

***BULBOPHYLLUM KARBIANGLONGENSIS* (EPIDENDROIDEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM ASSAM, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT. A new epiphytic *Bulbophyllum* belonging to section *Cirrhopetaloides* is described from tropical mixed evergreen forests of Karbi Anglong (Assam, India) with coloured photographs and line drawings. It is allied to the *Bulbophyllum bicolor*, *B. venulosum*, and *B. blaoense*, but differs in the size and shape of pseudobulbs, the shape of the leaf blade, and flower size. A detailed description with corresponding color photos and information on the habitat is provided.

KEY WORDS/PALABRAS CLAVE: *Bulbophyllum bicolor*, *Bulbophyllum blaoense*, *Bulbophyllum* sect. *Cirrhopetaloides*, Flora of India, Flora de India, plant taxonomy, taxonomía de plantas

Introduction. The genus *Bulbophyllum* Thouars (1822) is one of the largest plant genera in Orchidaceae, with over 2200 species distributed in the tropics and subtropics of the world (Vermeulen *et al.* 2014). Currently, more than 121 species have been recorded in India (Misra 2019). Gogoi (2019) reported 40 species of *Bulbophyllum* from the state of Assam. During a field trip to the forested area of Hamren of Karbi Anglong District of Assam on 14 March 2018, an unknown *Bulbophyllum* species was found without flowers, which could not be determined immediately. Therefore, the orchid was put in cultivation at the Regional Orchids Germplasm Conservation & Propagation Centre (Assam Circle), where plants flowered under observation on 20 May 2021. Unfortunately, the species could not be matched with any existing species in the region and adjacent areas.

Thorough morphological studies revealed that the new species belongs to *Bulbophyllum* section *Cirrhopetaloides* Garay, Hamer & Siegerist (Vermeulen *et al.* 2014). It is characterized by creeping rhizome; 1-leaved pseudobulbs; subumbellate raceme arising from the base of pseudobulbs; free dorsal sepal, entire, erose, fimbriate, ciliate, or paleate along the margin; lateral sepals glabrous, twisted at the base and adnate (entirely or in part) along one or both margins. Petals are denticulate or fimbriate along the margin; lip simple; stellidia usually shorter about half of the column length,

usually with tooth above and wing below. Pollinia 4, without stipe. The section contains around 19 accepted species distributed from Sri Lanka, India, China, Taiwan, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, Indochina, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Philippines.

After careful examination and comparison with existing species with the help of available literature (Averyanov *et al.* 2015, Chen *et al.* 2009, Chowdhery 1998, Gale *et al.* 2010, Gogoi 2014a, 2014b, 2018, 2019, Gogoi & Yonzone 2013a,b,c, Hegde 1917, Hooker 1890, King & Pantling 1898, Lucksom 2007, Misra 2019, Pearce & Cribb 2002, Pradhan 1979, Rao 2010, Singh *et al.* 2019) and critical examination of herbarium specimens deposited in ASSAM, ARUN, CAL and type images present in K, E, and PE. As a result, it is confirmed to be a hitherto undescribed species. Hence, we describe the same here along with colour plates and line drawings. We also compare it with its closest allies, i.e., *B. bicolor* Lindl., *B. venulosum* J.J.Verm. & A.L.Lamb and *B. blaoense* Tich & Diep ex Aver. & Tich.

Materials and methods. The measurements and species description were made from living plants. Type is deposited at the Herbarium of the Orchid Research Centre Tipi, Arunachal Pradesh (OHT) and Herbarium of The Orchid Society of Eastern Himalaya (TOSEHIM), Regional Orchid Germplasm Conservation and

TABLE 1. Diagnostic features of *Bulbophyllum blaoense*, *B. bicolor*, *karbianglongensis*, and *B. venulosum*.

