

***Oberonia lobulata* King & Pantling (Orchidaceae): A new record for Nepal**

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Abstract

Oberonia lobulata King & Pantling (Orchidaceae) in Nepal is reported. Detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

Key words: *Oberonia lobulata*, New record, Nepal.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Oberonia* Lindley is represented with about 34 species (Shakya 1999) in the Himalayas. In Nepal the genus is represented by 18 species (Hara *et al* 1978; Banerji & Pradhan 1984; Koba *et al* 1994; Press *et al* 2000; Raskoti & Shakya 2009).

King & Pantling (1898) established *Oberonia lobulata* as distinct taxon, based on the specimen collected by R. Pantling in 1892. Since then, there is no further collection of this species from natural habitat. Thus, the species was presumed to be extinct from its natural habitat. The species was represented by a single type specimen (Pantling 199) deposited at CAL. Recently when a specimen deposited at the Herbarium of the Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University (TUCH), collected from Central Nepal, Bindaban was critically studied and was found to be *Oberonia lobulata*. Thus, this is the rediscovery of the species *Oberonia lobulata* from Central Nepal and new record of *Oberonia* species for Nepal.

Oberonia lobulata King & Pantling in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 8: 4. 1898; Seidenfaden in Dansk. Bot. Ark. 25(3): 33. 1968; Ansari & Balakrishnan in Orchid Monographs 4: 23. 1990; Pearce & Cribb, Fl. Bhutan 3(3): 225. 2002. [Fig. 1].

Herb 7 cm long, 5.5 cm broad, acaulescent. **Leaves** 6.5 – 7 x 1 – 1.2 cm, distichous, equitant, oblong, acute, subfalcate. **Inflorescence** longer than longest leaf, decurved. **Scape** ca. 7 x 0.3 cm, winged, with few sterile bracts below inflorescence. **Spike** 13 cm long, rachis not fleshy, slightly winged; flower verticels ca. 2 – 3 mm apart. **Flowers** bracteate, subsessile, green. **Bracts** ca. 1.5 mm long, oblong or suborbicular, obtuse, apex finely erose. **Sepals** similar, ca. 1 x 0.8 mm, ovate, acute, entire. **Petals** ca. 0.8 x 0.3 mm, oblong, subacute, entire. **Lip** ca. 1.3 x 1 mm, subquadrate, gland dotted, three lobed, lateral lobes oblong, finely crenulate along margins; terminal lobe subentire, 2-lobuled; lobules small, subtriangular, sinus broad, without protuberance. **Column** ca. 0.25 mm long, subglobose; clinandrium apical, orbicular, clinandrial wing short, membranous, shorter than small triangular rostellum; stigma distinct, suborbicular, laterally elongated.

Type: India, Sikkim, Teesta Valley, month? 1892, Pantling 199 (*Holotypus*- CAL!)

Exsiccatae: Central Nepal, Narayani Zone, Makwanpur District, Bindaban, ca. 300 m, October 1997, *Shakya, S.* 27 (TUCH)

Distribution: India (Sikkim – Tista & other trop. Valleys 330 m Fl. Bhut.), Nepal (Bindaban).

Flowering: October

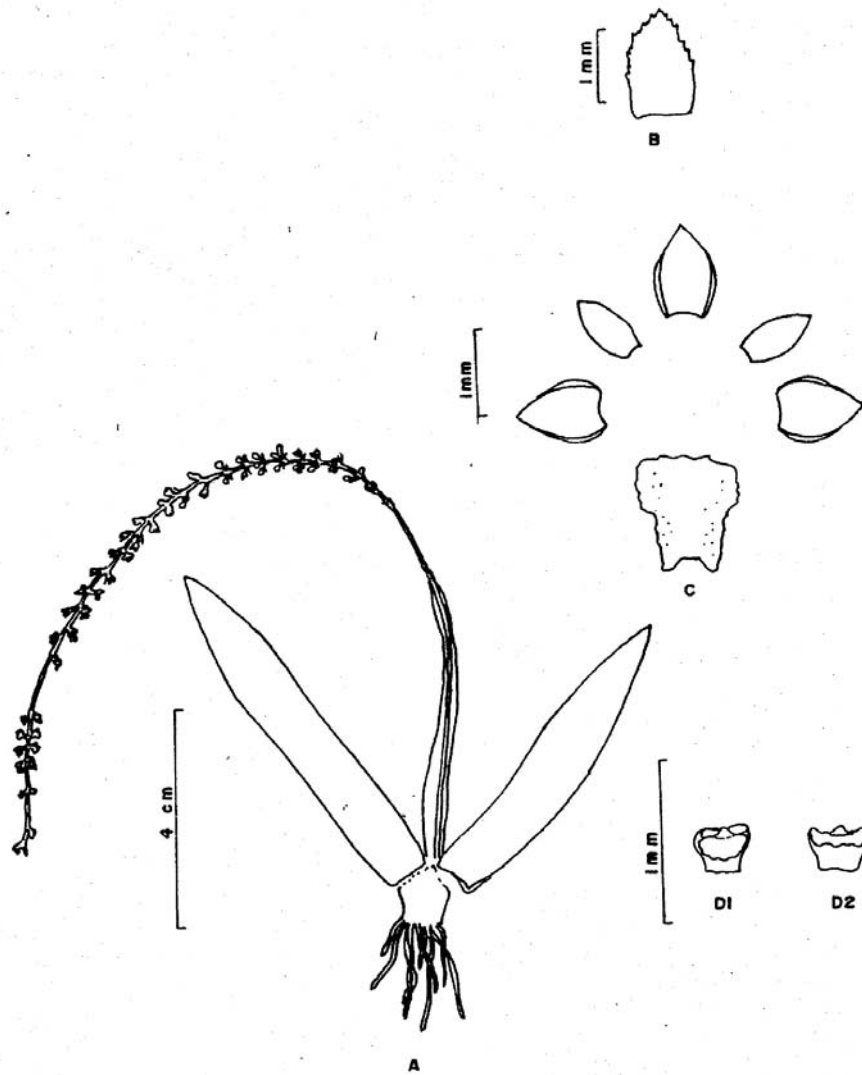


Fig. 1. *Oberonia lobulata* King & Pantling: **A.** Habit; **B.** Bract; **C.** Outer three sepals, inner two petals and lip spread out ; **D1.** column (front view); **D2.** column

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