

Peristylus intrudens – An addition to the orchid flora of India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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Abstract

Peristylus intrudens (Ames) Ormerod (Orchidaceae) is reported here as an addition to the orchid flora of India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A brief description with illustration and photographs is provided for easy identification.

Keywords: Orchidaceae, *Peristylus*, India, New Report

Introduction

Peristylus Blume is a genus of 103 species belonging to the subfamily Orchidoideae of family Orchidaceae, distributed from Mascarenes, tropical and subtropical Asia to Mongolia and Pacific region (Govaerts *et al.*, 2017). The genus is represented by 29 species and 2 varieties in India (Misra, 2007), of which 5 species are reported from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Karthigeyan *et al.*, 2010, 2014; Alappatt, 2015; Murugan *et al.*, 2016). The general morphology of this genus is very similar to that of *Habenaria* Willd. and *Pecteilis* Raf. but can easily be differentiated from them on the basis of stigmatic lobes being connate or adpressed to the lip base and by the presence of erect ovary close to the rachis.

During floristic explorations in Andaman group of islands, a few specimens belonging to the genus *Peristylus* were collected from South Andaman Island. On critical study, they were identified as *Peristylus intrudens* (Ames) Ormerod. A thorough scrutiny of literature (Sinha, 1999; Misra, 2007; Rao, 2007; Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Kumar *et al.*, 2010; Ormerod, 2011; Karthigeyan *et al.*, 2014; Alappatt, 2015; Prabhukumar *et al.*, 2016) revealed that this species was hitherto unrecorded from Andaman and Nicobar Islands and mainland India as well. Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the orchid flora of India. A brief description along with illustration and photographs (Figs. 1,2) is provided to facilitate easy recognition of this species in the field.

Peristylus intrudens (Ames) Ormerod, *Taiwania* 56(1): 46. 2011; Raskoti *et al.*, *J. Jap. Bot.* 87: 137.

2012. *Habenaria intrudens* Ames, *Schedul. Orchid.* 6: 1. 1923. **Figs. 1, 2**

Terrestrial herb, to 40 cm high; tubers subglobose to ellipsoid, *c.* 1.5 × 1 cm with several slender roots at the neck. Stem leafy at basal part, *c.* 20 cm long, bearing 2 or 3 tubular sheathing leaves below; basal sheathing leaves to 1 cm long, covering the stem base to 1.5 cm high. Leaves 3–5, spreading near stem base, lanceolate-oblong, 7–15 × 2–3 cm, sheathing at base, acute, apiculate at apex. Inflorescence a raceme, terminal, *c.* 15 cm long, erect, 10–20-flowered; peduncle *c.* 21 cm long, glabrous with 3–5 sheathing bracts; sterile bracts suberect, linear-lanceolate, 1.5–3 cm long, acuminate; floral bracts lanceolate, 5–15 × 2.5–5 mm, acuminate at apex, light green. Flowers *c.* 2 mm across, creamy white, not opening widely; pedicels with ovary equal to or slightly longer than floral bracts, cylindrical-fusiform, *c.* 1.2 cm long, erect and held close to the rachis, twisted, glabrous; dorsal sepal and petals form a hood over the column. Dorsal sepal elliptic-ovate, concave, *c.* 3 × 1.5 mm, subacute to obtuse at apex; lateral sepals concave, narrowly oblong, *c.* 3 × 1.5 mm, acute at apex; petals erect forming a hood with dorsal sepal, oblong, shallowly concave, *c.* 4 × 2 mm, acute at apex, thinly textured. Lip *c.* 3 mm long, deflexed, deeply 3-lobed towards apex, base united with the lateral sepals; lateral lobes spreading, narrowly triangular, *c.* 1 × 0.5 mm, shorter than midlobe; midlobe triangular-lanceolate, *c.* 1.5 × 0.5 mm, acute at apex; spur broadly ovoid, *c.* 1.5 × 1 mm, bent forward with acute apex; disk with a prominent subglobose



Fig. 1. *Peristylus intrudens* (Ames) Ormerod.

callus near base in front of the spur cavity. Column c. 1 mm long with large auricles on both sides; stigma small, placed near to the auricles. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 1 × 0.5 cm, sessile.

Flowering & Fruiting: October–January.

Habitat: A rare ground orchid found in moist and shady places of semievergreen forests growing along with *Selaginella ciliaris* (Retz.) Spring, *Scleria lithosperma* (L.) Sw., *Lindsaea ensifolia* Sw. and *Eriocaulon* sp. at an elevation of c. 25 m.

