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Globba sherwoodiana (Zingiberaceae) – A new record for India from Manipur

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Abstract
Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda, characterised by large, white bract and imbricate inflorescence with orange labellum is reported and described as a new distributional record for India from Manipur.

Keywords: Manipur, India, New Record, Zingiberaceae, Globba sherwoodiana

Introduction
The genus Globba L. represents more than 100 species making it the third largest genus of the family Zingiberaceae behind Alpinia and Amomum (Kress et al., 2002). It is primarily distributed throughout tropical and parts of subtropical Asia, ranging from India to Southern China, south and east Phillipines and New Guinea, with the centre of distribution in monsoonal Southeast Asia, especially Thailand and Myanmar (Williams et al., 2004; Larsen, 1996; Kress et al., 2003). In India, the genus is represented by 21 species and 1 variety with a preponderance in eastern India where 16 species are distributed in different terrains (Baker, 1890; Rao & Verma, 1972; Singh & Kumar, 2011; Sabu, 2006; Somadeva, 1981; Srivastava, 1998; Thongam et al., 2011)

During a floristic assessment of Chavangphai Village in the Moreh region of Chandel district, Manipur in the year 2010, a small population of dry vegetative parts was encountered. The rhizomes were collected and planted at the Zingiberaceae germplasm of Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal. In August, 2011, the plants started flowering following which taxonomic evaluation was conducted and the herbarium is deposited at the Institute (IBSD/ Z-49).

On critical examination of the specimen, it was identified as Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda reported only from Myanmar (Gowda et al., 2012). Hence, this report represents a new record of the species from India. A detailed description, illustration and photograph are given.

Fig. 1. Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda:

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lanceolate, 15–20 × 5–8 cm, margin entire, lower surface minutely pubescent along the mid rib, upper surface glabrous, apex acuminate, base attenuate. Inflorescence terminal, drooping, 8–12 cm long, peduncle 3–4 × 0.4–0.5 cm, pale green. Bracts spirally arranged, reflexed, imbricate and widely separated, ovate to ovate-oblong, decreasing in size from base to the tip, 2.5–3 × 1.5–1.8 cm, snowy-white, glabrous. Bracteole tubular, smaller than the bract, persistent. Flowers small, sessile, yellowish-orange, 4–4.5 cm long. Calyx tubular, 0.3–0.4 cm long, trilobed, greenish-yellow, glabrous. Corolla tube 1.1–1.4 cm long, slender, widening gradually towards the mouth, with lobes reflexed. Corolla lobes 3; dorsal lobe concave, c. 0.5 × 0.2 cm, orange in colour; lateral lobe ovate, c. 0.5 × 0.2 cm. Labellum triangular, 0.6–0.8 × 0.2–0.4 cm, orange-yellow with a reddish patch at centre, tip deeply bisected, glabrous. Lateral staminodes elliptic, 0.7–1 × 0.2–0.5 cm, orange-yellow, glabrous. Filament slender, c. 1.6–2.6 cm long, orange, glabrous, anther linear, 0.2–0.3 cm long, thecae parallel, with two triangular appendages on either side, glabrous. Style filiform, stigma with hairy margin. Epigynous glands 2, linear, apex pointed. Ovary 0.3 cm long, pale green, glabrous, unilocular with many ovules on parietal placenta.

Flowering: August–September.

Altitude: 260 m above sea level

Ecology: Found growing as undershrub in the tropical deciduous forest floor.

Notes: G. sherwoodiana was originally described from a cultivated source in Myanmar. It is also assumed that wild populations might be present in the border region between Myanmar and Thailand (Gowda et al. 2012). This finding presents the first wild collection of G. sherwoodiana with populations in the Indian region bordering Myanmar.


Fig. 2. Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda
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