



A new species of *Herminium* (Orchidoideae, Orchidaceae) from Nepal

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Introduction

Herminium Linnaeus (1758: 251) is a genus of about 30 species, which are collectively distributed mainly in the Himalayas with few species extending into Europe, central Asia, and southeastern Asia (Pridgeon *et al.* 2001, Pearce & Cribb 2002, Chen *et al.* 2009). The genus is characterized by its terrestrial or rarely epiphytic habitat, a concave lip base that is not auriculate and does not have any glands, a lip 2–3 (–5) that is lobed, not spurred and a bilobed stigma with an obscure rostellum. Nepal has nine species of *Herminium*, which are distributed in the subtropical to alpine regions (Hara *et al.* 1978, Banerji 1984, Banerji & Pradhan 1984, Press *et al.* 2000, Department of Plant Resources 2001, Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004; Rajbhandari & Baral 2010). During field work in 2012 in Chandragiri, central Nepal, another species of *Herminium* was collected, the characteristics of which do not match with any previously described species of the genus. It is illustrated and described here as new.

Herminium hongdeyuanii B. B. Raskoti, *sp. nov.* Figs. 1 & 2.

Type:—NEPAL. Chandragiri, 2200 m, 25 September 2012, *Raskoti 571* (holotype KATH!).

This new species is close to the *Herminium lanceum* (Thunberg ex Swartz, 1800: 223) Vuijk (1961: 228), but it differs in having smaller flowers with a winged peduncle, the midlobe of the lip is longer than the lateral lobes, the lateral lobes are triangular but always wider than the midlobe and it has an ovoid viscidium.

Plants 35–42 cm tall. Tubers subglobose, 10 × 5 mm. Stem with 2 tubular sheaths at base, upper part with 3 leaves. Leaves cauline, alternate, linear, 15–21 cm long, 0.5–1.0 cm in wide, apex acuminate, base sheathing. Inflorescence 20 cm; peduncle 4–6 cm, ridged, without sterile bracts; rachis 13–15 cm, with several secund flowers; floral bracts lanceolate, 5–10 × 1–2 mm, 1-veined, exceeding or shorter than the ovary, apex acuminate. Flowers yellowish green, 2–3 mm across, secund, ovary fusiform, slightly arcuate, 5–9 mm long, ridged, apex slightly beaked; dorsal sepal suberect, ovate, 2 × 1 mm, indistinctly 1-veined, apex sub-obtuse; lateral sepals spreading, ovate, oblique, 2.5 × 1.0 mm, apex sub-obtuse; petals forming a hood with dorsal sepal, oblong, 2.0–4.0 × 1.0 mm, 1-veined, apex obtuse, lip oblong, held horizontally, slightly curved, 1.0–3.0 × 0.5–1.0 mm, base dilated shallowly concave, contracted in the middle, with three ridges running from base to the midlobe, trilobed near apex; lateral lobes falcately triangular, 0.5 × 0.5 mm, apex sub-obtuse; midlobe triangular, 0.7 × 0.4 mm, apex sub-obtuse. Column ca. 1 mm; auricle ca. 0.5 mm, pollinia 0.5 mm, globose; viscidia ovoid, stigma transverse, ca. 1 mm, extending outwards from the rostellum.

Flowering time:—September

Distribution:—Known from only the type locality in central Nepal.

Habit and ecology:—Terrestrial in humus-rich grasslands on moist slopes, also in partial shade in temperate forest, 2200 m elevation.

Etymology:—The species is named for Prof. Dr. HONG De-Yuan in honor of his outstanding contributions to plant sciences.