

Short Communication

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A NEW SPECIES OF *LIPARIS* RICH. (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM SIKKIM HIMALAYA

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During the course of systematic studies on the orchid flora of Sikkim Himalaya, the authors came across an interesting species of orchid in Dikchu Valley (East Sikkim). On critical examination, this was found to be a new species of *Liparis* Rich. which is being described here with illustrations.

Key Words : *Liparis Sikkimensis* S.Z. Lucksom & S. Kumar sp. nov.

Liparis elliptica Wight, affinis sed different, pseudobulbus 3.2-4.5 x 1.7-2.5 cm, ovoideus, caespitosus, involutus in 3-4 bracteis veginantibus, 0.5-5 cm longus. Folia 2, 9.5-14 x 1.8-2.8 cm, anguste, elliptico-oblonga, mucronata, plurinervia, angustata versus basin latum petiolatum. Inflorescentia solitaria, 12-17.5 cm longa, erecta; pedunculus 4.5-6.5 cm longus, alatus, laevis, cum bracteis duabus, 2.2-4.5 mm longis, lineari-lanceolatis; racemus 5-7.5 cm longus, angularis, laevis cum floribus apluris, pedicel latis; ovarium pedicellatum, 2-3 mm longum; bracteal florales 3.5-4 x 0.3-0.4 mm, lineari-lanceolatae. Flores 4-4.5 mm longi, cremeo-albi. Labellum ca 2 mm longum, anguste oblongum, margo interior non incrassatus ad basin, processibus triangularis non formantibus, calli nulli, latera integra, apice obtuso.

Liparis sikkimensis S.Z. Lucksom & S. Kumar sp. nov. (Figs. 1-10).

Epiphytic. Pseudobulbs 3.2-4.5 x 1.7-2.5 cm, ovoid,

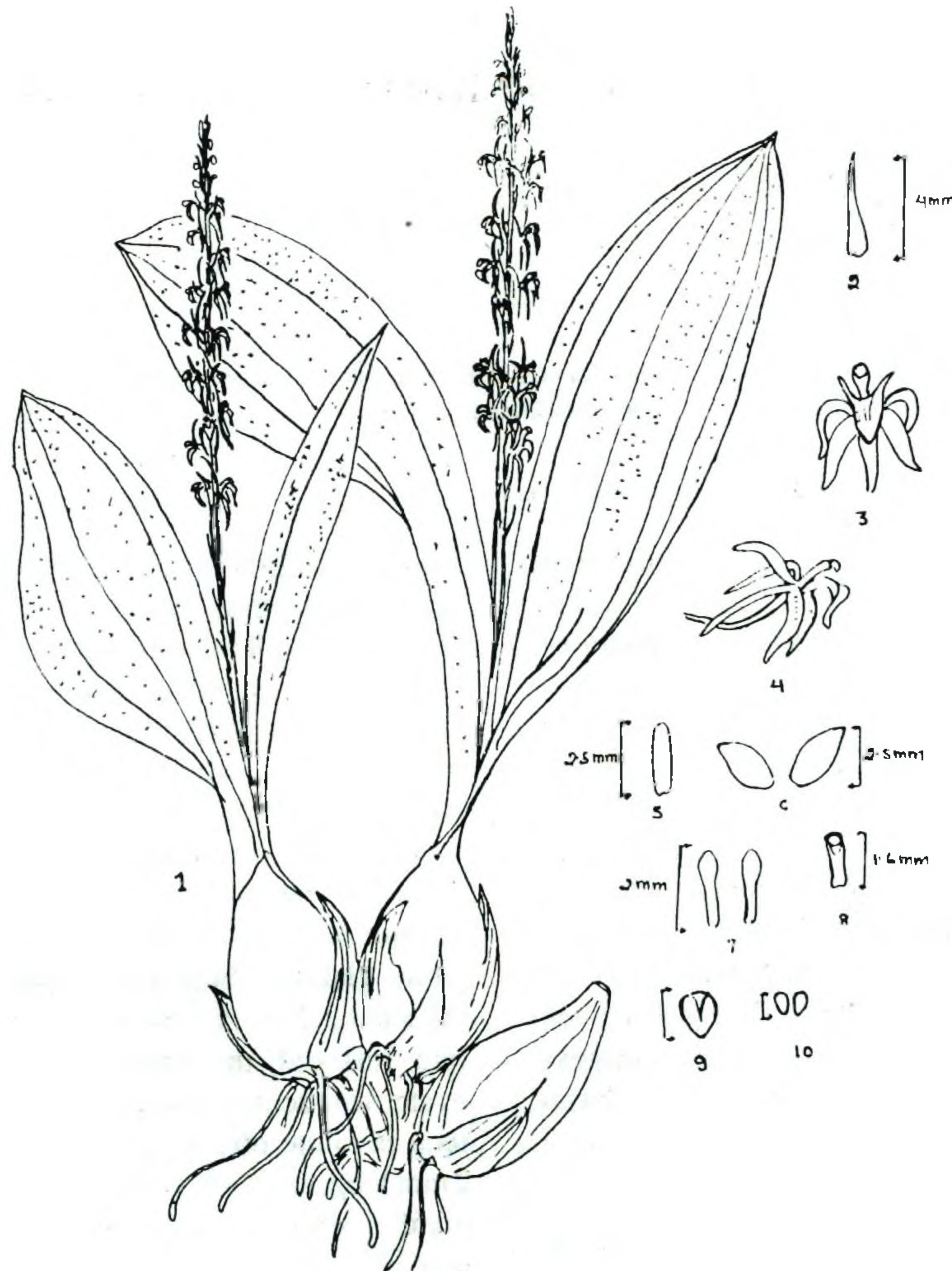
smooth, enveloped in 3-4, 0.5-5.0 cm long, sheathing bracts, caespitose. Leaves 2, apical, 9.5-14 x 1.8-2.8 cm, narrowly elliptic-oblong, mucronate, many-nerved, tapering towards broad petiolate base. Inflorescence solitary terminal, 12-17.5 cm long, erect; the peduncle 4.5-6.5 cm long, winged, smooth; bracts 2, 2.2-4.5 mm long, linear-lanceolate, sterile; the raceme 5-7.5 cm long, angular, smooth, with many pedicellate flowers; the floral bract 3.5-4 x 0.3-0.4 mm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, persistent. Flowers 4-4.5 mm long, creamy white, glabrous. Sepals sub-equal, spreading; the dorsal sepal 2.2-2.5 x 0.5-0.6 mm, oblong, obtuse, revolute, reflexed; the lateral pair 2.2-2.5 x 0.8-1 mm, ovate, sub-acute, revolute, white. Petals 1.8-2 mm long, revolute, oblong, obtuse, spreading, white. Lip ca 2 mm long, narrowly oblong, obtuse, deflexed from the middle, yellowish-white, without thickened triangular processes at base. Column ca 1.6 mm long, terete, slightly expanded towards both ends, slightly curved, pale-green. Anther minute, ovate, 2-chambered, termi-

