



Fig. 1, A-J: *Dimeria kanjirapalliana* K.C. Jacob
A. Habit; B. Spikelet; C. Lower glume;
D. Upper glume; E. Lower lemma; F. Upper lemma;
G. Palea; H. Pistil; I. Stamen; J. Caryopsis.

a new distributional record for Andhra Pradesh. It was earlier reported from Idukki, Quilon and Calicut

of Kerala (Sreekumar and Nair 1991, Flora of Kerala-grasses. BSI, Calcutta). A detailed description and illustration is given below for easy location of this grass.

Dimeria kanjirapalliana K.C. Jacob in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 47: 48. 1947; Manilal & Sivaraj, Fl. Calicut 231. 1982. (Fig. 1).

An annual, tufted grass; culms up to 25 cm tall, erect, occasionally branched near the base; nodes sparsely bearded or glabrous. Leaf sheaths 3-4 cm long, glabrous, keeled; ligule membranous, ovate, acute; blades linear, 2-6 x 0.2-0.4 cm, rounded at base, bulbous based hairs along the margins, acuminate at apex. Spikes 2, 3-8 cm long, divaricate; rachis flat, zig-zag, margins sparsely ciliate, narrowly winged. Spikelets sessile, 4.5 mm, oblong-lanceolate; callus villous. Lower glume linear-lanceolate, 2.5 mm, chartaceous, sparsely hairy at the apex, acuminate; upper glume lanceolate, 3 mm, chartaceous, hairy at the apex, margins hyaline, lower lemma hyaline, 2 mm, oblong, 1-nerved; upper lemma hyaline, 3 mm (excluding the awn), bifid, awned at the sinus, awn 1 cm long. Stamens 2, anthers oblong, 0.9 mm, filament 0.5 mm; pistil 1.75 mm. Caryopsis linear, 1.85 x 0.1 mm.

Occasional on humus soil and rocky areas of Medak and East Godavari districts. Associated with *Drosera* species.

Fl. & Fr.: October - January.

Specimens examined: Pocharam (Medak District, Andhra Pradesh), T. Pullaiah & M.S. Gayathri 12024 (SKU).

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40. TWO NEW RECORDS OF ORCHIDS FOR ANDAMAN ISLANDS

During a recent plant exploration trip to some remote areas of the Ritchie's Archipelago (Middle & South Andaman), we came across two interesting and rare orchids, which on critical examination, were

identified as *Acriopsis indica* Wt. and *Kingidium deliciosum* (Reichb. f.) Sweet. Both of them were collected from a Mangrove swamp and found growing on *Heritiera littoralis* Dryand. as epiphytes.

In India, the former is reported so far only from North-East India (South Tripura) and the latter from peninsular India & North-Western Himalayas. The occurrence of these two orchids as epiphytes in the Mangrove swamps of Middle Andaman forms new distributional records for Andaman islands. Hence the present collection and notes of these two species of orchids would be of much interest in highlighting the extended range of distribution in new regions of India. A detailed description for each plant species has been provided to facilitate easy identification and further study. The specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Andaman and Nicobar circle, Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair (PBL).

The genus *Acriopsis* Reinw. ex Blume consists of 12 species, distributed in Indo-China, W. Malaysia, New Guinea, Solomon Island, etc., (Willis 1973) of which 2 species occur in India and one in Andaman & Nicobar islands. Similarly, the genus *Kingidium* P. Hunt holds over 5 species in W. Malaysia and India, of which 3 species occur in India (Karthikeyan *et al.* 1989) and one in Andaman & Nicobar islands. The present report on both these plants form new generic records for the Bay islands.

Acriopsis indica Wt., Ic. t. 1748. 1852; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 79. 1890; C.L. Malhotra & Deori in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 15: 153, t. 1-8. 1973; Seidenf. In Opera Bot. 72: 103. 1983.

