

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

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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.

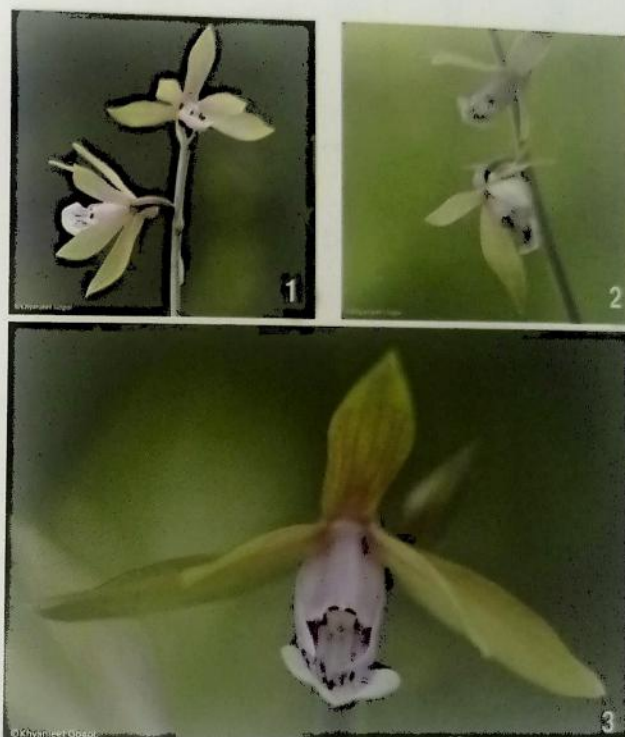
Introduction

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 15th 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) Benth. & 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). *Tania 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-lobe dark purple, apical margin white, lamellae deep purple, column purplish, anther 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-lobate, 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.

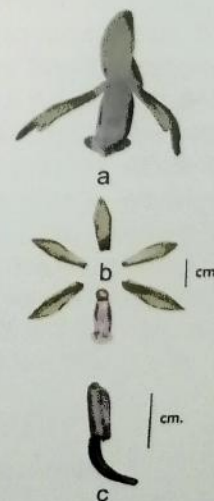


Fig. 4 a-c. *Tainia angustifolia* : a, A flower; b, Perigone and lip; c, Column.

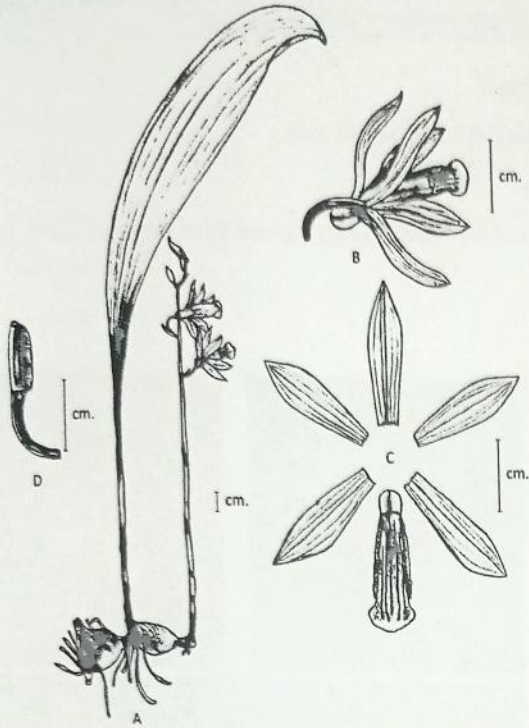


Fig. 5. *Tainia angustifolia* : a, Habit; b, Flower; c, Perigone and lip; d, Column.

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.

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

Sincere thanks are due to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, (Assam) and Department of Forest for financial support as well as for facilities and encouragement.

References

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