

***Dendrobium hesperis* (Seidenfaden) Schuiteman & Adams - a new orchid record to North-East India from Manipur, India**

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Abstract

Dendrobium hesperis (Seidenfaden) Schuiteman & Adams (Orchidaceae) which is hither to known endemic to Kumaun District of Uttarakhand state of India has now been reported in the present paper for the first time N.E. India from the Ukhrul District of Manipur state.

Keywords: *Dendrobium hesperis*, New record, N.E. India, Manipur

INTRODUCTION

During an orchid survey in the Ukhrul District of Manipur of North-East India, an interesting taxon which belongs to the genus *Flickingeria* Hawkes has been collected. Upon a critical study based on the available literature (Seidenfaden 1982; Deva & Naithani 1986; Chowdhery & Agrawala 2013), the taxon is proved to be *Flickingeria hesperis* Seidenfaden which was known so far only from N.W. Himalaya (Uttarakhand).

However, through DNA based phylogeny studies in the tribe Dendrobiinae by Schuiteman & Adams (2011), the species has been transferred to the genus *Dendrobium* Swartz. Following the broad concept of the genus *Dendrobium* Swartz. merging the smaller satellite genera like *Flickingeria*, *Epigenium*, *Cadetia*, etc. the present authors report this species as *Dendrobium hesperis* (Seidenfaden) Schuiteman & Adams for the first time as a new addition to North-East India. The species is described below along with a plate of colour photographs.

Dendrobium hesperis (Seidenfaden) Schuiteman & Adams, *Muelleria* 29: 67. 2011. *Flickingeria hisperis* Seidenfaden in *Nord. J. Bot.* 2: 16, f.2. 1982; Som Deva & H.B. Naithani, *Orch. N.W. Himalaya*: 291, f.165. 1986; B.P. Uniyal *et al*, *Checkl. Flower. Pl. Uttarakhand*: 228. 2007; H.J. Chowdhery & D.K. Agrawala, *Cent. W. Himalayan Orch.*: 210, pl. 74. 2013. *Dendrobium macraei auct. non* Lindley: C.M. Arora in *Indian J. For.* 3: 79. 1980. [PLATE – I]

Rhizome 2.0 – 3.9 × 0.4 – 0.5 cm thick, creeping, 4 – 7 noded in between two consecutive erect stems; internodes 3 – 7 × 5 mm. Roots upto 10 cm long, 1.0 – 1.5 mm thick, produced only from nodes of rhizomes. Erect stems 3 – 5 branched, zig zag, 2.0 – 3.5 cm long in between two branches; each branch 3 – 4 cm long, clavate, 3 – 4 noded with unequal internodes of 4 – 17 mm long, bearing a single pseudobulb at the upper node. Pseudobulbs 1.4 – 3.0 × 0.5 – 1.0 cm; young pseudobulbs semi-terete in cross section,

