P. T. K. MOHAN* & S. M. JORAPUR*: Cytotaxonomical studies of the genus Luisia Gaud. (Orchidaceae) from South India

Genus Luisia Gaud. belongs to the subtribe Sarcanthinae of the tribe Epidendreae. It is a native of India comprising of about 25 species distributed through south east Asia to Japan. Hooker (1890) reported 13 species from India. Cooke (1908) reported 2 species viz., Luisia teretifolia Gaud. and Luisia tenuifolia Bl. as occurring in his 'Flora of Presidency of Bombay'. Gamble (1928) also reported the above 2 species in his 'Flora of Presidency of Madras'. But, Blatter & McCann (1932), while revising the flora of Bombay Presidency, made a report of 6 species viz., L. teretifolia Gaud., L. tenuifolia Bl., L. pseudotenuifolia Blatt. & McC., L. truncata Blatt. & McC., L. evangelinesae Blatt. & McC., L. macrantha Blatt. & McC. as belonging to this genus. Santapau & Kapadia (1966), however, working on the same locality, described only 3 species. Further, on the basis of their critical observations on the fresh material, the authors reduced the six species of Blatter & McCann into three, namely, L. teretifolia Gaud. L. tenuifolia Bl. var. evangelinesae (Blatt. & McC.) Sant. & Kap., L. macrantha Blatt. & McC.

In order to elucidate the taxonomic status of the species described by Blatter & McCann (1932) and Santapau & Kapadia (1966), the present morphological and cytological work is envisaged.

The chromosome number reports in the species of this genus have been made by Midzuno (1940), Pancho (1965), Chatterjee (1968), Mehra & Vij (1970), Arora (1971), Mehra & Kashyap (1973) and Kulkarni & Jorapur (1979).

Material and method Material for the present investigation was collected from various localities of south western parts of India. L. teretifolia Gaud. has been collected from Mercara (Coorg Dist.), L. tenuifolia Bl. var. evangelinesae (Blatt. & McC.) Sant. & Kap. from Anmod (Belgaum Dist.), L. macrantha Blatt. & McC. from Yellapur and Haliyal (North Kanara Dist.).

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Tjio & Levan (1950) oxyquinoline aceto-olcein technique was adopted for chromosome study. The temporary preparations were photographed, and sketches were made with camera-lucida at the table level.

**Morphological and taxonomic considerations** While classifying the species in the genus *Luisia* Gaud. into six species, Blatter & McCann (1932) separated *L. teretifolia* Gaud. and *L. truncata* Blatt. & McC. on the basis of leaf and petal characters. According to them, the petals are linear and obtuse in the former and strap-shaped and truncate in the latter. These observations were made by them from the descriptions given by Miss E. Bell and from the manuscript notes of Mr. T.R. Bell. Further, *L. pseudotenuifolia* Blatt. & McC. and *L. evangelinae* Blatt. & McC. were treated as separate and distinct species on the basis of differences in the leaf and sepal morphology.

On the other hand, Santapau & Kapadia (1966), who have made a careful examination of the fresh material, opined that *L. truncata* Blatt. & McC. is identical with *L. teretifolia* Gaud. Further, *L. pseudotenuifolia* Blatt. & McC. and *L. evangelinae* Blatt. & McC. have also been considered as identical as their morphology is quite similar, except for a few minor morphological differences in the leaf and sepal characters. Later, on the basis of the observations on floral characters they have treated *L. evangelinae* Blatt. & McC. as a variety of *L.*

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**Tab. 1. Morphological characters of the three species of *Luisia* Gaud.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>Hypochile</th>
<th>Epichile</th>
<th>Sinus</th>
<th>Leaf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Side lobes</td>
<td>Venation</td>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>Apex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. tenuifolia</em> var. evangelinae</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>prominently 3-nerved</td>
<td>somewhat mucronulate, narrow with 2 diverging lobules</td>
<td>caudate at apex jointed to the leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. macrantha</em></td>
<td>small</td>
<td>nerves not prominent</td>
<td>broadened with 2 wide orbicular lobules</td>
<td>apex with a short conical apiculum on the outer side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. teretifolia</em></td>
<td>completely reduced</td>
<td>obscure</td>
<td>somewhat rhomboid, obtuse, slightly 3-lobed</td>
<td>absent open rounded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*tenuifolia* Bl. as the morphological differences are apparent between them. However, *L. macrantha* Blatt. & McC. has been maintained as a distinct species on the basis of its having large flowers and inflorescence.

