

# TAINIA ANGUSTIFOLIA (LINDL.) BENTH. & HOOK. F (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM KARBI ANGLONG (ASSAM): A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Khyanjeet Gogoi

Daisa, Bordoloi Nagar, Talap, Tinsukia-786 156, Assam, India

## Abstract

*Tainia angustifolia* (Lindl.) Benth. & Hook. f. has been described for the first time from Karbi Anglong (Assam) as a new record for India. Its brief description with photographs is provided in this communication.

## Introduction

DURING A field exploration in Karbi Anglong districts of Assam in July, 2011, under the Karbi Anglong Documentation Program, we collected a species of *Tainia* in flower bud condition. It flowered on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2011. On critical examination and literature studies, it was identified as *Tainia angustifolia* (Lindl.) Benth. & Hook. f. which was earlier reported from China, Myanmar, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos (Schuiteman et al., 2008). The present collection, thus represents its first records for India. In what follows, a brief description of the species with citation, illustration, habitat, and distribution is provided for easy identification.

## Species Description

*Tainia angustifolia* (Lindley) Bentham & J. D. Hooker, Gen. Pl. 3:515. 1883 ; Seidenf. & Smitinand, Orchid Thailand, IV (2) : 739. 1964. *Ania angustifolia* Lindl., Gen. sp. Orchid. Pl.: 129 (1831). *Tainia sutepensis* (Rolfe ex Downie) Seidenf. & Smitinand, Orchid Thailand, IV (2) :739. 1964.

*Terrestrial. Pseudobulbs* ovoid, to 2-3 cm in diam., covered with sheaths. *Petiole* 15-30 cm, slender, articulate near middle, base with 2 tubular sheaths. *Leaves* oblong or narrowly elliptic, 25-30 x 3-7 cm, apex shortly acuminate. *Inflorescence* erect; peduncle 15-30 cm, with 3 or 4 tubular sheaths below; rachis 4-10 cm, laxly few flowered. *Floral bracts* lanceolate, 0.8 cm, membranous. *Flowers* not opening widely, yellowish green; *lip* whitish, tinged with purple, mid-lob dark purple, apical margin white, *lamellae* deep purple, *column* purplish, another cap brownish purple, *pedicel* and *ovary* 1 cm; *Sepals* similar, oblong, 2 x 0.5 cm, 5-veined, acute; *lateral sepals* adnate to *column* base. *Petals* elliptic, 1.8 x 0.5 cm, 5-veined, acute; *Lip* oblong, 1.7 cm, 3-oblanceolate, lateral lobes erect, embracing *column*, triangular-lanceolate, 1 mm wide, acuminate, mid-lobe nearly oblate, 0.7 cm wide, rounded; *disk* with 5 *lamellae* extending to midlobe; *Lamellae* parallel to each other,



Figs.1-3. *Tainia angustifolia* (Lindl.) Benth. & Hook. f. : 1-2, Flowering racemes; 3, Flower closeup.

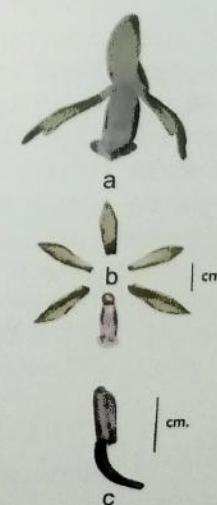


Fig. 4 a-c. *Tainia angustifolia* : a, A flower; b, Perigone and lip; c, Column.

Flowering : July- September.

*Habit and Ecology* : Grows as lithophyte on humus rich mall rocks in humid evergreen forest (1,000 m). Is also on human rich forest.

*Distribution* : China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and India (Assam).

*Status* : Rare; the species was found only in one locality.

*Specimen Examined* : Gogoi- 00707, Assam. (Figs. 1-5).

#### Acknowledgement

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#### References

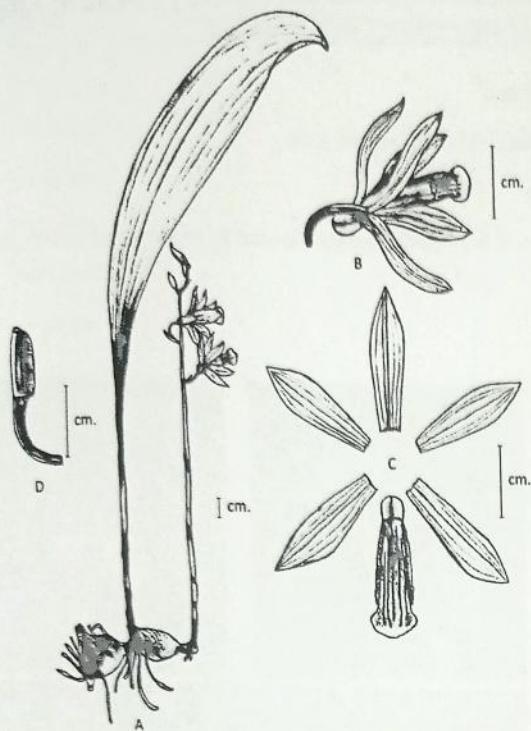


Fig. 5. *Tainia angustifolia* : a, Habit; b, Flower; c, Perigone and lip; d, Column.

highly raised and undulate or denticulate on mid-lobe; Spur slightly flattened, 4 x 3 mm, obtuse and slightly concave. Column 0.8 x 0.5 cm, broadly winged; Rostellum slightly decurved, suborbicular.

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