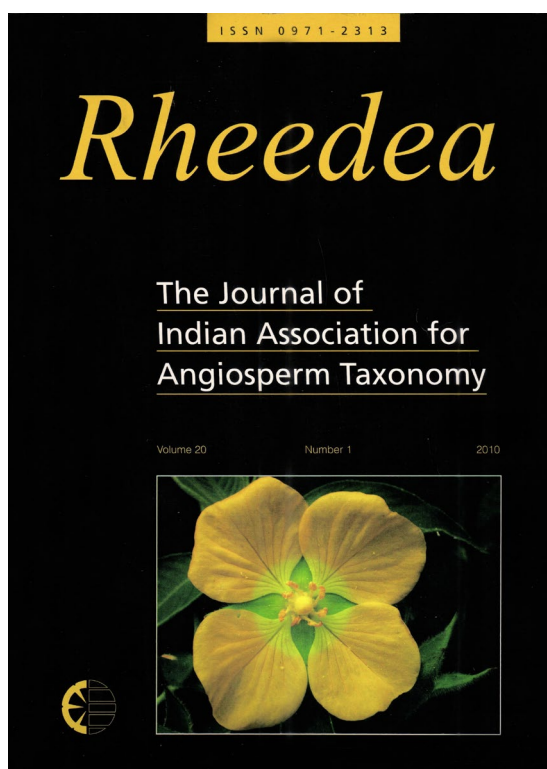




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Bulbophyllum restrepia (Orchidaceae) – A new record for Indian flora

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Abstract

Bulbophyllum restrepia (Ridl.) Ridl., a Malesian species collected for the first time from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands forms an addition to the orchid flora of India. A brief description with illustration and photograph is provided for easy identification.

Keywords: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, *Bulbophyllum restrepia*, India, New Record, Orchidaceae

Introduction

Bulbophyllum Thouars is one of the largest genera of the family Orchidaceae. It comprises of c. 1900 species distributed mainly in tropical regions of both Old and New Worlds (Chen *et al.*, 2009). It is the second largest angiosperm genus in India, represented by c. 100 species (Misra, 2007). Twelve species have been recorded in Andaman & Nicobar Islands of which three species namely, *B. apodum* Hook.f., *B. bakhuizenii* Steenis and *B. longibracteatum* Seidenf. were recently reported from Great Nicobar Island as new records to Indian flora by Karthigeyan *et al.* (2010). Out of the remaining 9 species, only *B. crassipes* Hook.f. and *B. protractum* Hook.f. occur in mainland India while the rest namely, *B. clandestinum* Lindl., *B. flabellum-veneris* (J. König) Aver., *B. lilacinum* Ridl., *B. macranthum* Lindl., *B. rufinum* Rchb.f., *B. serratotruncatum* Seidenf. and *B. tenuifolium* (Blume) Lindl. occur in Andaman & Nicobar Islands as well as in adjacent Indochinese and Malesian regions (Karthigeyan *et al.*, 2010).

During floristic explorations in various parts of Andaman & Nicobar Islands a few specimens belonging to the genus *Bulbophyllum* were collected from Galathea National Park and adjoining areas of Great Nicobar Island. Based on critical study the specimens were identified as *B. restrepia* (Ridl.) Ridl. A thorough scrutiny of literature (Kumar & Manilal, 1994; Sinha, 1999; Misra, 2007; Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Karthigeyan *et al.*, 2010) revealed that this species was hitherto unrecorded from Andaman & 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 photograph (Fig. 1, 2) is provided to facilitate easy recognition of this species in field.

Bulbophyllum restrepia (Ridl.) Ridl., Mat. Fl. Malay. Penins. 1: 78. 1907; Holttum, Fl. Malaya 1: 403. 1953; Seidenfaden & Wood, Orch. Pen. Mal. Sing.: 517. 1992. *Cirrhopetalum restrepia* Ridl., Trans. Linn. Soc.