In the present taxonomic investigation, however, the primary importance is given to the epichile and hypochile structures of the lip and the secondary importance is given to the other vegetative characters (Tab. 1).

**Cytological considerations**

*L. tenuifolia* Bl. var. *evangelinae* (Blatt. & McC.) Sant. & Kap. (Fig. 1: 1 and 1a)

The somatic chromosome number in this species is 2n=38. The karyotype of this species mainly consists of medium-sized chromosomes. Of the 19 pairs, 17 have median and 2 have submedian centromeres. The size gradience of the chromosomes is gradual. The longest chromosome in the complement measures 3.64 µm and the smallest 1.68 µm. The total chromatin length is 50.12 µm. Karyotype formula: KM=2n=38, 28M(m) +2M(sm) +6S(m) +2S(sm).

*L. macrantha* Blatt. & McC. (Fig. 1: 2 and 2a)

The diploid chromosome number in this species is also 2n=38. Out of the 19 pairs, twelve are medium-sized chromosomes and 7 are short ones. Two pairs of medium-sized median chromosomes have 'Sats' on their short arms. The longest chromosome in the complement measures 3.92 µm and the smallest 1.40 µm. The absolute chromosome length is 45.30 µm. Karyotype formula: K=2n=38, 12M(m) +12M(sm) +8S(m) +6S(sm).

*L. teretifolia* Gaud. (Fig. 1: 3 and 3a)

The somatic chromosome count made in this species is 2n=38. There are 10 pairs of medium-sized and 9 pairs of short chromosomes. The karyotype comprises of eight pairs of median and eleven pairs of submedian chromosomes. Pair nos. 1, 3 and 5 have 'Sats' on their short arms. The chromosome length varies from the longest being 3.64 µm to the smallest 1.40 µm. The total chromatin length is 42.34 µm. Karyotype formula: K=2n=38, 10M(m) +10M(sm) +6S(m) +12S(sm).

**Discussion** Arora (1971) reports n=20 for *L. trichorhiza* Bl. and *L. brachystachys* Bl. However, n=19 has been reported by Mehra & Vij (1970) and Mehra & Kashyap (1973) in *L. inconspicicus* Hook. f. and *L. trichorhiza* Bl. respectively. Pancho (1965), Chatterjee (1968), Mehra & Vij (1970) and Kulkarni & Jorapur (1979) have reported 2n=38. Besides this, a different number as 2n=40...
is also given by Midzuno (1940). However, the diploid chromosome number as recorded in the present investigation for all the three species studied is also $2n=38$. Though the $2n$ number is the same in all the three species investigated presently, their chromosome morphology varies from species to species. For example, the presence of more number of median chromosomes and absence of ‘Sats’ has resulted in a mostly symmetrical karyotype in *L. tenuifolia* var. *evangeliana* (Blatt. & McC.) Sant. & Kap. (Fig. 1: 1a). In *L. macrantha* Blatt. & McC., on the other hand, a comparative advancement in the karyotype can be
observed. Here, only 10 pairs of median chromosomes are present as against 17 in the former species (Fig. 1: 2a). Another point of interest is the presence of 2 pairs of ‘Sat’ chromosomes in the complement. Lastly, the karyotype of L. teretifolia Gaud. seems to be comparatively asymmetrical as a consequence of more number of submedian chromosomes, presence of ‘Sat’ chromosomes and an increase in the number of short chromosomes (Fig. 1: 3a) as compared with the former two species. The size of the chromosome is also observed to diminish from L. tenuifolia var. evangelinae through L. macrantha to L. teretifolia.

Thus, the present karyomorphological studies have minimized the earlier confusion regarding the two species of Cooke (1908), six species of Blatter & McCann (1932) and three of Santapau & Kapadia (1966) in delimiting the species.

References


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南インドに産するボウラン属は Blatter & McCann (1932) は 6 種とし、Santapau & Kapadia (1966) は 3 種としている。生品による観察と染色体を調べた結果、3 種とする Santapau 等の調査の正しいことを明らかにした。