

## ***Oberonia jenkinsiana* Griffith ex Lindley (Orchidaceae) - an addition to the flora of Manipur, India**

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### **Abstract**

Orchid flora of Manipur is quite rich and, so far, 10 species of *Oberonia* Lindley (Orchidaceae) were known from this Indian state. Now, *Oberonia jenkinsiana* Griffith ex Lindley is reported from Manipur and with this total number of species of *Oberonia* becomes 11 in Manipur.

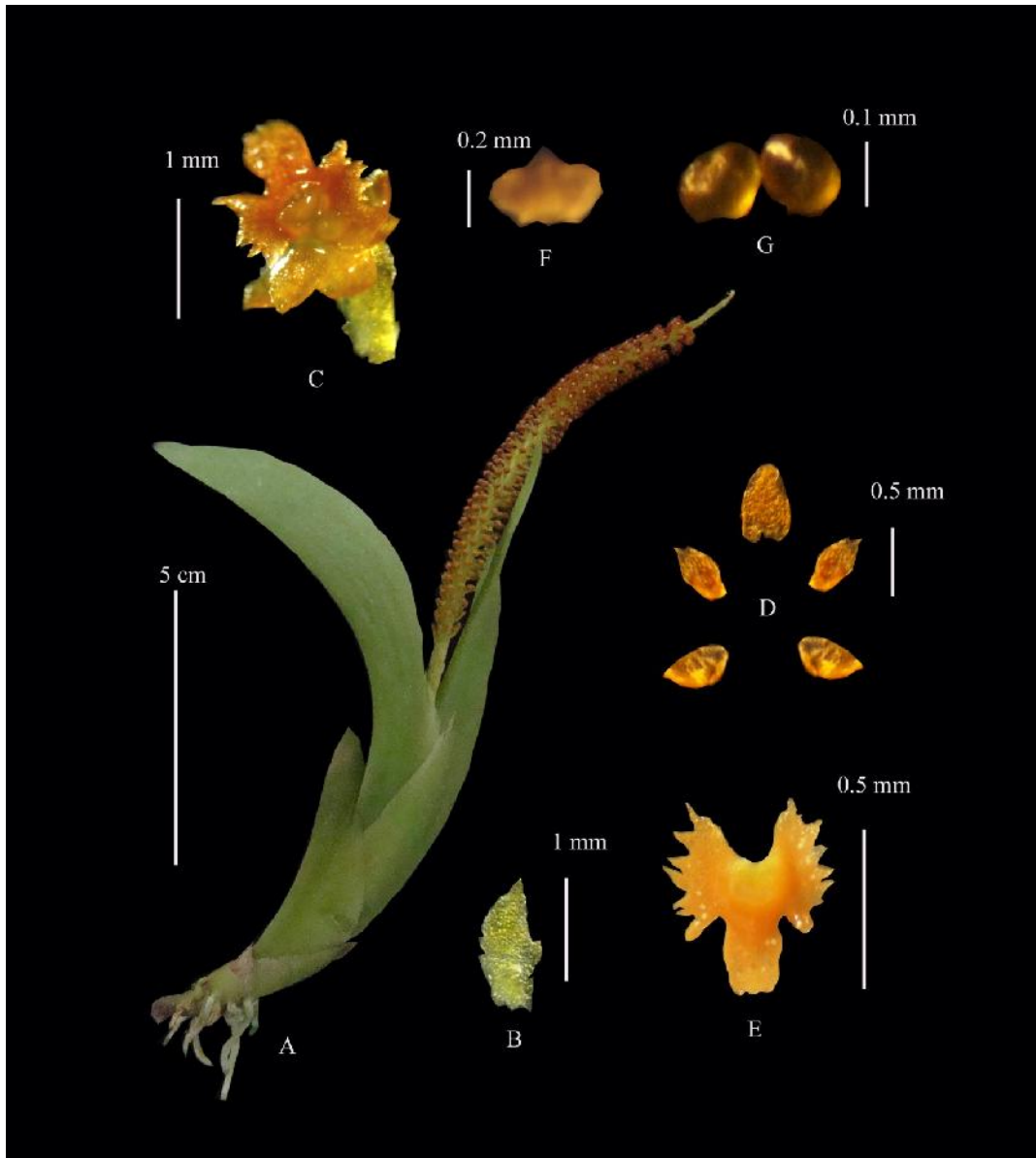
**Key words:** *Oberonia jenkinsiana*, New record, Manipur

