orchid Diversity of North-East India. *J. Orchid. Soc. India* 15: 1-17.

Deb, C.R. & Imchen, T. 2008. *Orchid Diversity of Nagaland*. SciChem Publishing House, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Deb, C.R.; Jamir, N.S. & Temjensangba. 2003. Orchid diversity of Nagaland: A revised status. *J. Orchid. Soc. India* 17: 5 – 15.

Hynniewta, T.M.; Kataki, S.K. & Wadhwa, B.M. 2000. *Orchids of Nagaland*. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, India.

King, G. & Pantling, R. 1898. The orchids of Sikkim Himalaya. *Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta* 8: 1 – 244.

Kumar, C.S. & Manilal, K.S. 1994. *A catalogue of Indian orchids*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun (India).