



## Note on the presence of *Phlogacanthus gomezii* (Acanthaceae) in the state of Manipur, India

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### Abstract

The present study reports *Phlogacanthus gomezii* (Nees) J.R.I. Wood as a new addition to the flora of Manipur, India. This species was collected from Bungpa Khunnou in Kamjong district. The plant is known in Bangladesh and Myanmar and in India in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. The species is here briefly described and illustrated.

### Résumé

Cette étude rapporte la présence de *Phlogacanthus gomezii* (Nees) J.R.I. Wood comme nouvel ajout à la flore du Manipur, en Inde. Cette espèce a été collectée à Bungpa Khunnou dans le district de Kamjong. La plante est connue au Bangladesh et au Myanmar et en Inde dans les états de l'Assam, du Meghalaya et du Mizoram. L'espèce est ici brièvement décrite et illustrée.

**Key words:** flora of Manipur, new record, North East India

**Mots clés :** flore de Manipur, nouvel enregistrement, Inde du Nord-Est

## Introduction

Manipur is one of the northeastern states of India. Manipur falls under the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot which is one among the 34 Biodiversity Hotspots classified by United Nations International Conservation. A total of 13,500 plant species have been recorded in this state which represents approximately 2.3% of plants species in the world.

The genus *Phlogacanthus* Nees (1832: 76) of family Acanthaceae consists of about 49 species distributed in the tropical regions of Asia (Anderson, 1867; Dumortier, 1829). Recently, this genus is reported to be represented by 13 species in India (Lakshminarasimhan *et al.*, 2020). Among these species, 8 are recorded in Assam (Kanjilal *et al.*, 1939). In Manipur, 3 species were so far reported (Ningombam, 2012). *Phlogacanthus thyrsiformis* (Roxburgh, 1820: 116) Mabberley (1980: 83) (locally known as Nongmakha) is the most commonly found, the other species are *Phlogacanthus curviflorus* (Wallich, 1831: 9) Nees (1832: 99) and *Phlogacanthus pubinervius* T. Anderson (1867: 508). A plant was collected from Bungpa Khunnou in Kamjong district, Manipur state of India. The collected plant specimen was similar to *P. curviflorus*, however, the flower was found to be smaller and the leaves were glabrous. The plant specimen was brought to Plant Systematics and Conservation Laboratory, Institute of Bioresources and Development, India for proper identification.

## Materials and Methods

A field survey was made at Kamjong district, Manipur during the month of February, 2021. The collected specimen was studied and deposited, under the voucher number PSCL / C1SP7-21, at the Systematics and Conservation Laboratory of plants, Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, India. The determination of the specimen was carried out based on the literature including: Clarke, 1885; Kanjilal, 1939; Ningombam, 2012.

## Result

The plant was identified as *Phlogacanthus gomezii* (Nees, 1832: 99) J.R.I. Wood (1994: 182).

*P. gomezii* is the correct name for the plant described by Clarke as *P. wallichii* Clarke (1885: 511) (Wood, 1994). *P. gomezii* has flower smaller in size than *P. curviflorus*. *P. gomezii* is close to *P. tubiflorus* Nees (1932: 99). However, in *P.*

*gomezii* corolla is red in colour and leaves are completely glabrous whereas in *P. tubiflorus* corolla is yellowish orange and leaves are pubescent on the lower surface (Clarke, 1885). *P. gomezii* was previously reported to be distributed in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram states of India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Hence, it is reported here as a new addition to the flora of Manipur, India. This species is briefly described and illustrated (Fig. 1).

*Phlogacanthus gomezii* (Nees) J.R.I. Wood in *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 51(2): 182 (1994).

Basionym: *Loxanthus gomezii* Nees in Wallich, N. Eds. *Plantae Asiaticae Rariores* Vol, III: 99.

Type: Bangladesh, Silhet, Gomez in *Wallich 7170* (iso. K-W).

