

## ***Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichenbach f. (Orchidaceae) - a recollection for India**

**Khyanjeet Gogoi**

Disa Bordoloi Nagar, Talap, Tinsukia- 786156, Assam, India

*E-mail:* khyanjeetgogoi@gmail.com

[Received revised 20.05.2011; Accepted 16.10.2011]

### **Abstract**

*Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichenbach f. has been recollected from Joypur (Assam), India. Description with photographs are provided in this communication.

**Key words:** *Thrixspermum acuminatissimum*, recollection, India, Assam

### **INTRODUCTION**

Joypur Reserve Forest situated between 95°22' E to 95°30' E and 27°00' N to 27°16' N covering a geographic area of 10,876.68 hectares. It forms a part of the world heritage of tropical/ sub-tropical wet evergreen forest, multistoried and rich in biodiversity, more popularly known as 'Rain forest'. These biodiversity rich forests are great reservoir of orchids due to the region's high precipitation, relative humidity etc. (Gogoi *et al* 2009).

During field survey (2009 – 2010) for the orchids in Joypur (Dibrugarh district of Assam, India), a species in flowering stage was collected and, later on, identified as *Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichenbach f.

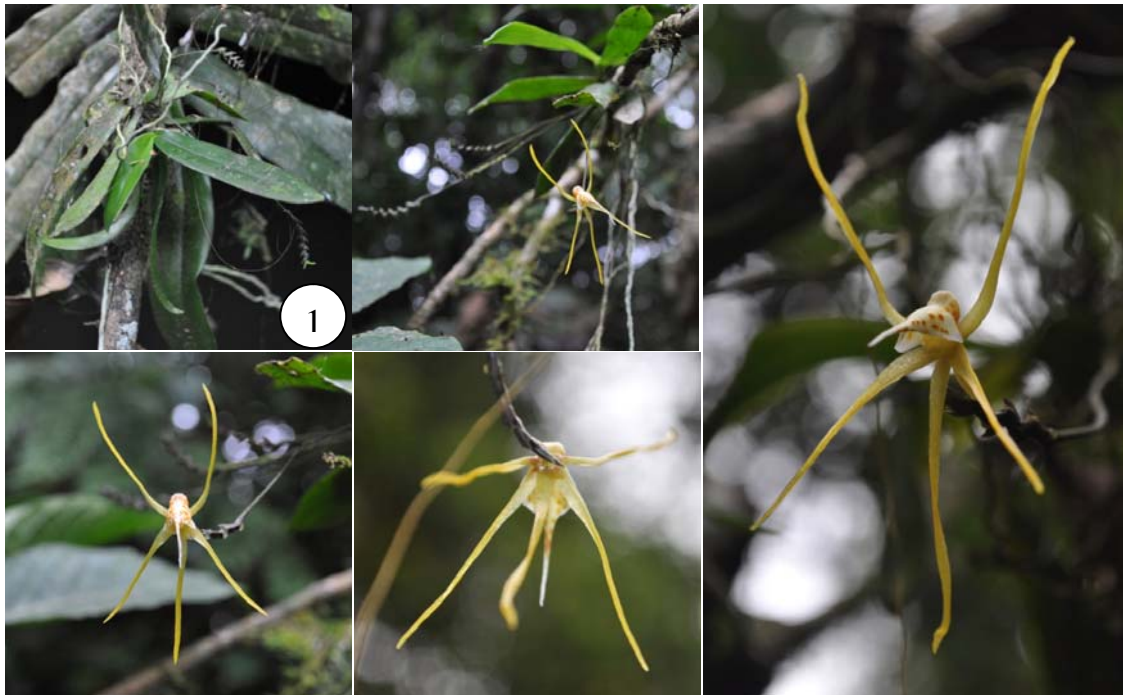
Hooker (1890) described this species as *Sarcochilus notabilis* Hooker f. in the *Flora of British India* but there is no recent report of its collection and/or documenting from India (Misra 2007; Kumar & Manilal 1994; Chowdhery 2009).

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The specimens collected in the flowering and fruiting stages and were processed into dried and mounted herbarium specimens following Jain & Rao (1977). Identification was done using standard orchid manuals (Averyanov & Leonid 2010; Seidenfaden & Smitinand 1958 – 1964). The voucher specimen has been deposited in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Gauhati University.