S.No. *Liparis elliptica*, Wight

1. Pseudobulbs : ca 2.0 x 1.5 cm
2. Inflorescence : ca 12 cm long, scape ca 8 cm long; raceme ca 4 cm long subsecund.
3. Floral bracts : ca 0.9 mm broad; lanceolate-subulate, acuminate.
4. Flowers : Green
5. Dorsal sepal : ca 2.5 x 1.2 mm lanceolate, acute with a subterminal cusp on the dorsal 3.5 x 1.1 mm.
6. Petals : 3.2 x 0.5 mm
7. Lip : ca 3 x 2 mm, sub-orbicular, ovate, sub-acute, sharply infolded at the margin, obscurely 3-lobed finely crenulate at the margin beyond the fold.

Liparis sikkimensis sp. nov.

- 3.2-4.2 x 1.7-2.5 cm.
- 12-17.5 cm long, erect; scape 4.6-9.5 cm long winged; the raceme 5-7.5 cm long, erect.
- 0.3-0.4 mm broad, linear lanceolate acute.
- Creamy-White.
- 2.2-2.5 x 0.5-0.6 mm, oblong, obtuse, revolute reflexed; the lateral pair 2.2-2.5 x 0.8-1 mm.
- 1.8-2 mm long.
- ca 2 x 0.8 mm, narrowly oblong, obtuse, deflexed from the middle, margin entire.



Figures 1-10: *Liparis sikkimensis* sp. nov.

1. The whole plant; 2. The floral bract; 3. The front view of a single flower; 4. The side view of a single flower; 5. Dorsal sepal; 6. Lateral sepal; 7. Petals; 8. Column; 9. Anther; 10. Pollinia.

nal. Pollinia 4, ovate, light-yellow.

Type : India : Sikkim, Dikchu, 10th November, 1992. Lucksom & S. Kumar (197 Holotype : CAL : Isotype 197 b.c.d. Gangtok Forest Department Herb.)

Fl : October - December

Frts : January - February

Alt. : 450-1050 m.

Ecology : It grows on the trees of *Shorea robusta* and *Schima wallichii*.

The fresh specimens were critically examined and

found different from other *Liparis* species.

The new taxa is closely allied to *Liparis elliptica* Wight from which it differs in following characters.

Etymology : As the distribution of the new species is through out the sub-tropical valleys of Sikkim it is named after the state Sikkim.

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