### **INTRODUCTION**

During one of the Floristic explorations in Manipur, a species belonging to the genus *Oberonia* Lindley was collected in vegetative stage and brought to the Orchidarium of the Centre for Orchid Gene Conservation for Eastern Himalayan Region at Hengbung in Senapati district of Manipur. After flowering the specimen was identified as *Oberonia jenkinsiana* Griffith ex Lindley. A review of literature (Hooker 1890; King & Pantling 1898; Pradhan 1979; Kumar & Manilal 1994; Chowdhery 1997; Kumar & Kumar 2005; Lucksom 2007), revealed that the species was so far not recorded from the state of Manipur in the North-east India. Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the Orchid flora of Manipur. A brief description along with illustration and photographs is provided for its easy identification.

***Oberonia jenkinsiana*** Griffith ex Lindley, Fol. Orchid. *Oberonia* 8: 4, no. 20. 1859. Hooker f. in Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 676. 1888. *Malaxis jenkinsiana* (Griffith ex Lindley) Rehb.f. in Walpers. Ann. Roy. Bot. Syst. 6: 211. 1861. *Iridorchis jenkinsiana* (Griffith ex Lindley) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 699. 1891.

Stem 2.5 – 3.5 cm long. Leaves 3 – 5, 1 – 12 x 0.4 – 0.6 cm, narrowly ensiform, acute to sub-acute, straight or sub falcate, fleshy. Inflorescence, terminal, 6 – 12 cm long, decurved; peduncle 3 – 5 cm long, terete, with minute lanceolate bract; rachis 3 – 7 cm long, thick, with densely many flowered. Flowers pedicellate, 1.3-1.5 mm across, orange-brown, widely opening; floral bracts 1.3 – 1.5 x 0.5 – 0.7 mm, ovate-rotund, fimbriate, acute, green, erose, convolute; sepals sub-equal, spreading; dorsal sepal c. 0.7 x 0.5 mm, ovate, obtuse; lateral sepals 0.6 – 0.7 x 0.3 – 0.4 mm, ovate, acute to sub-acute, entire, spreading; petals 0.4 – 0.5 x 0.3 – 0.4 mm, oblong-ovate, acute, entire, orange spreading; lip ca. 0.7 mm long, 1.4 mm broad (broader than long), orange-brown, fleshy, 3-lobed, fimbriate; mid-lobe erose at apex, slightly wavy at margins; column ca. 0.4 mm long, green, stout, without wings; anthers 0.2 – 0.3 mm long, 2-chambered, white-creamy; pollinia 2, 0.1 – 0.2 mm long, oblong-ovate, translucent, yellow-orange; ovary 0.7 – 1.0 mm long, greenish-yellow, smooth.



**Fig. 1.** *Oberonia jenkinsiana* Griffith *ex* Lindley: A. Plant habit; B. Flower; C. Floral bract; D. Foral parts; E. Lip; F. Anther cap; G. Pollinia. All from COGCEHR/Herb/0002. [Photo by K. Chowlu]

**Flowering:** September

**Exsiccatae:** Sadim, District Senapati, Manipur, COGCEHR-00012; Herbarium of the Centre for Orchid Gene Conservation of Eastern Himalayan Region

**Location:** 1523 m, N-25°21.908' & E-94°02.309'

**Distribution:** INDIA [Sikkim, West Bengal, Manipur], China, Myanmar, Thailand.

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