### **DESCRIPTION**

*Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichenbach f., *Xenia* Orchid. 2: 121, 1867; Scidenfaden & Smitiland, *Orchids of Thailand* 4(1): 518. 1962. *Dendrocolla acuminatissima* Blume, *Bijdr.* 286. 1825. *Sarcochilus notabilis* Hooker f. in *Fl. Brit. India* 6: 42. 1890. *Aerides acuminatissimum* (Blume) Lindley, *Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl.* 240. 1833. *Sarcochilus acuminatissimus* (Blume) Reichenbach f., *Ann. Bot. Syst.* 6: 498. 1863. *Thrixspermum notabile* (Hooker f.) Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.*, 2: 682. 1891. *Ridleya notabilis* (Hooker f.) Pfitzer, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.*, *Nachtr.* 2: 16. 1900. **[Plate 1]**



**Plate 1:** *Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichenbach f. **Fig 1:** In the habitat. **Fig 2:** Plant with flower. **Figs 3,4,5:** Close view of flowers.

Epiphytic; stem very short, 1-2 cm long; leaves distichous, 3.5-5x1-1.5 cm, subsessile, bilobed at apex, articulated to sheathing leaf base, coriaceous, oblong; peduncles 3 or more, arising from one point on the stem, 10-12 cm long, curved, naked; raceme 5-6.5 cm, bracts ovate, incurved coriaceous, subacute; pedicel and ovary very slender, 0.7 cm long; flowers yellow, odorless; sepals and petals yellow, filiform, membranous, 2-2.5 cm long, narrowly lanceolate, linear-oblong, acuminate, 3 nerved at the base; lip with a large sac rounded at the base, white with yellow and reddish-brown spots, apex white, delicately veined, contracted in to a capillary tail; column light yellow, deeply saccate, foot less, very short; pollinia 2, light yellow, membranous, clavate, sessile on a rather large gland.

**Flowering:** November – March

**Habitat:** Growing on lateral branches of lower canopy of host tree, cool and shady place

**Exsiccates:** Joypur, Assam, India. *Gogoi 0510*, dated 02.12.2010 (Gauhati University Herbarium)

**Distribution:** Thailand, Cambodia, S. Vietnam, Malacca, Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Philippines, India (Assam)

**Status:** Rare. The species was found only in one locality.

### Acknowledgements

The author grateful to Dr. Kashmira Kakoti, Dr. A. Cristy Williams, Daputy Comisonar-Dibrugarh and Divisional Forest Officer- Dibrugarh, Assam for constant supervision and valuable suggestions during the course of present studies.

**LITERATURE CITED**

- Averyanov, Leonid V. 2010. Species of Orchids (Orchidaceae) Newly Recorded to the Flora of Vietnam, in *Taiwania*: 55(1): 1 – 7.
- Chowdhery, H.J. 2009. Orchid Diversity in North-Eastern States of India. in: *J. Orchid Soc. India* 23(1-2): 19 - 42.
- Gogoi, K.; Borah, R.L. & Sharma, G.C. 2009. Orchid flora of Joypur Reserve Forest of Dibrugarh district of Assam, India, in: *Pleione* 3(2): 135 – 147.
- Hooker, J.D. 1890. Orchidaceae. In: *Flora of British India*. Vol. 6. L. Reeve & Co., Ashford, Kent.
- Jain, S.K. & Rao, R.R. 1977. *Field and Herbarium Methods*. Today and Tomorrow's printers and Publishers. New Delhi.
- Misra, S. 2007. *Orchids of India*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun, India.
- Kumar, Sathish & Manilal, K.S. 1994. *A Catalogue of Indian Orchids*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun, India.
- Seidenfaden, G. & Smitiland, T. 1958 – 1964. *The Orchids of Thailand: A preliminary list*. Vol. 4(1). The Siam Society, Bangkok.

**Plate 1:** *Thrixspermum acuminatissimum* (Blume) Reichbach f. **Fig 1:** In the habitat. **Fig 2:** Plant with flower. **Figs 3,4,5:** Close view of flowers.

