Nripemo ODYUO, Ranjit DAIMARY and Chaya DEORI*: Liparis formosana (Orchidaceae)—A New Addition to the Orchid Flora of India

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Summary: Liparis formosana Rchb. f. (Orchidaceae) is reported as a new addition to the flora of India from Nagaland. A detailed description and illustrations are also provided.

The genus Liparis Rich. (Orchidaceae) consists of about 470 species of terrestrial, epiphytic and lithophytic growth habits and is widely distributed in tropical Asia, New Guinea, Australia, SW Pacific islands, and subtropical and tropical America, Europe and North America (Pearce and Cribb 2002, Chen et al. 2009). In India it contains 51 species (Misra 2007) and Nagaland 19 species (Deb et al. 2003, Deb and Imchen 2008). While on annual action plan tours of Botanical survey of India to Tuensang district in Nagaland the first two authors (NO & RD) collected a terrestrial orchid in vegetative condition in 2014. The plant was transplanted to the botanical garden of Botanical Survey of India, Shillong, and bloomed in May 2015. The species was again collected from the same locality in May 2015 by the first author. Perusal of the literature (Chen et al. 2009, Ohwi 1965, Maekawa 1971) and critical study of the specimen revealed that the species is Liparis formosana Rchb. f., a species not reported earlier from India and hence reported as an addition to the orchid flora of India. A detailed description from the living specimens, coloured illustrations with other relevant information are provided here for easy identification.


Terrestrial herbs. Roots 1 mm thick, wooly. Pseudobulbs clustered, elongate, cylindric, terete, the internodes to 5 cm long, 4.5–10 × 1–1.5 cm. Leaves 3, obliquely ovate to elliptic, 5–13.5 × 3–8 cm, abruptly acuminate, short-sheathed at base, 6–7-nerved, margin undulate. Inflorescence terminal racemose, many-flowered, 20–30 cm long, erect; peduncles 13–15 cm long, purple, ridged; rachis ca. 15 cm long, ridged. Flowers ca. 15.5 mm broad, sepals and petals light purple with green borders, lip purplish to dark brown with green borders. Pedicel and ovary 11–14 mm with 6 sharp ridges, light purple. Floral bracts 2–7.1 × 3–4 mm (base broader) triangular, ovate, acute, 1-nerved, membranous, purple. Sepals linear oblong obtuse, margin revolute, 3-veined. Dorsal sepal 8–12 × 2–2.5 mm. Lateral sepals 6–9 × 2–4 mm, gradually spreading. Petals 7–10 × ca. 1 mm wide, linear oblong, sub-acute to obtuse, 1-veined. Lip 7–8 × 5–6 mm, cuneate-obovate, rounded at apex, gradually recurved in the upper part, shallowly grooved at tip with two non-coherent, elliptic obtuse teeth at base. Column 3.5 × 1.9 mm, greenish, apex with two square or triangular wings. Anther ca. 1× 0.9 mm, ovate, acute, dark purplish or deep brown with white margin. Pollinia 0.6 × 0.2 mm, 4 in two pairs, very minute, obliquely ovoid, yellow.

Flowering: May–June.

Habitat: This species was growing very sparsely in Old Pangha, Tuensang district,
N. Odyuo, R. Daimary, C. Deori: インド新産のラン科植物、ユウコクラン

ラン科クモキリソウ属 Liparis は地上性あるいは着生植物で、世界におよそ 470 種があり、熱帯アジア、ニューギニア、オーストラリア、太平洋諸島に多くの種が知られている。インドには 51 種が知られ、そのうち Nagaland には 19 種が認められている。2014 年に Nagaland の Tuensang district で調査を行い、花をつけていないクモキリソウ属植物が得られた。この株を植物園に移植したところ、2015 年に花を咲かせた。この開花株を調べたところユウコクラン Liparis formosana Rchb. f. であることが分かった。本種はインドでは初めての報告であり、生品を用いて詳しく記載し、図示した。

（インド・植物調査所 Eastern Regional Centre）