Character	<i>B. blaoense</i>	<i>B. bicolor</i>	<i>B. karbianglongensis</i>	<i>B. venulosum</i>
Rhizome	Rigid, semi-woody, 0.2–0.3 cm in diameter	Several-noded rhizome 0.25–0.5 cm in diameter	Short, 0.5 cm diameter	0.15–0.25 cm diameter, 1.8–9.0 cm long
Pseudobulbs	Distant from each other 1–3 cm, broadly ovoid to almost globular or slightly oblate, 0.5–0.7 cm tall and wide, young enveloped by tubular sheaths	Distant from each other 3.5–5.5 cm, ovoid, 2–2.5 × 1.2–1.5 cm, prominently angled, enclosed in a basal sheath that withers with age	Clustered together, narrowly ovoid to conic, 1.5–2.5 × 0.8–1.8 cm, with 3 bracts sheathing towards the base	1.2–1.8 × 0.7–1.2 cm, distinctly 4 angled, ovoid to ellipsoid
Leaves	Sub-sessile, broadly lanceolate to narrowly ovate, 6–12 × 1.4–2.5 cm, acute to shortly unequally bilobed	Oblong, channeled, 11–16 × 2.5–4 cm, obtuse.	Elliptic-lanceolate, 15–17.5 × 1.4–1.6 cm, acute to acuminate, channeled.	Ovate, 3.1–12.5 × 2.6–4.3 cm
Inflorescence	Umbel, 7–12 cm long, 2–5 flowers	Subumbellate, 5–7.5 cm long, with 3–6 flowers	Subumbellate, 15–19 cm long, 5–10 flowers	Subumbellate, 8–14 cm long, 4–9 flowers
Floral bracts	Slightly concave, acuminate, 0.3–0.4 × 0.1–0.15 cm	Narrowly-ovate, 0.5–0.7 × 0.15–0.2 cm	Lanceolate, acute, 0.4–0.5 × 0.1 cm	0.2–0.35 cm long
Flowers	Tepals dull pale yellow marked with purple-brown, purple-violet at apex; lateral sepals almost white striped with dull purple along nerves; lip adaxially light dull yellowish, little flushed with purple at the base, almost white spotted with light purple at abaxial surface	Tepals pale greenish-yellow with purplish-red to maroon dots and flecks forming lines on both surfaces, apex of dorsal sepals and petals tinged deep purplish-red	Tepals greenish yellow with purple nerves, lip dark red/purple with prominent median white band running from the base to the apex	Tepals white or slightly yellow, sometimes suffused purple proximally with purple nerves; petals with purple in the median area white towards the margins; lip white, spotted purple, or purple, white towards the margins and the apex
Dorsal sepal	Shortly attenuate, concave, 0.9–1.0 × 0.5–0.6 cm, margins denticulate and ciliate.	1.1–1.4 × 0.6–0.9 cm, apex acuminate, margins ciliate, seven nerves.	0.7–0.72 × 0.4–0.42 cm, entire, with 5 purple nerves, obtuse.	0.45–0.5 × 0.3–0.42 cm, porrect or recurved, acute to shortly acuminate, margins short fimbriae except near the base, with 5 purple nerves.
Lateral sepals	Narrowly triangular, elongate, oblique, connivent along upper apical half, 2.6–3 × 0.5–0.6 cm	Obliquely ovate-lanceolate, 1.9–2.5 × 0.6–0.8 cm, acute, lower margins connate at the base, seven nerves	Oblong, 1.2–1.3 × 0.25–0.3 cm, with 5 nerves, obtuse, connate along upper margin	Oblique, oblong, 1.4–2.0 × 0.3–0.45 cm, porrect, curved inwards at the base and connate along the upper margin
Petals	Ovate to broadly ovate, slightly oblique, triangular, acute to acuminate, 0.6–0.8 × 0.4–0.5 cm, margins denticulate and ciliate, 5 nerves	Rotund-ovate, slightly oblique, 0.8–1.0 × 0.5–0.6 cm, apex rounded and mucronate, margins entire to minutely denticulate.	Obliquely ovate, 0.3–0.31 × 0.2–0.21 cm, acute to acuminate, margins minutely ciliate, keeled, 3 nerves with purple apex	Recurved, obliquely ovate-triangular, 0.42–0.55 × 0.22–0.33 cm, obtuse, margins fimbriate, papillose distally, 3 nerves
Lip	0.5–0.6 cm long, densely papillose on adaxial surface, not grooved	0.8 × 0.4–0.5 cm, not grooved	0.3 × 0.1 cm, base grooved, prominent median white ridge running from the base to the apex	0.32–0.4 × 0.19–0.25 cm, grooved, median ridge most of the length

