

***Bulbophyllum griffithii* (Lindley) Reichenbach f. and *Platanthera cumminsiana* (King & Pantling) J. Renz – two new records of orchids from Nepal**

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Abstract

Platanthera cumminsiana (King & Pantling) J. Renz [Orchidaceae] so far recorded from Arunachal Pradesh, NE India and Lachung in North Sikkim and *Bulbophyllum griffithii* (Lindley) Reichenbach f. [Orchidaceae] recorded from NE India, Bhutan and Lachung, North Sikkim is reported for East Nepal. Short morphological descriptions, figures and relevant notes are provided.

Key words: *Platanthera cumminsiana*, *Bulbophyllum griffithii*, New record, Nepal.

The genus *Platanthera* Richard comprises about 100 species distributed widely in the temperate regions of both the hemispheres (Pearce & Cribb 2002). In Nepal the genus is represented by 10 species (Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004). *Platanthera cumminsiana* (King & Pantling) J. Renz is rare and so far recorded from Arunachal Pradesh and Lachung, Sikkim. *Platanthera cumminsiana* is so far not recorded from Nepal (Hara *et al.* 1978; Banerji & Pradhan 1984; Press *et al.* 2000; Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004). Recently a species of *Platanthera* was collected from a trail between Surke to Lukla, Solukhumbu district of Nepal at the altitude of 2400 m a.m.s.l. that was identified as *Platanthera cumminsiana* (King & Pantling) J. Renz. This is an addition to the orchid flora of Nepal.

The genus *Bulbophyllum* Thouars comprises about 1000 species widely distributed in the tropical Americas, Africa, Madagascar, the Mascarene Islands, SE Asia to Australia (Pearce & Cribb 2002). This is the largest genus of higher plants in Nepal represented by 34 species (Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004). *Bulbophyllum griffithii* (Lindley) Reichenbach f. is rare and so far recorded from NE India, Bhutan and Lachung in Sikkim. This species is so far not recorded from Nepal (Hara *et al.* 1978; Banerji & Pradhan 1984; Press *et al.* 2000; Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004). Recently this species was recorded from Sengma, Solukhumbu district of Nepal, at the altitude of 2580 m.a.s.l. This is a new addition to the orchid flora of Nepal.

