Kothareddy Prasad: *Peristylus intrudens* (*Orchidaceae*), a New Record for Mainland India

Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal, 711103 INDIA
E-mail: prasad orchids@gmail.com

(Accepted on October 13, 2018)

**Summary:** *Peristylus intrudens* (Ames) Ormerod (*Orchidaceae: Orchidoideae*), is reported here as a new record for mainland India, based on the collection from Meghalaya. A detailed description, distribution and photographs are provided.

*Peristylus* Blume (*Orchidaceae*) is one of the interesting genera in the subfamily *Orchidoideae* and comprises ca. 70 species distributed in Mascarenes, tropical and subtropical Asia to Mongolia and the Pacific islands (Govaerts et al. 2017). *Peristylus* is represented by 34 taxa in India (Misra 2007, Kathigeyan et al. 2010, Kumar et al. 2010, Prabhukumar et al. 2016, Alappatt 2017), of which 15 taxa are reported from North East India including Meghalaya (Rao 2007). During recent orchid explorations in Meghalaya, several *Peristylus* specimens were collected from Jorin grasslands in the Khasi hills. On critical study they were identified as *P. intrudens* (Ames) Ormerod. Although *P. intrudens* was recently recorded in India from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Alappatt 2017), this species has not been recorded from mainland India (Kataki 1986, Chowdhery 1998, Hynniewta et al. 2000, Misra 2007, Rao 2007, Ormerod 2011, Raskoti et al. 2012, Verma et al. 2013, Rao and Singh 2015, Alappatt 2017). Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the orchid flora of mainland India. A brief description along with photographs is provided for easy identification in the field. Voucher specimens are deposited at Central National Herbarium (CAL), Howrah.

**Taxonomic treatment**


*Fig. 1A, B*


Terrestrial herb, ca. 25 cm high. Tubers ellipsoid or ovoid, ca. 1.5 × 1 cm. Stem cylindrical. Leaves 2–5, clustered at the base of stem, lanceolate-oblong, apex acute, 3–6 × 1.5–1.8 cm. Inflorescence a raceme, ca. 20 cm long, slender, laxly few-flowered. Floral bracts as long as or slightly longer than ovary, pale green, ovate-lanceolate, apex acuminate, 5–1.2 × 2–4 mm. Pedicels with ovary cylindric-fusiform, ca. 1 cm long. Flowers white, ca. 2 mm across. Dorsal sepal concave, elliptic-ovate or ovate, apex obtuse, 1-veined, ca. 3 × 1.5 mm; lateral sepals narrowly oblong, apex acute, 1-veined, ca. 2.8 × 1.5 mm. Petals elliptic or elliptic-ovate, acute, ca. 3.4 × 2 mm. Lip deflexed, ca. 3 mm long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes shorter than midlobe, spreading, narrowly triangular, apex obtuse, ca. 1 mm long; midlobe oblong-lanceolate, apex obtuse, ca. 1.6 × 0.5 mm; disk with a prominent sub-globose callus near base; spur green, broadly...
profusely thanks AJCB (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Post Doctoral Fellowship) from Botanical Survey of India.

References


