

***Dendrobium bicameratum* Lindley (Orchidaceae) – an addition to the flora of Manipur, India**

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Abstract

Dendrobium bicameratum Lindley (Orchidaceae) has been reported here as a new distributional record for the state of Manipur, India.

Key words: *Dendrobium bicameratum*, orchid, new record, Manipur.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dendrobium* Swartz (Orchidaceae) is represented by about 1100 species distributed in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand (Wood 2006). In India, about 102 species and 2 sub-species are found of which about 49 species are reported so far from Manipur (Kumar & Kumar 2005).

Manipur is one of the orchid rich areas in North East India. There are about 280 species of orchids in 86 genera reported so far from the state (Kumar & Kumar 2005). During the orchid surveys in Ukhrul and Churachandpur Districts under Department of Science and Technology, Government of India sponsored scheme, some orchid collections have been made and brought under cultivation in the Field gene bank of Centre for Orchid Gene Conservation of Eastern Himalayan Region (COGCEHR), Hengbung in Senapati District of Manipur as a part of *ex situ* conservation. Out of those, one *Dendrobium* taxon has been identified as *D. bicameratum* Lindley which is not reported so far from the state but reported from W.Bengal, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh in India (Chowdhery 2009). Hence, the present report of its occurrence in Manipur forms a new distributional record to the state.

A detailed description of the species along with the details on its habitat ecology, phenological data, distribution, conservation status has been provided in the paper. A photo of analytical parts of the plant and floral parts are also given to facilitate easy identification in the field.

Dendrobium bicameratum Lindley in Bot. Reg. 25: misc. 59, no. 85, 1839. *Dendrobium bolboflorum* Falconer ex Hooker f., Fl. Brit. India 5(2): 729 & Icon. Pl. t. 2028, 1890. *Callista bicamerata* (Lindley) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 654, 1891. *C. bolboflora* (Falconer ex Hooker f.) Kuntze, loc. Cit 1891.

