

***Centranthera tranquebarica* (Sprengel) Merrill (Orobanchaceae): a new record for Assam, India**

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Abstract

Centranthera tranquebarica (Sprengel) Merrill (Orobanchaceae) is reported as an addition for the flora of Assam. Detailed description along with photographs and distribution have been provided for its identification.

Key words: *Centranthera tranquebarica*, Orobanchaceae, New record, Assam.

INTRODUCTION

During survey on the Angiospermic flora of Udalguri district, Assam, an interesting plant was collected. After critical study of the specimen and perusal of the available literatures (Hooker 1884; Prain 1903), it was identified as *Centranthera tranquebarica* (Sprengel) Merrill [Orobanchaceae]. Chowdhury *et al.* (2005) mentioned the occurrence of 2 species of *Centranthera* R. Brown, viz. *C. chinensis* (Loureiro) Merrill and *C. grandiflora* Benth from Assam. But the occurrence of *Centranthera tranquebarica* was not reported earlier from the state of Assam, India (Chowdhury *et al.* 2005; Kanjilal *et al.* 1939). So, the present collection of *Centranthera tranquebarica* from Udalguri district is a new record and addition to the flora of Assam, India. The nomenclature of the plant has been verified in www.ipni.org and www.theplantlist.org.

Centranthera tranquebarica (Sprengel) Merrill in Merrill & Chun, Sunyatsenia 5: 182. 1940. *Razumovia tranquebarica* Sprengel, Mant. Prim. Fl. Hal. 45. 1807. *Torenia lepidota* Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 281. 1821. *Centranthera humifusa* Wallich *ex* Benth, Scroph. Ind. 50. 1835; Hooker *f.*, Fl. Brit. India 4: 301. 1884; Prain, Bengal Pl. 2: 578. 1903. *Centranthera tonkinensis* Bonati, Notul. Syst. 1: 337. 1911.

Herbs, slender, basally hirsute, apically subglabrous. Stems prostrate or erect, branched from base; branches slender, mostly diffuse and ascending, dense, fascicled, 5 – 30 cm. Leaves opposite, rarely alternate below, sessile, linear to narrowly oblanceolate, usually 0.8 – 2.5 cm × 0.2 – 0.5 cm, glabrous or midrib with scabrous scale-like bulges on both surfaces or abaxially short hairy, entire and slightly revolute, acuminate. Bracts longer than corolla; calyx ovate, ca. 1 cm; corolla yellow, brown striate, ca. 1.5 cm; throat densely black punctate; lobes suborbicular; anterior stamens 0.3 – 0.5 cm; filaments densely white lanose-villous; posterior stamens 0.2 – 0.4 cm; filaments apically villous; ovary oblong, ca. 3 × 2.5 cm, glabrous. Capsules subglobose, 4 – 5 × ca. 4 mm, as long as persistent calyx. Seeds yellow, cylindrical-conical, ca. 1 mm long; seed coat reticulate.

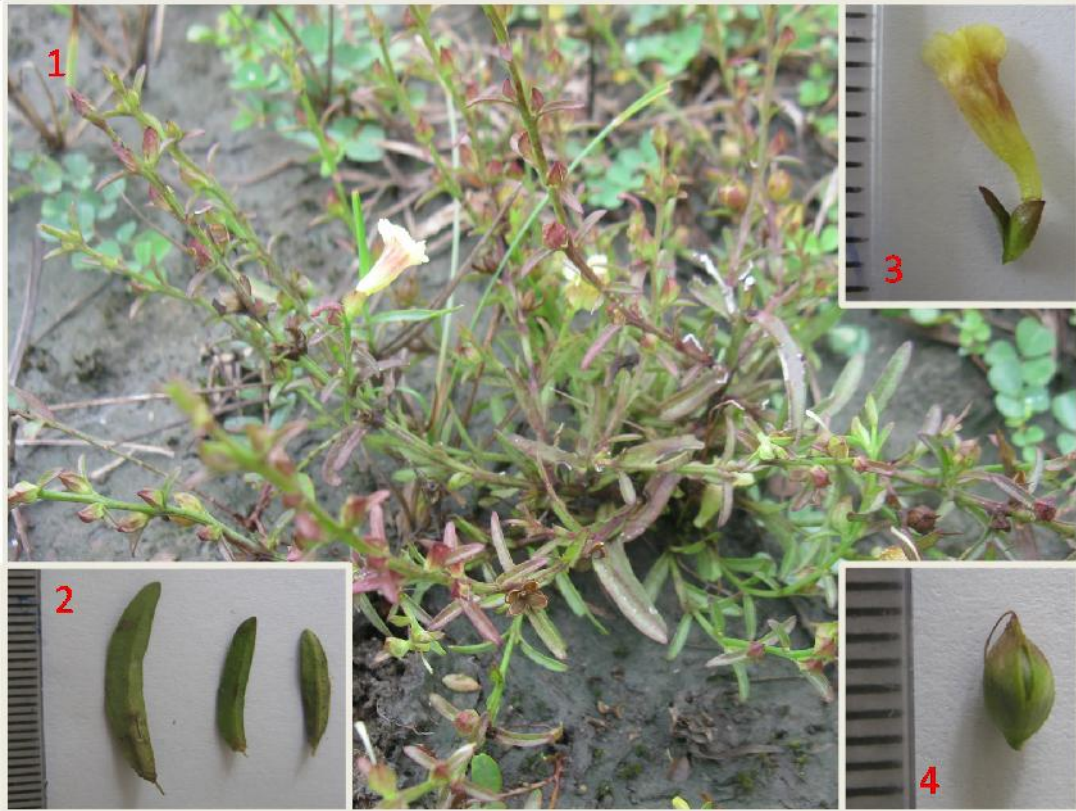


Plate 1: *Centranthera tranquebarica* (Sprengel) Merrill: Figs. 1 - 4: **1.** Habit; **2.** Leaves; **3.** A Flower; **4.** A Fruit.

Flowers & fruits: July – October.

Exsiccatae: Khalingduar reserve forest, Udalguri district, Assam (near the Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary), *Boro 1045*, dated August 02, 2014 (GUBH).

Distribution: INDIA: Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; MALAYSIA, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, VIETNAM and CHINA.

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