

## Report of *Dendrobium regium* Prain (Orchidaceae) from Nagaland, India – a new record for North-East India

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### Abstract

*Dendrobium regium* Prain (Orchidaceae) a new record to North East India has been described from Nagaland, India. A detailed description, photographic illustration distribution has been provided.

**Key words:** *Dendrobium regium*, new record, Nagaland, North East India, Orchid.

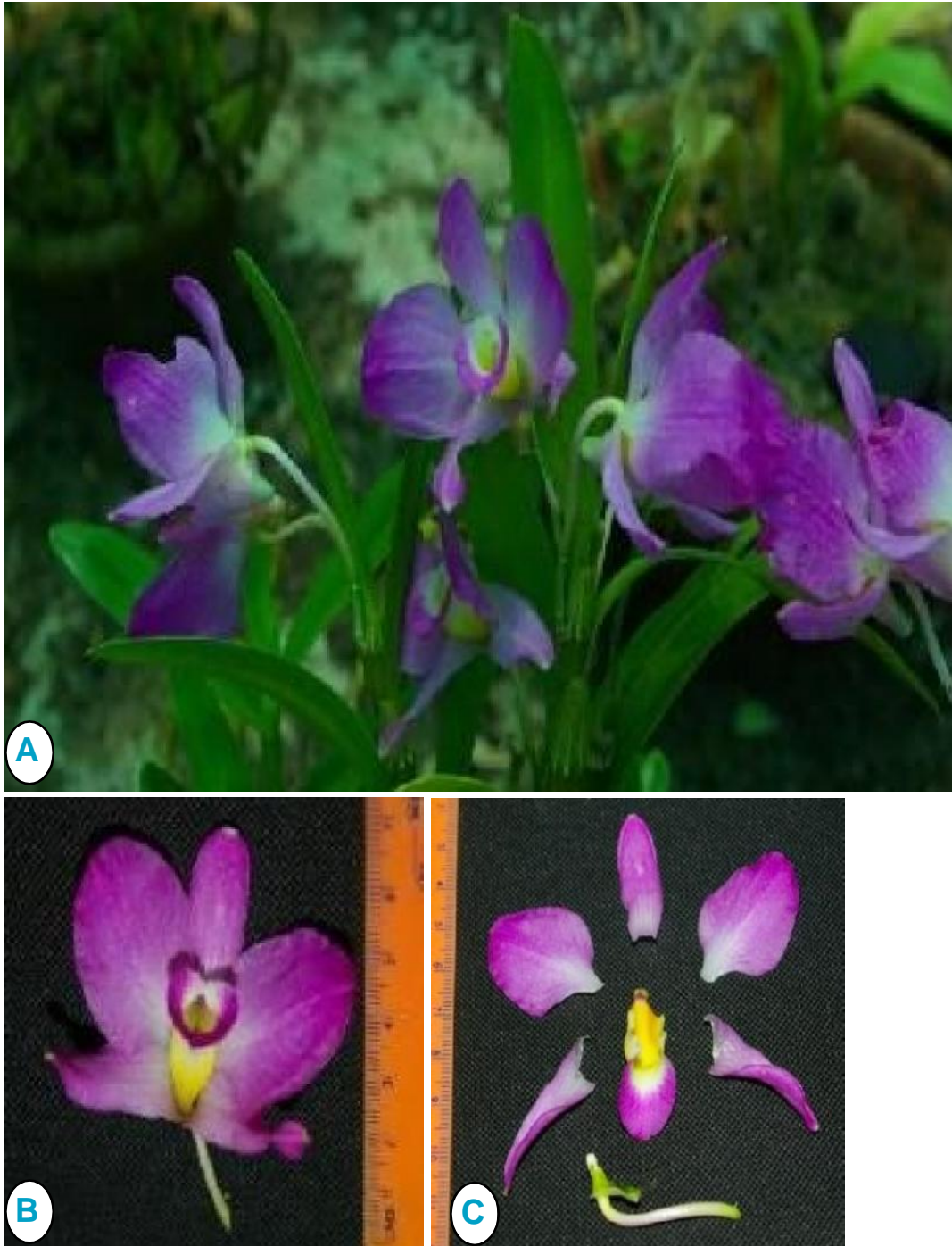
### INTRODUCTION

During an orchid collection trip to Minkong Reserve Forest, Mokokchung district, Nagaland, India by the first author in 2010 an orchid plant in vegetative condition was collected and grown in Orchidarium of Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland, India. The plant was taken utmost care and during May 2014 the flowering period was observed. The species after critically examination with scrutiny of literatures (Kumar *et al.* 2011; Misra 2007) was identified as *Dendrobium regium* Prain a species earlier reported from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh. The present collection thus represents its first record for North East India. In what follows, a detailed description of the species with citation, photographic illustration and distribution is provided for easy identification (Figure 1), if found elsewhere in the country.

### Taxonomic description:

*Dendrobium regium* Prain in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 71: 80. 1902. [PLATE – I]

*Habit* epiphytic herb. Stem tufted, 29-42 × 1.4-1.9 cm, compressed, narrowed at the base; *internodes* 2.3-33.3 cm apart; roots 0.3 cm in dm, greenish white. *Leaves* on the upper half of the stem, alternate, linear-oblong, sub obtuse, apex obliquely notched. *Racemes* 1 – 2, subterminal, on a short peduncle from leafy or leafless stems, 2-3 flowered. *Floral bracts* 0.5-0.7×4.3 cm, 5-nerved, transparent, oblong, retuse, gland dotted. *Pedicel* and *ovary* 1.7-2.1 cm, sub erect; ovary white, ridged and furrowed. *Flowers* 7.2-7.7 × 5.2 cm, sepals and petals fleshy, petals magenta, with darker lines and transverse markings. Sepals linear-oblong obtuse with red-purple veins, 7-nerved; *dorsal sepal* 2.7 × 1.1 cm; *laterals* 3.7 × 1.0 cm. *Petals* much broader, ovate obtuse 4.3 × 3.2 cm, base shortly clawed, 3-4 nerved, laterals branched. *Lip* 3.2 × 2.1 cm, obscurely 3-lobed, broadly ovate obtuse, shortly clawed, 5-6-veined, laterals branched, basal one-third convolute, dilated above, margins serrate, recurved; lower half light yellow, deeper towards the base, upper half magenta. *Column* and *foot* 1.2



**PLATE – I: *Dendrobium regium* Prain:** (A) Plant in flower; (B) Flower; (C) Dissected floral parts.

cm long, light green; *foot* long, green in colour with a dark purple blotch at the base; *stelia* 2, recurved. *Anther* 0.3 × 0.2 cm, oblong, slightly emarginated at apex; *frontage* toothed. *Pollinia* 0.14 cm long.

**Flowers:** May. **Fruits:** Not recorded

**Distribution:** Endemic to India: North East India (Nagaland, - present report), Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh.

**Specimen examined:** Nagaland, Minkong Reserve Forest, Mokokchung district, *Chitta Ranjan Deb 130681* (Nagaland). Date: 20.03.2010, Altitude: 1335 m ASL.

**Ecology:** The species was found growing in sub-tropical evergreen forest at altitude 1350 m

**Uses:** *Dendrobium regium* Prain is an Indian Traditional Healing Medicinal Orchid used for treatment of all stages of Sickle Cell Anemia (Kumar *et al.* 2011).

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