

2. *Phaius wallichii* Lindl. : Orchidaceae - A RARE SPECIES NEW TO ARUNACHAL PRADESH (INDIA)

Jumter Nyorak

State Forest Research Institute, Orchid Research Centre, Tippi, Bhalukpong,
Arunachal Pradesh India - 790114

E-mail: jumter_nyorak08@rediffmail.com

Abstract

The orchid species i.e. *Phaius wallichii* Lindl., which is known so far from Assam, Manipur and Sikkim in India, has presently been reported from Arunachal Pradesh for the first time as a new distributional record to the state.

Keywords: *Phaius wallichii*-orchidaceae, new record, Arunachal Pradesh.

Introduction:

During a recent field trip to degraded forest area of Kamala-I, near Tippi in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, the field staffs of Orchid Research Centre Tippi, have collected an orchid which looked in vegetative condition like *Phaius tankervilleae* and brought it under cultivation in the Green Houses of Orchid Centre at Tippi. The orchid flowered in the month of May (late spring). A critical study based on the literature (references) and herbarium consultation of CAL, ASSAM, ARUN, SFRI Herbarium Itanagar, and Orchid Herbarium Tippi, it has been identified as *Phaius wallichii* Lindl. which has been reported so far from Assam, Manipur and Sikkim in India. Hence, the present communication of its occurrence in Arunachal Pradesh is a new distributional record to the state.

Taxonomic Descriptions:

Phaius wallichii Lindl. Gen. and Spec. Orch. 126.; Lindl. In Bot. Reg. Misc., 44; Reichb. fil. in Walp. Ann. VI, 459; Paxt. Mag. Bot., t. 193; Bot. Mag., 7023; Hook. fil. Fl. Br. Ind. V, 816 (in part). P. bicolor, Lindl. Gen. and Spec. Orch. 128; Sertum

Orch., t. 23; in Bot. Reg., 1839, Misc. 61; Bot. Mag., t. 4078. Wight Ic. t. 1659 - 60; Thwaites Enum. Pl. Ceyl., 300; Blume Mus. Bot. Ludg, Bat. II, 178; Walp. Ann. VI, 458. *P. grandifolius*, Lindl. In Wall. Cat., 3747.

A robust, terrestrial orchid; pseudo bulbs fusiform to cylindrical-ovoid, about 12 cm long. Leaves 4, green, oblong-elliptic, plicate, tapering to the petiole, acuminate, about 30-90 x 6-18 cm. Inflorescence 90 - 150 cm tall, erect, glabrous, arising from lower nodes on the pseudo bulbs, with caducous, ovate-lanceolate, glabrous floral bracts. Flowers 8-13 cm across, facing forward. Sepals and petals sub-equal, linear-lanceolate, red-brown inside, greenish-yellow outside. Lip shorter than sepals and petals, its lower part tubular and ending in a narrow curved spur. Column erect, and glabrous. Pollinia 8, united by 4 to 2 membranes. Capsule narrowly ovoid, prominently ribbed, 7 x 3.5 cm.

Flowering: May (late spring)

Distribution: India (Assam, Sikkim, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh), Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and South China.

Notes: *Phaius wallichii* Lindl. is more allied to *Phaius tankervilleae* (Banks) Bl. but can be distinguished from the latter by sepals and petals with greenish or brownish yellow colour outside instead of white; flowers straight instead of drooping and long tubular spur instead of small conical spur.

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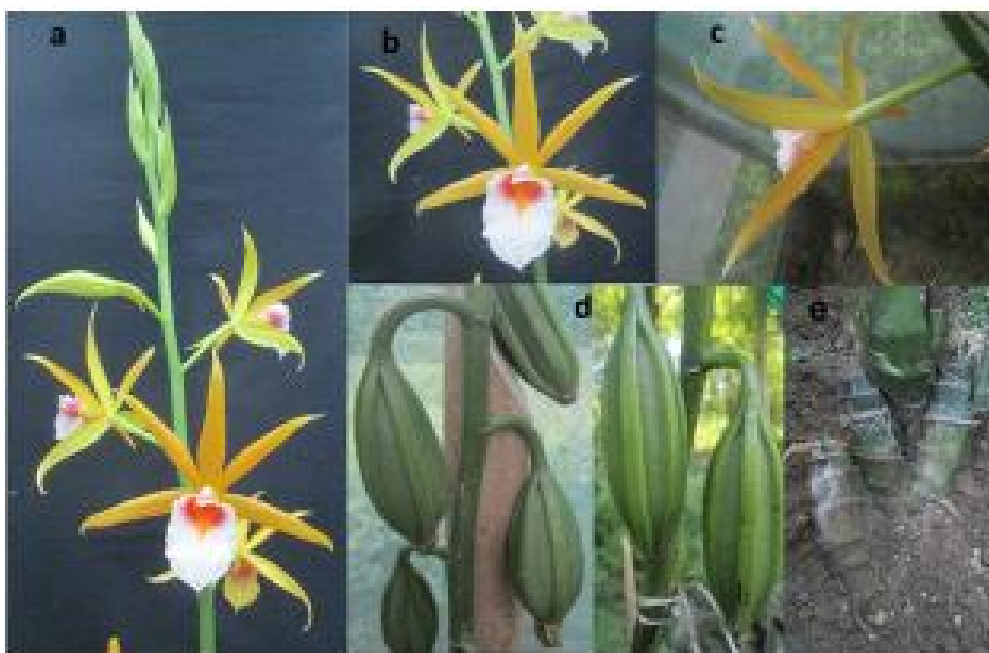


Fig. *Phaius wallichii* Lindl. a. Inflorescence b. Flower
c. Sepals & Petals (Backside view) d. Pods (Fruits) e. Pseudobulbs