

***Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindley (Orchidaceae) - a new record for the flora of Mizoram, India**

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Abstract

Present paper deals with the new distributional record of *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindley for the Indian state of Mizoram. A detailed taxonomic citation, description, phenology, distribution and photo-plate of this taxon are provided in this paper for easy identification.

Key words: *Eria carinata*, new record, Mizoram, India

INTRODUCTION

The specimen of *Eria* sp. was collected from Thenhlum (Mizoram) at an elevation of ca. 600 m on 29.11.2010. After scrutinizing available literatures (Bose & Bhattacharjee 1980; Kataki 1986; Lucksom 2007; Tanaka & Yukawa 2008) and consultation with the specimens deposited at ASSAM Herbarium, Shillong, the specimen was identified as *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindley and confirmed as new record for Mizoram (Fischer 1938; Gage 1901; Deb & Dutta 1987; Singh *et al* 1990; Chowdhery 2009).

Literature perusal implies that the genus *Eria* Lindley (Orchidaceae) comprises of about 370 species and is widespread in tropical Asia, extending east from India to New Guinea, Australia and the Pacific Islands (O' Byrne 2001; Pearce & Cribb 2002). The genus represents 160 species in tropical Asia (Kataki 1986), 51 species in India (Chowdhery 1998) and 38 species in North East India (Chowdhery 2009). *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindley, so far is recorded from Sikkim-Himalaya to Thailand, Vietnam and peninsular Malaysia (Tanaka & Yukawa 2008). In India, so far, it is reported from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim (Chowdhery 2009).

A detailed taxonomic citation, description, phenology, distribution and photo-plate of this taxon are provided in this paper for easy identification, if found elsewhere in the country.

Eria carinata Gibson ex Lindley in J. Proc. Linn. Soc. Bot. 3: 50. 1859. *E. rosea* Wallich, Numer. List no. 7409.1832), *nom. nud.* *Xiphosium acuminatum* Griffith in Calcutta J. Nat. Hist. 5: 365. 1845. *E. fordii* Rolfe in Gard. Chron. 26: 584. 1886. *Pinalia carinata* (Lindley) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 679. 1891. [Fig. 1]

Epiphytic herbs; rhizome creeping with scaly sheaths. Pseudobulbs cylindrical-ovoid, 4 – 6 x 1.5 – 2.5 cm. Leaf 1, 19 – 29 x 2.5 – 4.5 cm; blade thickly coriaceous, oblong-lanceolate, acute, base tapering into petiole, 14.5 – 22.5 cm; petiole stout, 4.5 – 7.5 cm. Inflorescence lateral, erect, 14 – 16 cm long, 3 – 4 flowered; peduncle enveloped by 6 sheaths; floral bracts lanceolate, acuminate, 3.5 – 5.5 x 0.2 – 0.4 cm. Flowers drooping, 2.5 – 3.5 cm across. Sepals lanceolate, carinate, keels on lateral sepals denticulate, pale yellowish green, 2.2 –