Print B & W

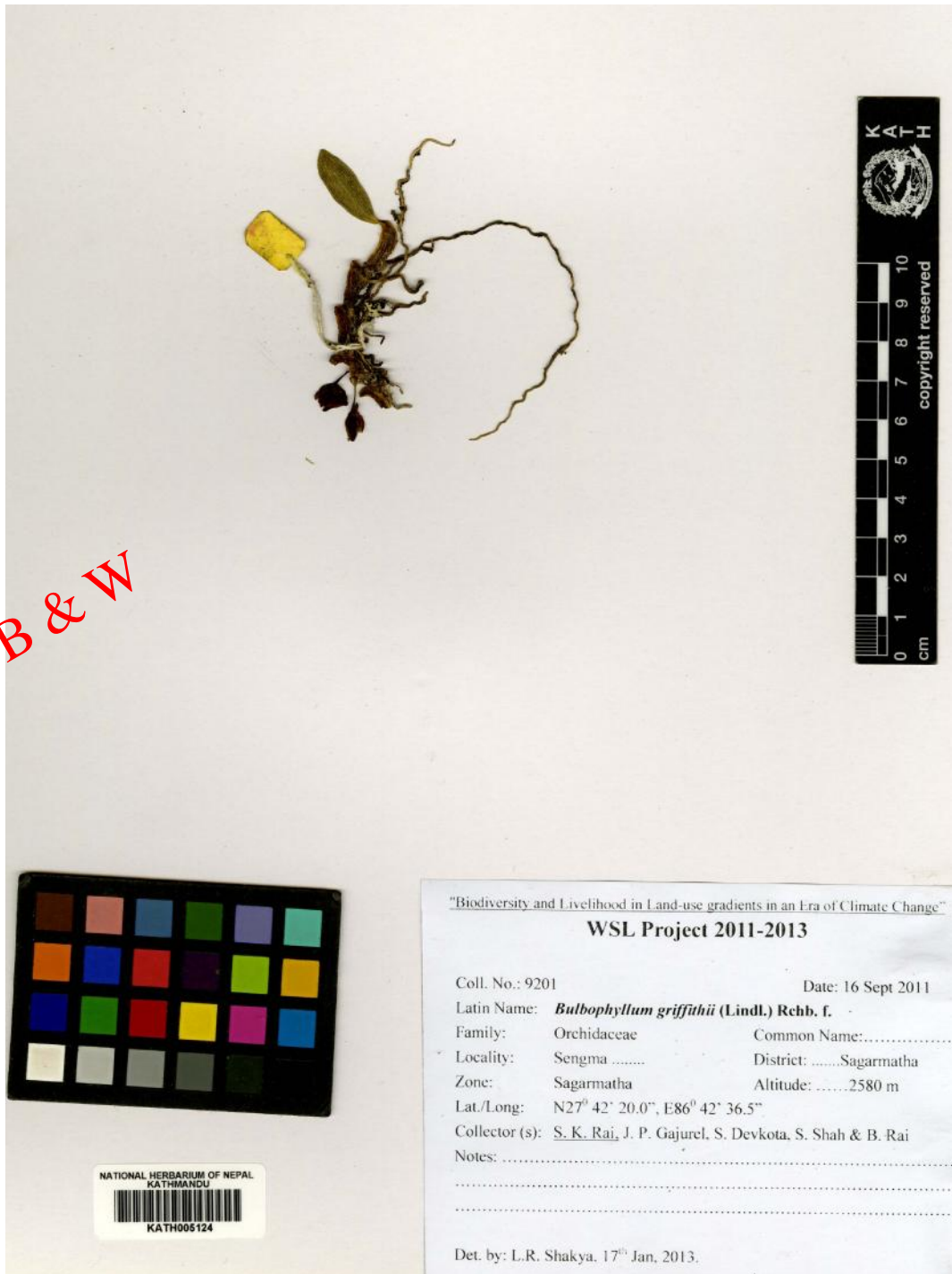


Fig. 1: Photograph of the voucher specimen of *Bulbophyllum griffithii* (Lindley) Reichenbach *f.*

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Fig. 2: Photograph of the voucher specimen of *Platanthera cumminsiana* (King & Pantling) J. Renz

Bulbophyllum griffithii (Lindley) Reichenbach *f.* in Walpers, Ann. Bot. Syst. 6: 247. 1861.

Sarcopodium griffithii Lindley, Fol. Orchid. Sarcopodium 2: 6, no. 15. 1853.

Epiphytic. Pseudobulbs 1 – 2 cm long, ovoid, compressed, cespitose. Leaf 1, ca. 4 cm long, narrowly elliptic-oblong, obtuse. Inflorescence 1-flowered, peduncle 1.5 cm long, tubular sheath at base. Flowers ca 1.5 cm across, yellow with red-brown spots. Sepals sub-equal, spreading. Petals ovate, acute, margins erose. Lip ca. 5 mm long, oblong, subacute, fleshy. Column 3 mm long.

Flowering: September

Altitude: 2580 m

Specimen examined: East Nepal, Sagarmatha zone, Solukhumbu district, Sengma, 2580 m, 16 September 2011, S.K. Rai, J. P. Gajurel, S. Devkota, S. Shah & B. Rai, 9201, KATH. [Fig. 1]

Platanthera cumminsiana (King & Pantling) J. Renz in Edinb. J. Bot. 58(1): 117. 2001.

Habenaria cumminsiana King & Pantling in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 64(3): 343. 1896.

Plant 12 – 18 cm tall. Tuber cylindrical, oblong. Stem erect, glabrous, covered with tubular sheath at base. Leaves 3 or 4, 2 – 5 x 0.5 – 2 cm, broadly elliptic to lanceolate, margins slightly undulate, sessile. Inflorescence ca. 6 cm long, many flowered. Floral bracts lanceolate. Flowers 4 – 7 mm across, green. Sepals sub-equal, lanceolate, externally glandular pubescent. Petals triangular, obtuse, weakly falcate, inner margin crenulate. Lip simple, spurred, fleshy, oblong, deflexed at base; spur ca. 1 cm long, slender, curved. Column ca. 3 mm long.

Flowering: September

Altitude: ± 2400 m

Specimen examined: East Nepal, Sagarmatha zone, Solukhumbu district, Surke to Lukla, 2400 m, 12 September 2011, S. K. Rai, J. P. Gajurel, S. Devkota, M. Nobis, S. Shah & B. Rai, X116, KATH. [Fig. 2]

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