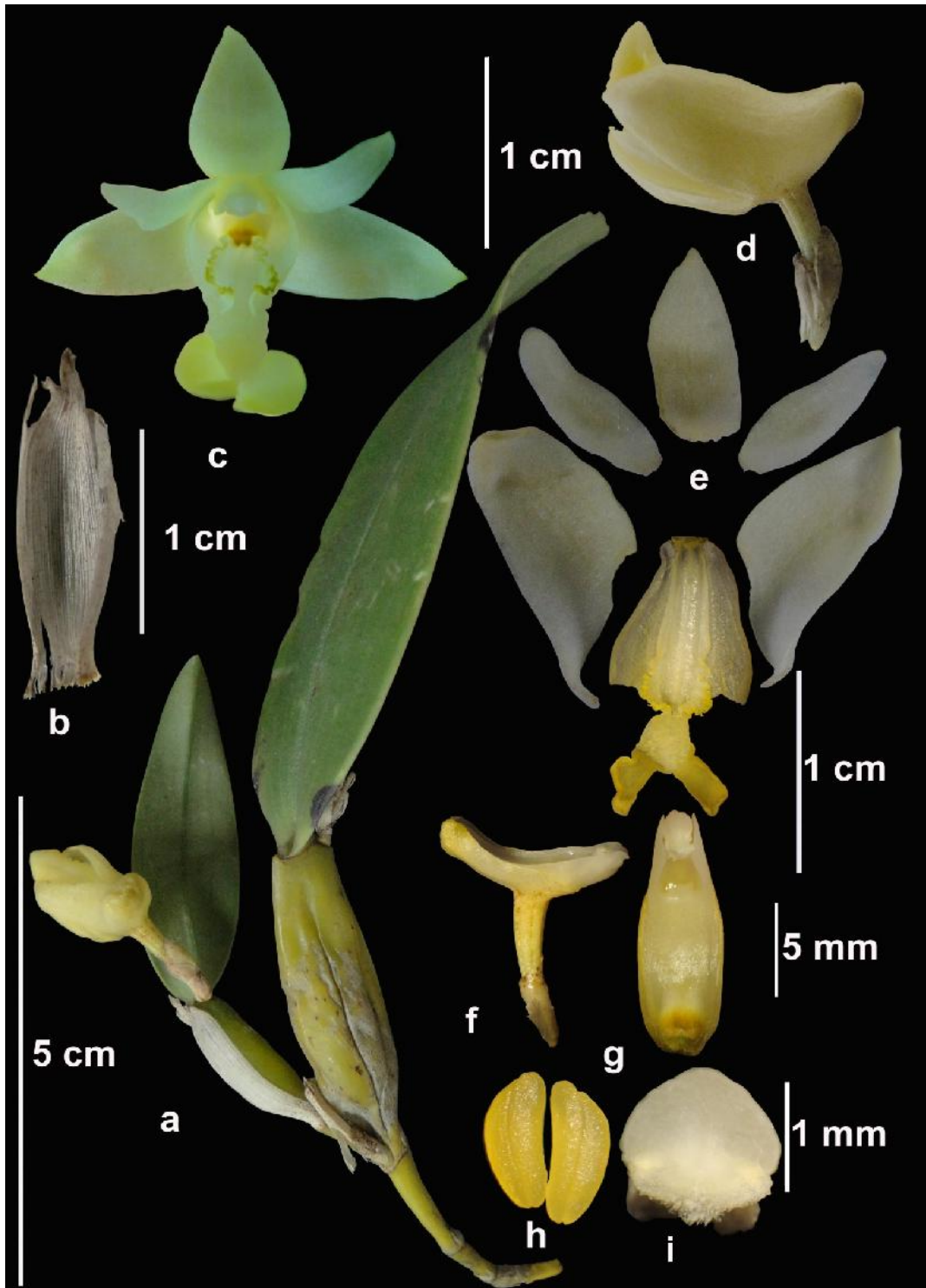


PLATE – I. *Dendrobium hesperis* (Seidenfaden) Schuiteman & Adams: **a.** Plant; **b.** Bract; **c.** Front view of flower; **d.** Lateral view of flower; **e.** Sepals, petals and lip; **f.** Column with ovary; **g.** Front view of Column with column foot; **h.** Pollinia; **i.** Anther cap.

green and covered with a translucent sheath of 1.7×0.9 cm, 1-leaved at tip; older pseudobulbs laterally compressed, vertically wrinkled, yellow, without any sheath and leaf. Leaves $3.1 - 7.2 \times 1.0 - 2.3$ cm, ovate-lanceolate, sessile, acute or minutely bilobed at tip, mid-vein keeled beneath; sheaths membranous, white. Inflorescence abaxial, 1-flowered. Floral bracts $3 - 6 \times 3$ mm, membranous. Flowers creamy yellow, 2.6 cm across. Dorsal sepal 9×4 mm, ovate-lanceolate, acute, 3-veined; lateral sepals ca. 1.5×0.7 cm, longer than the dorsal, oblong-lanceolate, acute, 5-veined, slightly keeled; petals 9×3 mm, oblong, acute, 3-veined; lip 1.3×1.2 cm, saccate at base, yellow; hypochile margins narrowly triangular, acute, 3 lamellate on the disc; lateral lamellae strongly crenulate towards apex and the middle one not so prominent; mesochile oblong, as long or shorter than the lobules of epichile; epichile bilobed; lobules oblong, obtuse to truncate; column ca. 5×2 mm; with stelidia; foot 0.6×0.4 cm, golden yellow on the inner surface; operculum ca. 1×1 mm, ovate, minutely hairy on front margin, 2-celled, white; pollinia 4, in 2 pairs, oblong, yellow.

Flowering: September

Distribution: India (endemic): Uttarakhand, Manipur

Exsiccatae: India: Manipur, Ukhrul District, Kamjong, 1195 m, N - $24^{\circ}49.501'$, E - $94^{\circ}31.560'$, Nanda *et al* 00480 (COGCEHR Herbarium, Hengbung, Manipur), dated 02.12.2010.

Habit and habitat ecology: Epiphyte, found growing on moss covered tree branches in association with a few species of *Bulbophyllum*, *Dendrobium*, *Pholidota*, *Thunia* etc.

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