

Addition of two species of *Sunipia* Lindley [Orchidaceae] to the flora of Manipur, India

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Abstract

Two species of *Sunipia* viz. *S. candida* (Lindley) P.F. Hunt and *S. scariosa* Lindley reported here as new additions to the orchid flora of Manipur.

Key words: Orchid, *Sunipia*, New Report, Manipur.

INTRODUCTION

The genera *Sunipia* was established by John Lindley in 1833 in Genera and Species of Orchidaceous plants. It is distributed in Nepal through NE India to Thailand and China to Vietnam. In India *Sunipia* is represented by 10 species (Misra 2007; Kishor *et al* 2012). In Manipur, it is represented by 3 species (Sathish Kumar & Suresh Kumar 2005; Kishor *et al* 2012; Chowlu *et al* 2012). With the present records it is now increased to 5 species from Manipur.

During the survey for orchids in various parts of Manipur two species of *Sunipia* was collected in vegetative condition from Hengbung and Chaugabung of Senapati District and were maintained in the Orchidarium of the Centre for Orchid Gene Conservation for Eastern Himalayan Region, Hengbung. These two species flowered during July and April 2013. Based on the available literature (Pearce & Cribb 2002; Lucksom 2007), these were identified as *Sunipia candida* Lindley and *Sunipia scariosa* Lindley.

Sunipia candida (Lindley) P.F. Hunt in Kew Bulletin 26(1): 183. 1971. *Ione candida* Lindley, Fol. Orchid. Ione 2: 3 no. 7. 1853; Pearce & Cribb, Orch. Bhut., 483. 2002. *Bulbophyllum candidum* (Lindley) Hooker f., Fl. Brit. India 5(2): 770. 1890. **[PLATE - I]**

An epiphyte, 4.5 – 6.5 cm tall; rhizome sheathless, 0.8 – 1.2 cm long; roots long×filiform. Pseudobulbs 7 - 10 × 3 - 4 mm, ovoid. Leaf solitary, 30 - 55 × 3 - 4.5 mm, linear×oblong, obtuse, apex slightly bilobed; petiole 3 - 4 mm long. Inflorescence 1 to 2, 3 - 4.2 cm long, erect or sub×erect, from the base of the pseudobulb, laxly 4 - 6 flowered; rachis glabrous, 2.5 - 3.5 cm long; peduncle 5 – 7 cm long; pedicel with ovary 2 - 2.2 mm long, pale green; floral bracts 2 – 3 × 1.2 – 1.5 mm, lanceolate, acute, brown. Flowers 4 - 6 mm across; sepals unequal, white; dorsal sepal 3 - 3.5 × 1.5 mm, ovate oblong, sub×acute to obtuse, 7 veined;

