

***Dendrobium tamenglongense* R. Kishor, Y.N. Devi, H.B. Sharma, J. Tongbram & S.P. Vij (Orchidaceae): an addition to the flora of Nagaland**

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Abstract

Dendrobium tamenglongense R. Kishor, Y.N. Devi, H.B. Sharma, J. Tongbram & S.P. Vij (Orchidaceae) is an addition to the flora of Nagaland. Recently it was described as a new species from Manipur State of NE India. A detailed description along with photographs is provided here.

Key words: *Dendrobium tamenglongense*, Orchidaceae, New record, Nagaland.

INTRODUCTION

With about 1400 species, the genus *Dendrobium* Swartz (Orchidaceae) is the second largest genus in the world (Pearce & Cribb 2002). In India the genus is represented by its 104 species making it the largest genus in India (Singh 2001). In NE India, where the diversity of the genus is so vast, the genus is represented by 80 species (Chowdhery 2009). Such amazing diversity led to the discovery of many interesting records as from NE India in recent years (Deori & Phukan 2004; Deori *et al.* 2004). During recent floristic inventory in Pangsa area under Tuensang district, Nagaland an interesting *Dendrobium* was collected at an altitude of 1887 m AMSL. After perusal of Literature (Kishor *et al.* 2013), the identity was confirmed as *Dendrobium tamenglongense* R. Kishor, Y.N. Devi, H.B. Sharma, J. Tongbram & S.P. Vij, which has been recently described as a new species from the adjacent state Manipur. So, the present finding is also a new distributional record for the orchid flora of Nagaland. The present article presents a detailed taxonomic description along with photographs of this newly recorded species of *Dendrobium*.

Taxonomic description

***Dendrobium tamenglongense* R. Kishor, Y.N. Devi, H.B. Sharma, J. Tongbram & S.P. Vij, *Nordic J. Bot.* 32(2): 150 – 153. [PLATE - I]**

Sympodial epiphytic herbs with thick roots arising from the base. Pseudo-bulbs 20 – 42 x 0.2 – 0.5 cm, angular distally, green, glabrous; young parts covered by pubescent leaf-sheaths; prominent ridges and grooves present; internodes 1.0 – 4.3 cm long, glabrous. Leaves 5 – 10 per pseudo-bulbs, distichous, thinly coriaceous; lamina 5.4 – 8.5 x 0.6 – 1.8 cm, green, lanceolate, acute, unequally bi-lobed at apex, both surface glabrous; pubescent tubular leaf sheaths 1.4 – 4.4 cm long, enclosing the younger pseudo-bulbs. Racemes 1 – 2 flowered, terminal or axillary on leafless pseudo-bulbs; peduncle and rachis upto 1 cm long, dark green,



PLATE - I. *Dendrobium tamenglongense* R. Kishor *et al.*: **Fig. A.** Plant; **Fig. B.** Inflorescence; **Fig. C.** Complete flower; **Fig. D.** Dissected floral parts [photos @ Santanu Dey]

glabrous. Floral bracts 0.6–0.8 x 0.3–0.4 cm, green, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, externally keeled. Pedicillate ovary 3.0–3.9 cm, long curved, slender, glabrous, white with green base and slightly greenish near the column. Flowers non-fragrant, 2.0–2.5 cm across with orange green lamellae of lip with green sepal apices. Dorsal sepal 1.8–2.1 x 0.8–1.0 cm, oblong, acuminate at apex, keeled externally; lateral sepals 1.0–1.2 cm wide, 2.1–2.3 cm long on upper margin, 4.0–4.3 cm long on lower margin and adnate to the foot to form a mentum, acute at apex, keeled, green. Petals 1.9–2.0 x 1.0–1.1 cm, white elliptic, margin subserrate near the acute apices not keeled. Labellum 2.8–3.0 x 3.4–4.0 cm, rhomboid when flattened with part of spur forming a tail, trilobed, with larger side lobes and triangular dentate dorsal margins, white with 7 orange red veins; midlobe ca 0.5 x 0.4 cm, shortly fimbriate along margin. Column 0.6–0.7 cm long, white; foot 3.0–3.5 cm long with red colour in upper half. Anther cap ca 0.2 x 0.3 cm, white with ciliate margin towards the stigma; stigmatic opening white; pollinia ca 0.20 cm long, 4 in numbers, oblong, yellow in colour.

Exsicatta: Pangsa village, Tuensang district, Nagaland; altitude 1887 m (GPS Location N 26°15′ 35.1" and E 95° 07′ 02.4"), *SDNU 207*, dated 24.1.2014

Flowering: July;

Fruiting: Not seen

Etymology- The specific epithet is derived from Tamenlong district of Manipur from which the species is described as new species in 2013.

Ecology: The species was collected from Subtropical semi-evergreen forest and was growing on *Schima wallichii* Choisy (Theaceae) plant and more than 10 individuals were observed on the same host tree.

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