

AERIDES RINGENS (LINDL.) C.E.C. FISCH: A NEW ADDITION TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF GUJARAT, INDIA

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Abstract

Aerides ringens (Lindl.) C.E.C. Fisch. (Orchidaceae) is an endemic species of Southern India. It was recorded for the first time from the South Gujarat. The brief description and photographic illustration are provided here to facilitate the identification.

Introduction

THE GENUS *Aerides* belonging to family Orchidaceae, subfamily Epidendroideae, tribe Vandeae, subtribe Aeridinae was described by Loureiro in 1790. The generic epithet (greek *aer* = air, *eides* = coming) refers to the epiphytic growth habit, which was extraordinary for scientists in the eighteenth century (Kocyan *et al.*, 2008). It is a relatively small orchid genus which comprising of 21 species ranging from India to Papua New Guinea (Christenson 1993; Kocyan *et al.* 2008) with main centre of species diversity in mainland tropical Asia. Due to the fragrance, it is preferred as a source for the production of numerous artificial hybrids and cultivars. The first author has collected this specimen from Dharampur, Valsad district, Gujarat. After critical studies, it was identified as *A. ringens* (Lindl.) C.E.C. Fisch. following Cooke (1908) and Abraham and Vatsala (1981). The specimen was deposited at BARO herbaria of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. After scrutiny of relevant literature (Bole and Pathak 1988; Reddy 1987; Shah 1978; Tadvi, 2014), it was found that this species has not yet been recorded in Gujarat flora. Hence, the present communication reports the species as a new record for Gujarat State. A detailed description and photographs are provided for easy identification.

An identification key for the three species *A. ringens*, *A. maculoseum* and *A. crispum* is provided below:

Flowers almost inodorous, pinkish - violet, sepals and petals spotted, midlobe of the lip broadly ovate, lateral lobes minute, spur pointing back and down.....*A. maculoseum*

Flowers sweetly fragrant, white tinged with pink, sepals and petals not spotted, midlobe of the lip ovate-deltoid, lateral lobes few mm long, spur pointing forward, half the length of the lip.....*A. crispum*

Flowers white, flushed with pink, mid lobe of the lip fleshy, spur almost equal in length to the lip.. *A. ringens*

Species Description

Aerides ringens (Lindl.) C.E.C. Fisch.

Aerides ringens (Lindl.) C.E.C. Fisch., Kew Bull. 284, 1928 and Fl. Pres. Madras: 1442 (1008), 1928; Sant. and Kapad., Orch. Bombay: 119-20, 1966; *Saccolabium ringens* Lindl., Gen Sp. Orc. 221, 1833; Wt. Ic. t. 917, 1844 45; *Saccolabium rubrum* Wt. Ic. 5 (1) : 9, t. 1674, 1852; *Aerides lineare* Hook. F., Fl. Brit. India 6: 47, 1890.

Epiphytic. Stem 5-20 cm long, covered with sheaths of decayed leaves. Leaves coriaceous, 22-27 x 1-2 cm, linear-oblong with unequally bilobed apex, mottled with dark purple on both the surface. Inflorescence lax raceme, 1-6 per plant, longer or shorter than the leaves. Within one inflorescence 25 - 34 flowers. Distance between two flowers 0.3-0.4 cm. Flowers white flushed with pink in varying degrees, 1.7 x 1.4 cm. Dorsal Sepal 0.6 by 0.3 cm, elliptic, obtuse; two lateral sepal 0.6 x 0.5 cm, broadly elliptic or sub orbicular. Lateral Petals 0.6 x 0.35 cm, broadly elliptic, obtuse. Lip deflexed, 0.7 x 0.9 cm; side lobes minute with two fleshy calli on the disc; midlobe ovate; Spur 0.6 cm in length, cylindrical, obtuse, incurved. Caudicle of the pollinia short (Fig. 1a-e).

Flowering and Fruiting

May-June

Locality

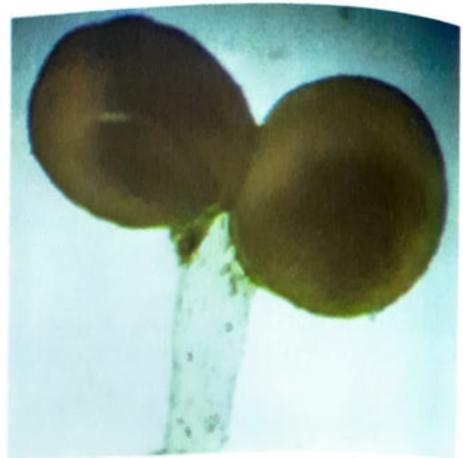
Dharampur taluka, Valsad district, Gujarat, 20°29'43.5"N, 073°24'50.8"E, elevation 830 ft.

Specimen Examined

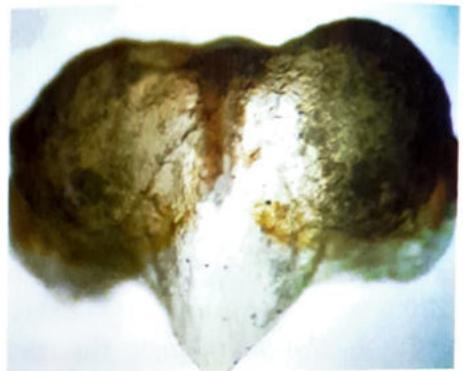
MB 050, KEW K000891428, The Gray Herbarium



a



b



c



d



e

- DORSAL SEPAL
- LATERAL PETAL
- ANTHER CAP
- COLUMN
- LATERAL SEPAL
- BASAL CALLI
- LABELLUM

Fig. 1.a-e. *Aerides ringens* (Lindl.) C.E.C. Fisch.: a, Habit; b, Pollinia; c, Pollinia cap; d, Side view of flower; e, Front view of flower.

(GH), GH00103871.

Andaman islands (WCSP, 2014).

Distribution

Southern India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu), Sri Lanka and

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