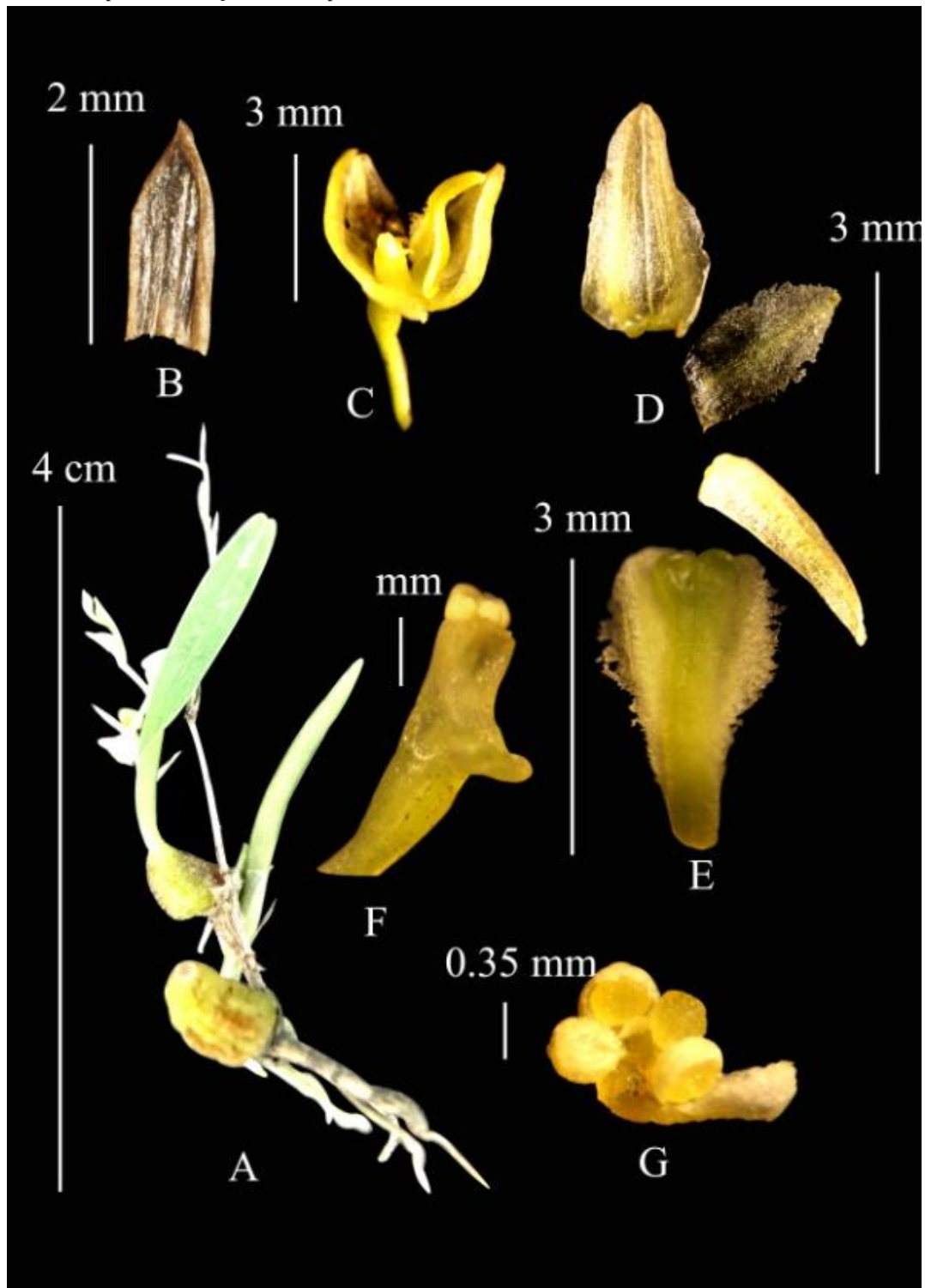


PLATE - I. *Sunipia candida* (Lindley) P.F. Hunt: **A.** Plant; **B.** Bract; **C.** Flower; **D.** Dissected parts of flower; **E.** Lip; **F.** Column with pedicellate ovary; **G.** Pollinia

lateral sepals 3.3 - 3.9 × 0.8 - 1 mm, lanceolate, acute, 3 veined; petals 2 - 2.2 × 1.5 mm, ovate oblong, acute, 1-veined, margins erose-dentate, white; lip 3.2 - 3.4 × 1.4 - 1.8 mm, simple, oblong, apex elongate, margins entire at base, margins serrate×erose from the centre to base, incurved outside; column 1 - 1.3 mm long, foot *c.* 0.5 mm long; anther cap *c.* 0.3 mm long, white; pollinia *c.* 0.2 mm long, round.

Flowering: July

Specimen examined: Chaugabung, Senapati district, Manipur, *Kishor*×00175, dated 13.11.2012

Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur) and Bhutan.

Availability status: Rarely found in the foot hills along with other orchids like *Pholidota sp.*, *Bulbophyllum sp.* and ferns.

Sunipia scariosa Lindley, Gen. Sp. Orchid, Pl.: 179. 1833. *Ione scarcosa* (Lindley) King & Pantling in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 8: 161, t. 219. 1898. *Sunipia racemosa sensu* T. Tang & F.T. Wang in Acta. Phytotax. Sin. 1(1): 90. 1951. excl. Syn. *Stellis racemosa*. *Ione racemosa sensu* Seidenfaden in Bot. Tidsskr. 64: 227. 1969, excl. Syn. *Stellis racemosa*. [PLATE - II]

An epiphyte; rhizome 2.5 - 3.5 mm, terete, with tubular 4 - 5 mm long sheaths. Pseudobulbs 1.8 - 3.0 × 1 - 2 cm, obliquely ovoid, obtuse, smooth, inserted 2 - 3 cm apart on rhizome. Leaf solitary, 8 - 14 × 1.6 - 2.4 cm, oblong, obtuse, coriaceous. Inflorescence exceeding leaves, 40 - 55 cm long, from the base of pseudobulbs, laxly many flowered; peduncle 30 - 42 cm long, glabrous, sheathes 1.1 - 1.6 cm long, slender; rachis 10 - 15 cm long, deflexed, weakly zigzag; pedicellate ovary 2 - 2.7 mm long, light green flushed with purple; floral bracts 4 - 5.5 × 3 - 3.2 mm, ovate, keeled, acute - sub-acute, scarious, pale brown. Flowers 4 - 6 mm across, pale green flushed with purple, glabrous; sepals sub×equal, spreading, pale green flushed with purple, 3-veined; dorsal sepal 3 - 4 × 2.8 - 3.3 mm, ovate, obtuse, minutely concave; lateral sepals 5 - 7 × 2 mm, oblong×lanceolate, apex apiculate. Petals 2.8 - 3.1 × 2.7 - 3 mm, broadly ovate, obtuse, subretuse, 1-veined, margins denticulate, pale purple. Lip 4 - 6 × 1.5 - 2 mm, fleshy, ovate×oblong, obtuse, concave, disc with a short, oblong callus below the callus. Column 1.0 - 1.2 mm long, pale yellow. Anther cap *c.* 0.5 × 0.8 mm, purple. Pollinia 4, in 2 pairs, *c.* oval, brown.

