**Bulbophyllum stenobulbon** (Orchidaceae). A new record for the Manipur state, India

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**Abstract**

*Bulbophyllum stenobulbon* C.S.P.Parish & Reichenbach f. is reported here for the first time as an addition to the orchid flora of Manipur, India. A detailed description and a photographic plate are provided for its easy identification in future.

**Résumé**

La découverte de *Bulbophyllum stenobulbon* C.S.P.Parish & Reichenbach f. dans l’État de Manipur (Inde) est rapportée ici pour la première fois et cette espèce vient s’ajouter à la flore de l’État. Pour faciliter son identification lors de futures collectes, une description détaillée et une planche de photographies sont proposées.

**Keywords**: Bulbophyllum, flora, IUCN, orchid, taxonomy

**Mots-clés**: Bulbophyllum, flore, IUCN, orchidées, taxinomie.
Introduction

The genus Bulbophyllum Thouars (1822: 3) belongs to the subfamily Epidendroideae, Tribe Malaxideae, Subtribe Dendrobiinae (Chase et al., 2015). The genus consists of ca. 2069 species (plantsoftheworldonline, 2019) worldwide, which are distributed mainly in tropical areas of Old and New Worlds (Chen & Vermeulen, 2009). In India the genus is represented by ca. 100 species, in which ca. 75 species and 3 varieties are located in North East India (Misra, 2007; Chowlu et al., 2013 & 2015) and ca. 32 species in Manipur (Chowlu et al., 2015).

While working on the orchid flora of the Eastern Himalayan Region, this interesting orchid was collected from Hengbung, Kangpokpi District, Manipur, in August 2018. After critical morpho-taxonomic investigation and consultation of literature (Reichenbach, 1874; Kuntze, 1891; King & Pantling, 1895 & 1898; Hu & Barretto, 1976; Augustine et al., 2001; Lucksom, 2007; Chen & Vermeulen, 2009), the specimen has been identified as Bulbophyllum stenobulbon C.S.P.Parish & Reichenbach f. (1874: 30).

Review of different literature (Hooker, 1890; Mukerjee, 1953; Deb, 1961; Ghatak & Devi, 1986; Karthikeyan et al., 1989; Chauhan, 2001; Sathish Kumar & Suresh Kumar 2005; Chowlu et al., 2013, 2014 & 2015; Mao & Deori, 2018; Rao & Kumar, 2018) revealed that the taxa was not yet recorded from the Manipur state. So, this species is reported here for the first time as an addition to the orchid flora. A detailed description with updated nomenclature, a photographic plate, phenology, distribution and chromosome number is provided to facilitate easy identification and collection in future.

Taxonomic treatment

of Bhutan, Kumai Forest near the Jaldacca River, alt. 1500 ft, June, 1890. R. Pantling, 319 [Lectotype (designated here) K (K000829170), digital image!].


**Description** (Fig. 1). Plant epiphytic. Rhizome creeping, 0.5-1.2 mm in diameter, branched, naked, rooting from base, roots spreading. Pseudobulbs cylindrical to ovoid-cylindrical, 0.5-1.8 × 0.3-0.7 cm, borne at an interval of 0.4-1(-3) cm, pale green. Leaf 1, lamina elliptic-oblong to oblanceolate, 0.6-3 × 0.3-0.9 cm, obtuse and emarginate at apex, gradually tapers towards base or sub-sessile; petiole 1-2.5 mm long. Inflorescence a short raceme, umbel-like, 1.2-3.3 cm long, erect bearing 2-3 flowers; peduncle 1.2-3 cm long, smooth, covered with 1-4 lanceolate, concave, 3-4 mm long sheathing bracts; rachis 0.4-2.5 mm long, smooth. Floral bract erect, ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate, subulate, 1.8-3 × 0.5-0.8 mm, subacute to acute at apex, glabrous, persistent, pale whitish green. Pedicel and ovary dull whitish green to dark yellowish, 1.8-3.6 × 0.2-0.5 mm, glabrous, more or less ribbed. Flowers 6-8 mm long, glabrous, whitish yellow, tinged with orange-yellow, spreading. Sepals free, sub-equal, lanceolate, 3-nerved, fleshy towards apex, spreading, margins more or less incurved towards apex, whitish yellow, tinged with orange-yellow; dorsal sepal lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 3.7-5 × 1-1.3 mm, long acuminate at apex, broader towards base, slightly concave, arched over column; lateral sepals lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 3.8-5.5 × 0.7-1 mm, long acuminate at apex, broader towards base, base adnate to column foot forming a mentum. Petals ovate-oblong, 2.2-2.6 × 0.7-1 mm, acute to sub-obtuse at apex, glabrous, translucent, entire at margins, 1-3-nerved, white, tinged with orange-yellow towards apex. Labellum ligulate to ovate-oblong, 1.8-2.3 × 0.4-0.6 mm, obtuse to subacute and recurved at apex, 1-3-nerved, lateral nerves faint, decurved from the thickened grooved basal portion; abaxially with fine papillae, adaxially narrower with 3 longitudinal ridges, lateral ridges thickened and slightly raised, fleshy, yellow. Column stout, cylindrical, 0.8-1 mm long; stelidia subulate, 0.3-0.5 mm long; foot slightly upcurved, 0.8-1.2 mm long. Anther cap short, orbicular, 0.3-0.6 × 0.3-0.6 mm, mucronate at apex, 2-celled, cream. Pollinia 4, in 2 pairs, very unequal, inner two very small, suborbicular, 0.2-0.4 × 0.1-0.2 mm, yellow.

*Bulbophyllum stenobulbon* in Manipur (India) – Tilotama et al.
**Fig. 1. Bulbophyllum stenobulbon C.S.P.Parish & Reichenbach f.**

A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C. Floral bract; D. Flower; E. Dorsal sepal; F-G. Lateral sepals; H-I. Petals; J. Labellum with ovary; K. Labellum; L. Column and ovary with anther cap; M. Anther cap; N. Pollinia (Ph. Kangjam Tilotama)
Flowering: June-September.

Distribution: INDIA [Manipur (present study), Sikkim, W. Bengal (Darjeeling district)]; BHUTAN, CHINA, LAOS, MYANMAR, THAILAND, VIETNAM (Chen & Vermeulen, 2009). (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2. Global distribution of Bulbophyllum stenobulbon

Specimen examined: INDIA, Manipur, Kangpokpi district, Hengbung, 25° 41' 12.78" N, 094° 00' 06.48" E, 1178 m, 10.09.2018, K. Tilotama Devi & T. Abonmei 00221 (COGCEHR).

Chromosome number: 2n = 38 (Chen & Vermeulen 2009).

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References


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