Specimen examined: India: Manipur, Kamjong District, Bungpa Khunnou, 24.814N latitude, 94.444E longitude, 484 m asl, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, PSCL/C1SP7 voucher number 21.

Description: Shrubs 3 m high. Stem woody, glabrous, quadrangular. Leaves elliptic, lanceolate, acuminate, leaf color dark green (abaxial face), light green (adaxial face), 25.5- 25.7 × 8-12 cm, narrowed at base, nerves 10 pairs. Inflorescence terminal thyrse, villous, 10-14 cm long. Calyx villous, 0.5 cm long. Bracts 2.1 cm long. Corolla dark red, 2.3-2.5 cm long, tubular, curved. Stamens 2, glabrous, inserted at the base of tube, dorsifixed, exerted. Gynoecium pinkish white, curved, 1.5-1.7 cm long, staminode absent. Fruit glabrous.

Flowering: January-March.

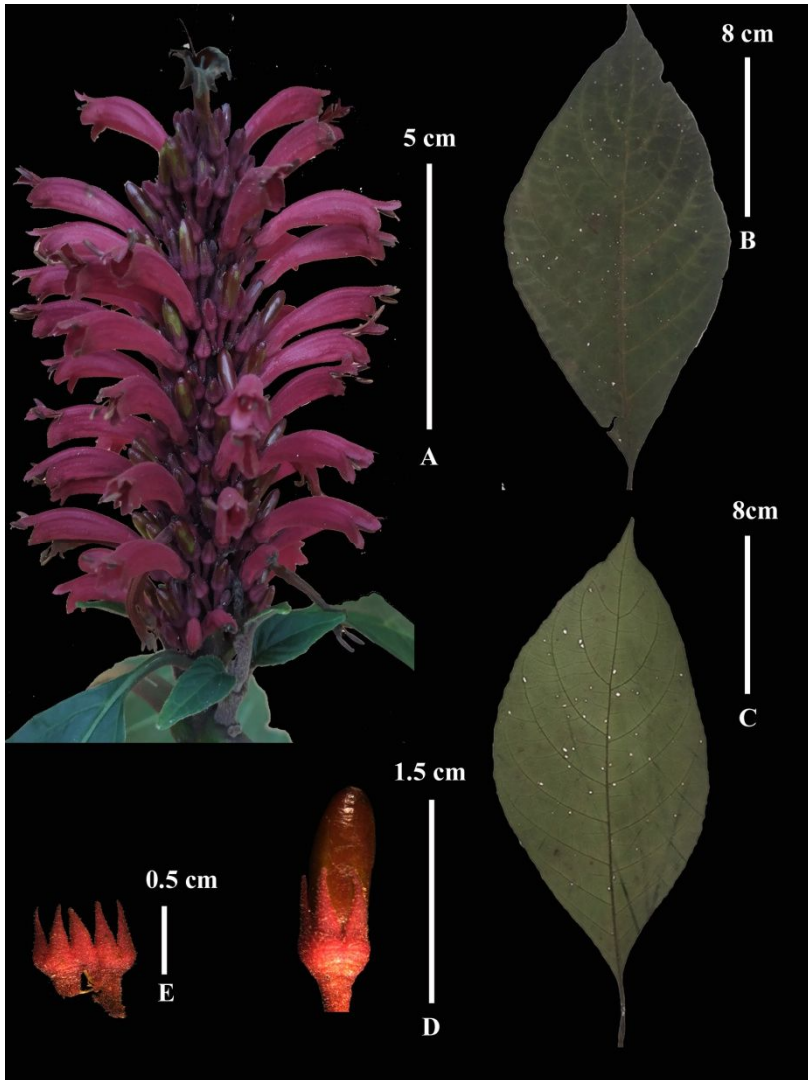
Fruiting: March-May.

Distribution: Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur states of India, Bangladesh (Sillet) and Myanmar.

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**Fig.1.** *Phlogacanthus gomezii*

A: inflorescence - B: abaxial leaf - C: adaxial leaf - D: young fruit - E: calyx

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