Epiphytes on *Heritiera littoralis* Dryand. Pseudobulbs 0.5-2.0 cm long, oblong or ovoid, densely tufted, covered with scarious fibres, annual rings pinkish-brown. Roots white, branched, spongy, spreading copiously. Leaves 2.0-12.5 x 0.3-0.8 cm, narrowly linear, acute at apex, convolute at base. Inflorescence a panicle, dark green, lateral, erect from the base of the pseudobulb, laxly flowered, 8-28 cm long (including scape); scape stout, branched, 8.5-12.5 cm long. Flowers small, greenish-yellow, sub-erect, pedicelled. Pedicellate ovary c. 7 mm long. Bracts small, ovate, acute. Sepals and petals faintly blotched with purple, spathulately obovate, gland dotted; dorsal sepals arched, c. 4 x 2 mm, 5-nerved; laterals connate, incurved, c. 4 x 2 mm. Petals equal, c. 5.0 x 2.5 mm, 3-nerved. Lip c. 4.5 x 2.5 mm,

constricted above the middle, obtuse, adnate to the basal half of the column by short claw forming a narrow tube, 3-nerved, blade white with a few violet spots and two erect lamellae on the disc about the middle, gland-dotted, margins undulate; column erect with two slender decurved processes on either side of the stigma, 4 mm high; rostellum beaked; anther oblong; pollina 2, with longitudinal furrow on a common slender stipe, with minute gland; ovary pedicelled, pedicel c. 5 mm, capsule oblong, 10 mm long, 6 ridged, suberect, smooth, green.

Fl. & Fr.: September-November.

Distribution: NE. India (Assam), Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaya, Java, Borneo, Celebes, Philippines.

Ecology: Rare, in mangrove forests, found growing on *Heritiera* sp. in association with other epiphytic herbs, namely *Dischidia nummularia* R. Br., *Bulbophyllum* sp., etc.

Specimens examined: Middle Andaman, Parlo Island (Near Long Island), 25.10.1994, Sreekumar *et al.* L.N. Ray, 16484.

Kingidium deliciosum (Reichb. f.) Sweet in Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. 39: 1095. 1970; Seidenfaden in Orch. Pen. Malaysia & Singh. 657. 1992. *Phalaenopsis deliciosa* Reichb. f. in Bonplandia 2: 93. 1854. *Doritis wightii* (Reichb. f.) Benth. in Benth. & Hook. f. Gen. Pl. 3: 575. 1883; Hook, f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 32. 1890.

Phalaenopsis wightii Reichb. f. in Bot. Zeit. 214. 1862.

Kingiella decumbens (Griff.) Rolfe in Orchid. Rev. 25: 197. 1917; Fischer in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 3: 1006. 1957. *Kingidium decumbens* (Griff.) Hunt in Kew Bull. 24: 97. 1970; Henry *et al.* in Fl. Tamil Nadu (Anal.) 3: 16. 1989.

Epiphytes. Stem 1-2 cm long. Leaves 2-3, sub-coriaceous, pendulous, sessile, 3-15 x 2.5 - 5.5 cm, oblong-oblongate, spathulate or elliptic, undulate at margins, blunt, minutely or obliquely notched at apex. Inflorescence pendulous, from the stem beneath the leaves, 7-13 cm long, slender below, slightly thickened towards the tip, sometimes with a short branch. Flowers 1-2 cm across, white, marked with violet and purple. Pedicels 5-10 mm long. Bracts

ovate, acute, minute. Sepals unequal, 10-15 x 5-6 mm, the dorsal oblong, obtuse, blunt; lateral sepals shorter but broader, spathulate. Petals equal to the lateral sepals, oblong, blunt. Lip with a short wide spur, white with purple markings, 3-lobed; lateral lobes broader than long, apex rounded to truncate, mid-lobe obcordate with a broad emarginate apex. Pollinia 4, unequal in size. Immature capsules c. 5 x 0.4 cm, linear, ridged.

Fl. & Fr.: September-October.

Distribution: Peninsular India, North-Western Himalayas; Sri Lanka; Malaysia, China, Philippines, Java & Thailand.

Ecology: Rare, in shady mangrove forests, as epiphyte on tree trunk.

Specimens examined: Middle Andaman,

North Passage Island, 24.10.1994, *Sreekumar et L.N. Ray* 16473.

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