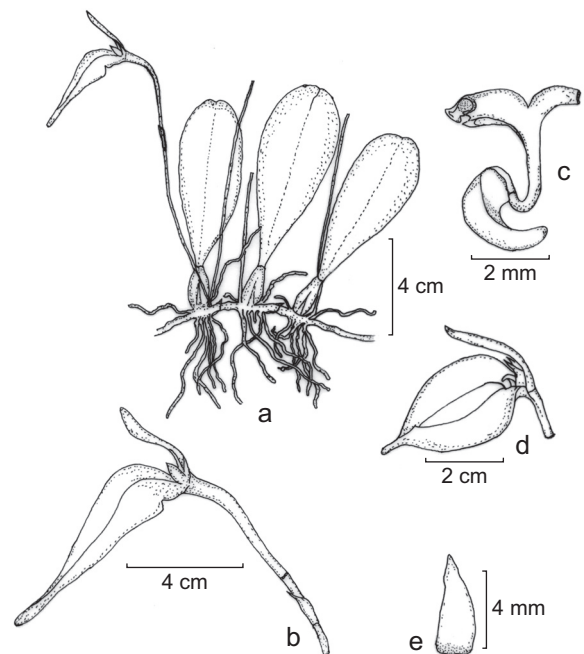


Fig. 1. *Bulbophyllum restrepia* (Ridl.) Ridl.: a. Habit; b. Flower; c. Column with lip; d. Flower split open; e. Petal (Drawn from Joju P. Alappatt 239, PBL).

London, Bot. 3: 365. 1893. *Bulbophyllum ensiculiferum* J.J. Sm., Nova Guinea 14: 452. 1929. **Fig. 1, 2**



Fig. 2. *Bulbophyllum restrepia* (Ridl.) Ridl.

Herb, epiphytic, to 10 cm high; rhizomes c. 3 mm thick; pseudobulbs obpyriform to elliptic-ovoid, 1 – 1.5 × 0.5 – 0.7 cm, oblique, narrowly grooved, flattened at top. Leaves obovate, 5 – 8 × 2 – 3 cm, widest above, gradually narrowed to base, subsessile, entire at margins, obtuse to slightly retuse at apex, thick-coriaceous. Inflorescence a scape, arising from any portion of the rhizome, slender, to 5.5 cm long, 1-flowered; bracts tubular, c. 5 mm long, oblique, acute at apex. Flowers c. 4 cm long, greenish yellow; pedicel with ovary c. 3 cm long. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, c. 2 cm long; basal portion erect, c. 7 × 2.5 mm, slightly curved inside, greenish yellow; upper portion narrowed and bent forward, fleshy, c. 2 mm thick, yellow at apex. Lateral sepals ovate-lanceolate, c. 4 cm long, pointing forward, curved, their fleshy apices joined, maximum width c. 6 mm a little above the base, greenish yellow to yellowish; lower half dotted with crimson, crimson at margins, bright yellow at apex. Petals ovate-oblong, c. 5 × 1.5 mm, acute at apex, erect on either side of column, 3-nerved. Lip strongly curved with broad base and slender apex, 2.5 – 3 × 1 – 1.5 mm at base, yellowish green, minutely purple-spotted. Column c. 1.5 mm long; operculum characteristically with nose-shaped projection; stelia triangular. Pollinia 2.

Flowering: October – December.

Habitat: Inland evergreen forests, growing along with *Bulbophyllum clandestinum* Lindl. on the branches of *Crypteronia paniculata* Blume at an elevation of about 75 m; Rare.

Distribution: Peninsular Malaysia to Sulawesi (Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo), New Guinea (Dr. J.J. Vermeulen, pers. comm.) and now in India (Great Nicobar Island).

Specimens examined: INDIA, **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**, Great Nicobar Island, Galathea National Park and adjoining areas along East West Road between 10 and 19 km, 7.11.2010, Joju P. Alappatt 239 (PBL).

Note: According to Seidenfaden & Wood (1992) this species is closely related to *Bulbophyllum obovatifolium* J.J. Sm., which, however has twice as long lateral sepals, but in many characters they are alike, including the swampy “nose” on the operculum.

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