Sanjeev Kumal Rai\textsuperscript{a,b,c}, Jyoti Prasad Gajurel\textsuperscript{b,c}, Krishna Kumar Shrestha\textsuperscript{b}, Christoph Scheidegger\textsuperscript{c} and Lokesh Ratna Shakya\textsuperscript{d,*}: Risleya (Orchidaceae), a New Record for Flora of Nepal

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Plant Resources, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, NEPAL; \textsuperscript{b}Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, NEPAL; \textsuperscript{c}Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Zurich, SWITZERLAND; \textsuperscript{d}Department of Botany, Amrit Science Campus, Tribhuvan University, Thamel, Kathmandu, NEPAL

*Corresponding author: nibeshshak@gmail.com

Summary: Risleya King & Pantling is reported for the Flora of Nepal as a new record of the genus in Orchidaceae.

The genus Risleya King & Pantling is a monotypic genus described from Sikkim (King and Pantling 1898). Risleya atropurpurea King & Pantling is recorded from Sikkim, China, and Myanmar (Pearce and Cribb 2002), but the genus has not been recorded from Nepal (Hara et al. 1978, Banerji and Pradhan 1984, Press et al. 2000, Rajbhandari and Dahal 2004, 2010, Rokaya et al. 2013). It is distributed from 2900–3700 m from SW Sichuan, SE Xizang, NW Yunnan and at 3500 to 4500 m from Bhutan and India (Sikkim) (Chen et al. 2009, Pearce et al. 2002).

During our study of species diversity in forests (Scheidegger et al. 2010), a mycotrophic orchid species was recorded from a locality nearby Sarkaripati, Solukhumbu district at an altitude of 3400 m. The orchid was found on the ground covered with moss and litter. The dominant tree species of the forest were Rhododendron arboreum and Abies spectabilis. Other associated species were Rubus nepalensis, Pleione praecox, Dichrocephala integrifolia, Gaultheria nummularioides, etc. The ground was humus rich and moist at the time of collection of the specimen.

On critical examination, it is identified as Risleya atropurpurea King & Pantling. The species can readily be identified from its mycotrophic habit and deep blackish-purple flowers. This is a new record for Nepal, not only for the species, but also for the genus.


Plants 6–22 cm tall; rhizome pubescent. Stem glabrous, dark purple, with basal sheaths; sheaths 2, tubular. Inflorescence rachis 4–7 cm, densely flowered; floral bracts lanceolate, 1 mm. Flowers 1–2 mm across, blackish-purple; pedicel and ovary 1–1.5 mm, twisted. Sepals spreading, oblong, obtuse, 1.5 × 0.5 mm. Petals lanceolate, 0.8 × 0.4 mm. Lip adnate to column at base, broadly ovate, concave, slightly crenulate at base, 1.4–1.6 × 1.2 mm. Column 0.4 mm. Fruit ovoid, 3 × 2 mm.

Distribution: E. Nepal, India (Sikkim), Bhutan, China, Myanmar.

Flowering: June.

Altitude: 3400 m.

Specimens examined: E NEPAL. Sagarmatha zone, Solukhumbu district, Taksindu to Sarkaripati, 3400 m, 27 June 2012, S. K. Rai, J. P. Gajurel, S. Devkota, Bibas Rai & Bhim Rai
Fig. 1. Type specimen of *Risleya atropurpurea* King & Pantling (INDIA. Sikkim Himalaya, 13,000 ft., 1896, R. Pantling 451, GH; from Harvard University Herbaria Database).

Fig. 2. *Risleya atropurpurea* King & Pantling (E NEPAL. Sagarmatha zone, Solukhumbu district, Taksindu to Sarkaripati, 27 June 2012, S. K. Rai & al. 19446, KATH005122).

19446 (KATH005122, TUCH; Figs. 2-3).

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References


Risleya atropurpurea King & Pantling. A. Habit. B. Close-up view. C. Fruiting stage.

Fig. 3.

S. K. Rai\(^{a,b,c}\), J. P. Gajurel\(^{b,c}\), K. K. Shrestha\(^{b}\), C. Scheidegger\(^{c}\), L. R. Shakyad

ネパール新産のRisleya属（ラン科）

ネパールからラン科のRisleya atropurpurea King & Pantlingを初めて報告した。これは属としても初めての報告となる。本種はこれまでシッキム、ブータン、中国、ミャンマーに知られていたが、今回、ネパール東部のSagarmatha zone, Solukhumbu districtの3400 mの地点で確認された。生育地はコケと落ち葉に被われた地表であった。