



***Bulbophyllum manabendrae* (Orchidaceae: Epidendroideae), a new species from Meghalaya, India**

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Introduction

Bulbophyllum sect. *Trias* (Lindley 1830: 60) Vermeulen (2014: 40) comprises about 15 species (WCSP, 2013), distributed from China to Indonesia (Seidenfaden 1976, 1986, Kumar 1989, Wood & Cribb 1994, Vermeulen & Lamb 1994, Averyanov & Averyanova 2006, Liu *et al.* 2007). In India, the genus is represented by five species (Hooker 1890, Prain 1903, Gammie 1906, Kumar 1989, Rao & Hegde 1988, Diwakar *et al.* 2006), of which two *viz.* *B. bonaccordense* (Kumar 1989: 105) Vermeulen, Schuiteman & de Vogel (in press) and *B. stocksii* (Bentham in Hooker 1890: 781) Vermeulen, Schuiteman & de Vogel (in press) are endemic.

During field exploration in Balphakram National Park located in the South Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, northeastern India, the first author discovered a few mature individuals of this miniature orchid species that was easily identified as a member of the *Bulbophyllum* sect. *Trias* due to its distinctive morphology, *e.g.* small plants with discoid one-leaved pseudobulbs, single-flowered inflorescence produced from base of pseudobulbs, uniform sepals spreading in a regular triangle, much smaller petals rising vertically on each side of the column and prolonged operculum. Observations in the field and careful studies of the voucher specimen have revealed number of morphological differences from all other known species, which warrant its description as a new species.

Bulbophyllum manabendrae D.K.Roy, Barbhuiya & A.D.Talukdar, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2) Type:—INDIA. Meghalaya: South Garo Hills, Balphakram National Park, Khundol Gup, 25°15'36.5"N & 90°53'06.4"E, ca. 182 m, 12 March 2013, Roy 129694 (holotype: ASSAM!).

The new species differs from *B. oblongum* in having smaller leaves, squarish-oblong operculum without inrolled edges; from *B. capnophyton* in having longer scape, smaller linear-falcate petals; from both in the uniformly dark-red flowers and broadly elliptic lip with uncinatate basal auricles.

Epiphytic herbs with a creeping rhizome, 1.5–2.0 mm thick, densely rooting. Pseudobulbs subglobose, closely spaced, sometimes nearly touching with each other, 5.0–8.0 mm in diam. and 1.5–2.3 mm high, flattened and warty when old, with a single apical leaf. Leaves sessile, ovate-elliptic to oblong, coriaceous, 11–17 mm long, 7–10 mm wide, base rounded, apex obtuse to sub-acute. Inflorescences one-flowered, arising from base of pseudobulbs, 1–2 in number. Flowers uniformly dark-red, 8–10 mm across. Floral bracts ovate, brown, 1.0–1.6 mm long. Pedicel and ovary 11–18 mm long, purple-red. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, dark-red, 5–6 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, veins not prominent, base rounded, apex acute to sub-acute. Petals red, linear, slightly falcate, weakly triveined, 1.5–1.9 mm long, ca. 0.9 mm broad, apex triangular acute. Lip broadly elliptic, dark-red, 3.0–3.5 mm long, 1.5–1.8 mm wide, apex obtuse, auricles uncinatate, ca. 0.5 mm long placed at the base of epichile. Column 1.5–1.7 mm long, red with orbicular base, front side of proximal end with two triangular stylids, slightly lobed at apex. Operculum squarish-oblong, ca. 0.8 mm long, proximal half light-red, distal half yellowish, prolongation with truncate-retuse apex. Pollinia 2, subpyriform, ca. 0.2 mm long. Capsule not seen.

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