Column	0.25 – 0.32 cm long, foot up to 0.7 cm long	ca. 0.3 cm long, foot 0.7–0.9 cm long	Column 0.15 cm long; foot 0.5 mm long	0.16–0.2 cm long; foot adaxially with a median tooth and 2 slight lateral wings at the apex
Stellidia	Mucronate, slender, with small triangular tooth above, broadly triangular wing below, apex obtuse	Subulate, slightly downcurved, with acute tooth above, triangular wing below, apex obtuse.	Slender, pointing forward, truncate tooth above, triangular wing below	Porrect, triangular, acute, with a small, pointing upward, deltoid, acute tooth along the upper margin and a slight, deltoid rounded wing along the lower.
Anther cap	Hemispheric, yellowish to yellowish-green	Ovoid	Subglobose, papillose, purple	Globose, purple
Distribution	Endemic to Vietnam	Hong Kong and Vietnam	India (Hamren of Karbi Anglong, Assam)	Endemic to Borneo

Propagation Centre (ASSAM), Assam. All the photos were taken with a Canon 6D Mark-II fitted with an EF 100 mm f/2.8L Macro USM lens. The terminology for the morphological description follows Beentje (2012).

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis K.Gogoi & R.Hondiqui, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: India. Assam: Karbi Anglong District, Hamren, 500 m, 14 March 2018, (flowered in cultivation 20 April 2021), *K. Gogoi and R. Hondiqui 00953* (holotype: Orchid Herbarium Tipi; isotype: ASSAM, Herbarium of the Orchid Society of Eastern Himalaya), (Fig. 1–3).

DIAGNOSIS: *Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis* resembles *B. bicolor*, *B. venulosum*, and *B. blaoense* but differs in clustered, narrowly ovoid to conic pseudobulb; elliptic-lanceolate leaves; flowers greenish-yellow with purple nerves, lip dark red/purple with a prominent median white band running from the base to the apex, dorsal sepal ovate-oblong, entire; stellidia slender, pointing forward, truncate tooth above, winged below. Detailed morphological differences between these species are presented in Table 1.

Plants epiphytic, pseudobulbous, pseudobulbs borne on creeping rhizome. *Rhizome* stout, short, *ca.* 0.5 cm diameter. *Pseudobulbs* clustered together, narrowly ovoid to conic, 1.5–2.5 × 0.8–1.8 cm, 3 bracts sheathing towards the base, with a terminal leaf. *Leaves* single, elliptic-lanceolate, 15.0–17.5 × 1.4–1.6 cm, acute to acuminate, fleshy, petiolate; petiole 2 cm long, channeled. *Inflorescence* arising from the base of

the pseudobulb, erect or sub-erect, longer than leaves, yellowish-green, bearing a subumbel of 5–10 flowers; peduncle slender, *ca.* 0.2 cm in diameter, 15–19 cm long, with 2 or 3 tubular sheaths; floral bracts greenish-yellow, lanceolate, 0.4–0.5 × 0.1 cm, acute, shorter than pedicel and ovary; pedicel (with ovary) *ca.* 1 cm long, slender. *Flowers* 1.4–1.5 × 0.5–0.4 cm, greenish-yellow with purple nerves. *Dorsal sepal* ovate-oblong, concave, entire, 0.70–0.72 × 0.42–0.42 cm, 5-veined, apex obtuse. *Lateral sepals* oblong, 1.2–1.3 × 0.25–0.30 cm, 5-veined, apex obtuse, base adnate to column foot, twisted near the base, connate along upper margin. *Petals* obliquely ovate, 0.30–0.31 × 0.20–0.21 cm, apex acute to acuminate, margins minutely ciliate, keeled, 3-veined, with purple apex. *Lip* dark red/purple with a prominent median white band running from the base to the apex, recurved, ligulate, 0.3 × 0.1 cm, fleshy, base grooved, attached to the column foot by a mobile joint, side lobes inconspicuous. *Column* *ca.* 0.15 cm, stellidia slender protruding forward, *ca.* 0.05 cm long, upper with small tooth for each side, the lower margin of column broadly winged; foot 0.15 cm, upcurved. *Pollinia* 0.05 cm, yellow, anther cap subglobose, papillose, 0.1 × 0.1 cm, purple.

FLOWERING PERIOD: May to June.

HABITAT: On tree trunks in tropical mixed evergreen forest at 400–500 m in Karbi Anglong, Assam.

DISTRIBUTION: India (Hamren of Karbi Anglong, Assam) (Fig. 1A).

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet refers to the “Karbi Anglong” district of Assam, in Northeast India, where the plant was collected.



FIGURE 1. A. Distribution map of *Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis*. B. Habit of *Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis*. C. *Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis* inflorescence. Photos by K. Gogoi.

