Aditya Pradhan\textsuperscript{a}, Deliza Rai\textsuperscript{a}, Saroj K. Barik\textsuperscript{b} and Arun Chettri\textsuperscript{a,}*: \textit{Begonia panchtharensis} (Begoniaceae), a New Record to India from Sikkim, Eastern Himalaya

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Summary: We present a new record of \textit{Begonia panchtharensis} S. Rajbh. (Begoniaceae) from the Eastern Himalaya in India. This record extends the known geographical distribution of this species from Nepal to India.

\textit{Begonia} L. (Begoniaceae) is the sixth largest genus of the flowering plants (Frodin 2004) consisting of 1920 species (Hughes et al. 2015). The genus is represented by 56 species in India (Uddin 2007). During our recent floristic exploration we collected a specimen of \textit{Begonia} from Thangsing (East Sikkim), India. On critical examination of morphological characters and perusal of literature, we identified this plant as \textit{Begonia panchtharensis} S. Rajbh., characterized by having grooved petiole with red linear dots, six tepals in a female flower, and several large basal leaves arising directly from the rhizome (Rajbhandary et al. 2010a) (Fig. 1). \textit{Begonia panchtharensis} was described from eastern Nepal, and has been considered to be narrow endemic to Nepal (Rajbhandary et al. 2010b). Therefore, this is a new record for flora of India, extending its geographical distribution eastward to India.


\textbf{Distribution}: E Nepal and India (Sikkim).

\textbf{Flowering}: September–October.

Specimen examined: \textbf{INDIA}. Sikkim, East district, Thangsing, 2200 m alt., 26 Oct. 2016, A. Pradhan & D. Rai

Fig 1. \textit{Begonia panchtharensis} collected in Sikkim, India for the first time (A. Pradhan & D. Rai 0108, BSHC).
0108 (BSHC00129; Fig. 1).


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