



Correspondence

A new species of *Bhutanthera* (Orchidaceae; Orchidoideae) from Nepal

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Abstract

Bhutanthera fimbriata is described and illustrated from Nepal; diagnostic characters used to distinguish it from allied species are provided.

Key words: Asian orchids, IUCN Red List, Langtang National Park

Introduction

Bhutanthera Renz (1999: 201) is an orchid genus of five species (Chen *et al.* 2009, Govaerts *et al.* 2012), distributed in the alpine zone of the eastern Himalayas (Pearce & Cribb 2002, Chen *et al.* 2009). It is characterized by resupinate flowers with twisted ovaries, a short column, a bilobed conjoined stigma, a rostellum with two distinct arms and two pollinia, each attached by a short caudicle to a small naked viscidium (Chen *et al.* 2009).

Presently, there is only one species of *Bhutanthera* in Nepal (Press *et al.* 2000, Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004, Rajbhandari & Baral 2010). An unidentified species of *Bhutanthera* was collected by the author in Langtang National Park, central Nepal. The characters of this species did not match any other described species, so it is described below as a new species, *Bhutanthera fimbriata*.

Bhutanthera fimbriata B.B.Raskoti *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2)

This new species is similar to *Bhutanthera albomarginata* (King & Pantling 1998: 322) Renz in Pearce, Cribb & Renz (2001: 101), but it differs by having opposed leaves, larger flowers, shallowly fimbriate apical portions of the sepals, oblique lateral sepals, spreading lip lobes and longer spur. With this species, it shares green sepals with white margins (Chen *et al.* 2009; Pearce & Cribb 2002).

TYPE:—NEPAL. Langtang National Park, 3800 m, 14 July 2008, *Raskoti 234* (holotype KATH).

Terrestrial herbs, 11 cm tall. Tubers subglobose, 5 mm in diameter. Stem with an ovate, tubular sheath at base. Leaves opposite, elliptic-ovate, 3.0–3.5 × 2.0–2.2 cm, apex obtuse. Inflorescence up to 8-flowered; peduncle 7 cm long, rachis 2.5 cm long, lower floral bracts ovate-triangular, 1 × 1 mm, apex acute, upper bracts lanceolate, 2 × 1 mm, apex acuminate. Flowers 1 cm across, nutant, sepals green with white margins, petals and lip white; pedicel and ovary fusiform, ridged, 7 mm long. Dorsal sepal broadly ovate, 4.0–5.0 × 2.5 mm, margin of the apical portion weakly fimbriate, apex obtuse; lateral sepals elliptic-ovate, oblique, 5.0–6.0 × 2.0–2.5 mm, margin of the apical portion weakly fimbriate, apex obtuse. Petals orbicular-elliptic, concave, 2.5 mm long and 2.5 mm wide, apex rotund. Lip oblong, 4.0 × 1.5 mm, fleshy, trilobed below the middle; side lobes oblong-lanceolate, 2.0 × 0.5 mm, apex acute; midlobe oblong, 2.5 × 1.0 mm, apex obtuse; spur cylindrical with slightly dilated apex, 3.0–4.0 mm long, apex obtuse. Column 1 mm long, pollinia clavate-elliptic.