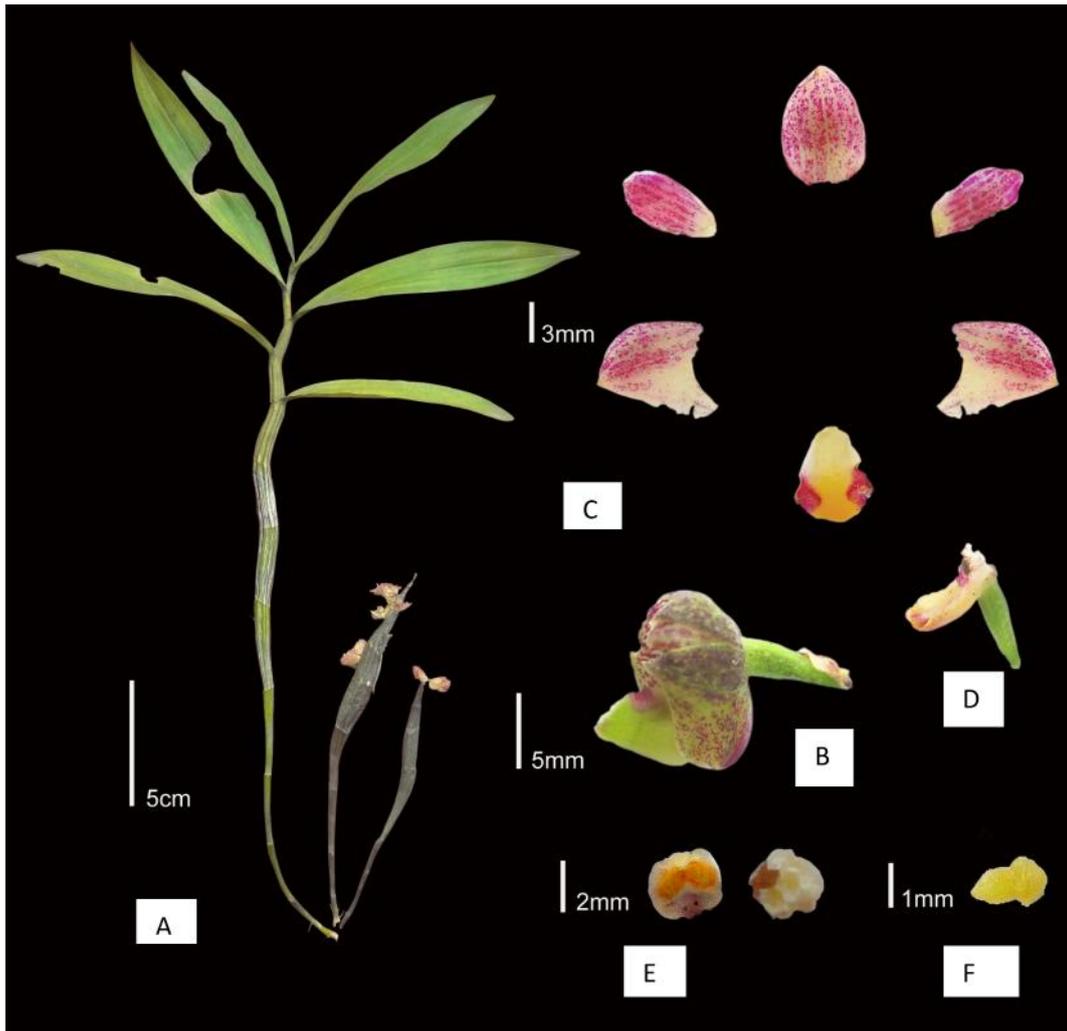


PLATE I: *Dendrobium bicameratum* Lindley: Figs. A. Habit; **B.** Lateral view of a single flower; **C.** Sepals, petals and lip; **D.** Column and ovary; **E.** Abaxial and adaxial view of anther cap; **F.** Pollinia

Epiphyte. Pseudobulbs 8.5 – 23.5 x 0.3 – 1.3 cm, fusiform, curved, green to yellowish green; internodes 0.7 – 3 cm long enclosed by 0.6 – 3 cm long tubular leaf sheaths, ridges 8 – 13. Leaves 4 – 6 or more per pseudobulb, alternate; lamina 6.6 – 10.2 x 1.2 – 1.6 cm, elliptic lanceolate, acute, unequally minutely bilobed, dark green above, light green beneath. Inflorescence 1 – 2 per pseudobulb, 1.4 cm long, arising from the nodes of defoliate pseudobulbs; peduncles 0.2 – 0.4 cm long, terete, enclosed by 0.4 cm long membranous sheaths, 2 – 5 flowered. Floral bracts 0.4 – 0.5 x 0.3 – 0.4 cm, ovate, membranous, greenish, densely dotted at apex on dorsal side, sparsely dark purple dotted upto base. Flowers aggregated on a short sheathed peduncle, 1- 1.2 x 0.9 – 1 cm, pale yellow to pale green, striped with purplish pink to red. Dorsal sepal 0.6 – 0.7 x 0.4 – 0.5 cm, broadly oblong, nearly ovate, acute, concave, yellowish green striped with purplish pink to red. Lateral sepals 0.6 – 0.7 x 0.6 cm, ovate, acute to sub acute, drooping downward, yellow at base, concave, sparsely dotted with purplish pink to red from apex to middle, adnate to the

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column foot. Petals 0.6 – 0.7 x 0.2 – 0.3 cm, oblong, obtuse, striped with purplish pink to red. Lip 3 lobed, 0.5 x 0.5 cm, fleshy, concave, pale yellow at base; mid lobe short, golden yellow, lateral lobes red spotted at base, acuminate. Column 0.18 – 0.2 cm long, globular. Spurs 0.3 cm long. Pollinia yellow, 0.1 cm long, globular. Anther cap 0.2 cm across, yellowish cream, globular. Ovary 0.5 – 0.7 cm x 0.2 cm, glabrous, slightly ridged, green (PLATE I).

Flowers: July - August

Exsiccatae: Laimaton, Churachandpur Dist., Manipur, 1621 m, 24° 37.379" N; 93° 42.063" E; *Y. Nanda 00024*, COGCEHR Herbarium, Hengbung, Manipur.

Distribution: India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand

Habitat Ecology: Grows as epiphyte on small trees in temperate forest in association with *Coelogyne* species.

Status: Rare

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