Distribution: Nepal, China (Hong Kong), Taiwan, Philippines and now in India; also found in Myanmar and Thailand (Hubert Kurzweil, pers. comm.).

Specimens examined: INDIA, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, South Andaman Island, Kalatang, 7.11.2015, Joju P. Alappatt 1206 (PBL); Kalatang, 22.10.2016, Joju P. Alappatt 1369 (Herbarium Forest Training Institute, Wimberlygunj). CHINA, **Hong Kong**, Tai Po, S.Y. Hu 10944 (K000827047, image!)

Note: This species is closely related to *P. lacertifer* (Lindl.) J.J. Sm. but differs from it in having white flowers, shorter lip side lobes and more elliptic petals.

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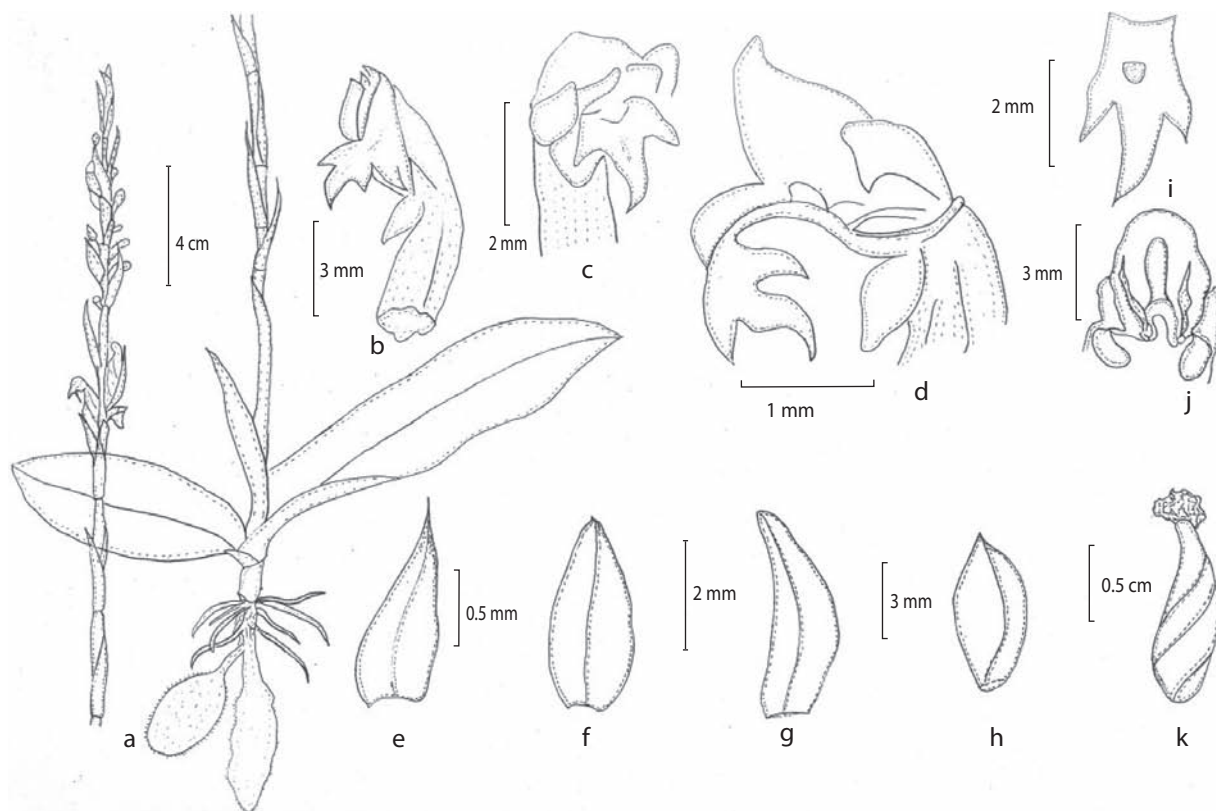


Fig. 2. *Peristylus intrudens* (Ames) Ormerod: a. Habit; b,c. Flower (side and front views); d. Flower (close-up); e. Floral bract; f,g. Sepals (dorsal and lateral views); h. Petal; i. Lip; j. Column; k. Fruit (Joju P. Alappatt 1206, PBL).

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