



Zingiber Roseum (Zingiberaceae): A New Record of Ginger From Imphal Valley District, Manipur

KEYWORDS

Imphal valley, Manipur, new record, Zingiber roseum

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ABSTRACT The present paper includes *Zingiber roseum* that has been reported for the first time from Manipur. Detailed description of the plant is provided. The plant was found growing with a small population as undershrub in evergreen forest margin of Imphal East district, Manipur.

INTRODUCTION

Zingiberaceae is generally considered as one of the most important and valuable group of monocots. The genus *Zingiber* Mill. is distributed in tropical to warm-temperate Asia with the highest diversity in the monsoonal parts of Asia, particularly in Thailand with 56 species (Triboun 2006) and China with 43 species (Wu & Larsen 2000). Roxburgh 1810, 1820 reported 11 species of *Zingiber* in India. Later, Baker 1892 described 24 species from British India. 18 species has been recorded from India (Karthikeyan et al. 1989). Only 4 species has been recorded from Manipur (Deb 1961) and a new species *Zingiber kangleipakense* has been reported (Kishor et al. 2013).

Manipur is situated in the north eastern part of India sharing international boundary with Myanmar. It falls in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot and has its own unique bio-resources of flora and fauna. An extensive survey was conducted in Imphal valley district of Manipur, North-east India from 2013-2015. The *Zingiber* specimen was observed for the first time in Imphal East district. The area is located at 24°49'27.7"N, 94°04'42.3" E at an altitude of 819msl. Detailed studies were undertaken with the various floras and herbaria and is subsequently identified as *Zingiber roseum* (Roxb.) Roscoe. The collection forms a new distributional record in the Zingiberaceae flora of Manipur. *Zingiber roseum* (Roxb.) Roscoe has a global distribution in India, Sri-Lanka, China and Thailand.

Taxonomic treatment:

Zingiber roseum (Roxb.) Roscoe, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 8: 348.1807; *Amomum roseum* Roxb., Fl. Corom. 2.t. 126. 1815

Perennial herb; rhizomes fleshy, white; pseudostem elongate; leafy shoot 1-1.5 m, basal portion enclosed by long sheaths; leaves shortly petiolate; ligule bilobed, 1-1.5 cm; lamina 25-30 x 8-12 cm, oblong-lanceolate, tip acuminate, glabrous; pedunculate; inflorescence produced directly from the rhizome almost buried in the soil; spike 4-6 cm long, oblong, dense; Bracts reddish, glabrous 4-5x 2.5-4 cm, broadly ovate; Bracteole shorter than the bracts, linear-lanceolate, slightly notched at the tip, sparsely hairy; 13-15 flower per inflorescence; one flower per bract; flower pale yellow, 3.2cm; calyx tubular, slightly pinkish at apex, membranous, tip slightly toothed; corolla tube longer than the bracts, 4.5 cm, white, segments subequal, red; dor-

sal lobe 2.5 cm long, recurved; lateral lobes smaller, linear; labellum shorter than the corolla lobes, oblong-cuneate, 3-lobed, margin recurved, crisp, white with yellow markings on side lobes; lateral staminodes very small, rounded, yellow; anther sessile; thecae 1 cm long; crest 7 mm long, red; style long, slender, filiform, stigma ciliated; epigynous glands small, free from each other, 0.4cm; ovary 4 mm long, pubescent; capsule ovoid-elliptic, red, trigonous.

Flowering & Fruiting: April- August



Fig. 1. *Zingiber roseum* in natural habitat



Fig. 2. *Zingiber roseum* inflorescence

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