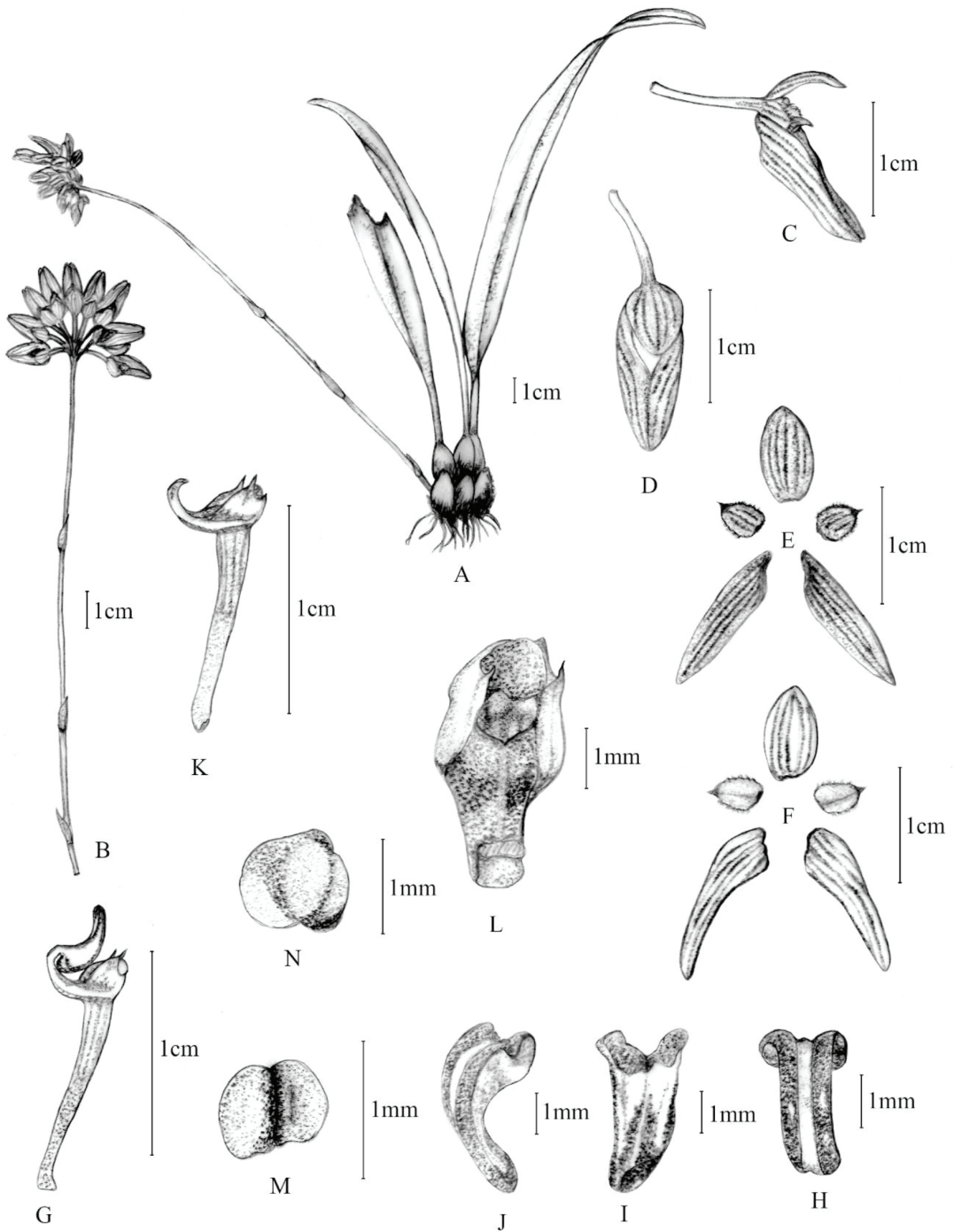


FIGURE 3. *Bulbophyllum karbianglongensis* A. Habit. B. Ventral view of inflorescence. C. Side view of flowers. D. Ventral view of flower. E. Ventral view of perianth. F. Dorsal view of perianth. G. Lip with ovary and column. H. Ventral view of lip. I. Dorsal view of lip. J. Side view of lip. K. Ovary with pedicel and column. L. Front view of column. M. View of pollinarium. N. Anther cap ventral view. Drawing by K. Gogoi.

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