Flowering: April - May

Specimen examined: Hengbung, Senapati district, Manipur, *Chowlu*-00397, dated 24.04.2013; Willong Khunou, Senapati district, *B. Shama*×00349, dated 28.05.2013

Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal), China, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam.

Availability status: Commonly found on moss covered forest tree trunks.

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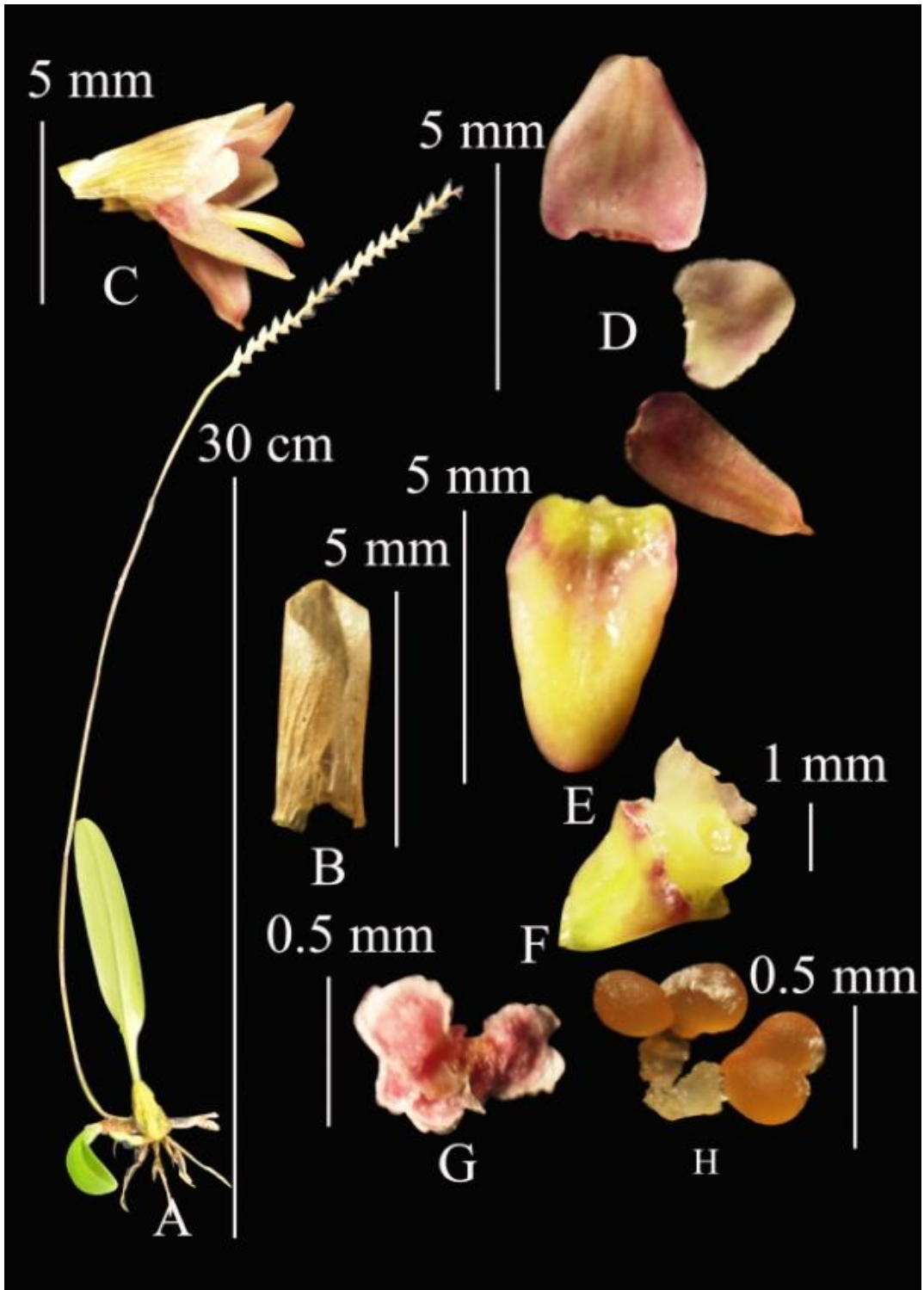


PLATE – II. *Sunipia scariosa* Lindley: A. Plant; B. Bract; C. Flower; D. Dissected parts of flower; E. Lip; F. Column with pedicel ovary; G. Anther cap; H. Pollinia

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