Bhakta Bahadur RASKOTIa,* and Xiaohua Jinb: Herminium alaschanicum and Herminium souliei (Orchidaceae) – Two New Records for the Flora of Nepal

aState Key Laboratory of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100093 CHINA;
bHerbarium and State Key Laboratory of Systematics and Evolutionary Botany, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100093 CHINA
*Corresponding author: bbraskoti@gmail.com

Summary: Herminium alaschanicum Maxim. and H. souliei (Finet) Rolfe (Orchidaceae) are reported from Nepal for the first time. Detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.


In the course of revising the genus Herminium, the first author collected two specimens in Sankhuwasava and Kaski Districts in 2008. These specimens were identified as Herminium alaschanicum Maxim. and H. souliei (Finet) Rolfe, respectively. The voucher specimens are deposited in the National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories, Kathmandu, Nepal (KATH).


Monorchis alaschanica (Maxim.) O. Schwarz in Mitt. Thüring. Bot. Ges. i. 95 (1949).


Plants 10–35 cm tall. Tubers globose. Stem sheathed by tubular sheaths at base. Leaves lanceolate, 5–12 × 0.5–1 cm, apex acute, Inflorescence 6–20 cm; peduncle cylindric, with 3–5 lanceolate sterile bracts 5–10 mm; rachis 4–8 cm with 8–35 flowers; floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, 5–9 mm, apex cuspidate. Flowers green; ovary and pedicel 4–6 mm. Dorsal sepal ovate, 2–3 × 2–2.5 mm, apex obtuse; lateral sepals weakly spreading, ovate-lanceolate, 2–3.5 × 1.5–2 mm, apex subacute. Petals ovate-lanceolate, 3–4 × 1–1.5 mm, abruptly narrowed above middle, apex cuspidate. Lip decurved, suboblong, 4–5 × ca. 1.5 mm, 3-lobed; lateral lobes linear, 1.5–2 mm; mid-lobe narrowly linear-triangular, 1–1.5 mm, wider than lateral lobes, apex acute; spur pendulous, incurved, oblong, 1 mm, apex obtuse. Column 1 mm.

Flowering time: July–September.

Distribution: Central and Eastern Nepal, China, Mongolia.

Habitat: Terrestrial on roadsides or scrubby grasslands along valleys at an altitude of 2000–4000 m.


Note: Herminium alaschanicum does not seem to have a close member of the genus Herminium. This species has a distinct spur and molecular study is necessary to resolve its position at the generic level.


Herminium angustifolium Benth. & Hook.
Plants 10–30 cm tall. Tubers oblong-ellipsoid, 1–2 × 1–1.5 cm. Stem with 2 to 3 tubular sheaths at base. Leaves subopposite, oblong, 5–15 × 0.7–1 cm, apex acute. Inflorescence 8–20 cm; peduncle cylindric, sterile bracts 1–2 cm; rachis 5–12 cm, subdensely 10–50; floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, 5–10 mm, apex acuminate. Flowers erect, green; ovary and pedicel 4–5 mm. Dorsal sepal erect, ovate, concave, 2.5–3 × 2.5 mm, apex obtuse; lateral sepals spreading, ovate, oblique, 3 × 2.5 mm, apex obtuse. Petals linearlanceolate, 2–3 × ca. 0.6 mm, apex obtuse. Lip


Monorchis limprichtii (Schlechter) O. Schwarz in Mitt. Thüring. Bot. Ges. i. 95 (1949).


Fig. 1. A–B. Herminium alaschanicum Maxim. (voucher: B. B. Raskoti 501, KATH). C–D. H. souliei (Finet) Rolfe (voucher: B. B. Raskoti 515, KATH). Scale: 2 cm (A, C); 14 mm (B); 9 mm (D).

Fig. 2. Inflorescence of Herminium plants from E Nepal. A. H. alaschanicum Maxim. (Muktinath, July 2007). B. H. souliei (Finet) Rolfe. (Panchase forest at 2400 m, 12 July 2008). All photographs by the first author.
oblong, 4–5 × ca. 1.3 mm, base slightly dilated, 3-lobed; lateral lobes linear-falcate, incurved, 1.5–2 mm apex acute; mid-lobe oblong-lanceolate, ca. 0.5 mm, apex obtuse. Spur absent. Column 1 mm.

Flowering time: July–September.

Distribution: Central Nepal, China.

Habitat: Broad-leaved forests, grassy slopes at an altitude of 1500–4200 m.

Specimen examined: Central Nepal, Gandaki Zone, Kaski District, Panchase forest at 2400 m, 12 July 2008, B. B. Raskoti 515 (KATH).

Note: *Herminium souliei* is very close to *H. lanceum* but it is different in having a somewhat spidery shape to the flower. Molecular study is necessary to taxonomically isolate the *H. souliei* from *H. lanceum*.

References