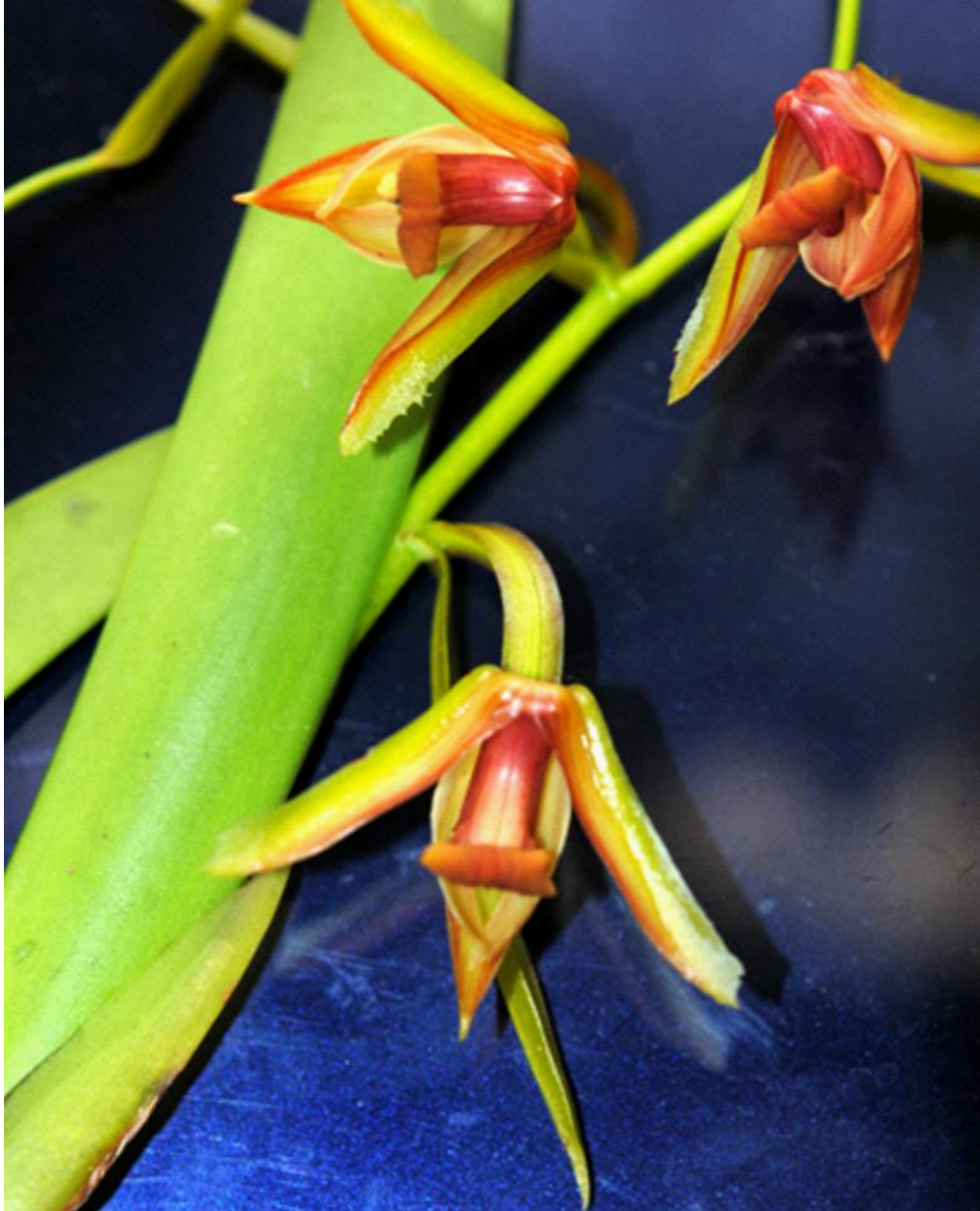


Fig. 1. *Eria carinata* Gibson *ex* Lindley: - a flowering twig

2.5 cm, with reddish nerves. Petals ovate-lanceolate, pale yellow with reddish nerves. Labellum recurved, obovate-oblong, reddish brown. Column weakly curved. Pollinia 8, ellipsoid.

Flowering: November

Distribution: INDIA (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim), BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, THAILAND, VIETNAM AND MALAY PENINSULA.

Specimens examined: **Arunachal Pradesh**, Kameng, 25.11.1970, A.S. Rao 50653; Siang, 20.11.1958, R.S. Rao 17922 (ASSAM). **Meghalaya**, Dawki-Pynursla, 12.11.1969, S.K. Katakai 37245; Pongtung forest, 12.11.1936. G. K. Deka-12 (ASSAM). **Mizoram**, Thenhlum, 29.11.2010, S. Swamliana 22, Acc. No. 80157 (ASSAM). **BHUTAN**, Mongordzong, 10.11.1965. N.P. Balakrishnan 44651 (ASSAM).

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