

## Short Communication

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# A NEW SPECIES OF *GOODYERA* R.BR. (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM SIKKIM, INDIA

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During the course of a botanical exploration in Sikkim, the author came across an interesting orchid species of *Goodyera*. This specimen was first matched with *Goodyera foliosa* and *Goodyera secundiflora*, but on a critical examination, it was found to be distinct and hence described as a new species.

*Goodyera dongchenii* sp.nov. *Goodyera secundiflora* Griff affinis sed differt caulis erectus, non decumbens ad basin. Folia 3-7.2 x 1.1-2.5 cm, cum basi sub-obtusa, ad marginem integra, 3-5 nervia, uniformiter pallide viridia, non altroviventi colore informixta. Flores 7-9 mm longi, albo-viriduli, puberuli sepala apice viridia, petala falcitum oblanceolata, subacuta, apice virida, unus latus marginis apicalis parum curvatus intus. Labellum 7-7.5 mm longum, ablum sed apice vivide. Columna brevis; rostellum breve. Pollinia dipartita.

*Goodyera dongchenii* S.Z. Lucksom sp. nov. (fig-1-10). Epiphytic or terrestrial. Whole plant 25.5-30 cm tall. Stem 8-10 cm tall, erect, completely enveloped in 2.2-3.5 cm long, sub-tubular leaf sheaths. Leaves 5-7, lamina 3-7.2 x 1.1-2.5 cm, oblong-ovate to elliptic-oblong, acute, 5-nerved, crowded. Inflorescence 18.5-20 cm long, erect, puberulous, terete; the peduncle 7-8 cm long with three, 2.5-4.4 cm long, lanceolate, sub-acute, bracts; the raceme 11.5-12 cm long with many pedicellate flowers; the pedicellate ovary 0.7-1.1 cm long, ribbed, puberulous; the floral bracts 0.9-1.9 cm long, ovatelanceolate, acute, 3-nerved, puberulous. Flowers 7-9 mm long, pale whitish green, puberulous. Sepals subequal, slightly spreading at the mouth, oblong-ovate sub-acute or obtuse, 1-nerved, concave puberulous, creamy white and green tipped; the dorsal sepal 8.8-9 x 3.5-4 mm, concave, tip slightly upturned; the lateral pairs 8.8-9 x 4-4.2 mm concave. Petals 8-8.2 x 2.2-2.6 mm, falcately oblanceolate, sub-acute, one side of apical margin slightly folded, 1-nerved, translucent white and green tipped, connivent with dorsal sepal to form

hood over column. Lip 7-7.5 mm long, sub-globularly saccate at the base, sac with slender setae inside; the apical lobe ovate acute, concave; the disc with 2 thick lamellae, white, green tipped. Column ca 5.5 mm long with two narrow triangular acute apical processes. Anther ca 3 x 1 mm, ovate, with a long beak, light brown. Pollinia 2, ca 3.9 mm long, narrowly clavate, orange yellow, bipartite, attached to an orange yellow gland; Stigma orbicular.

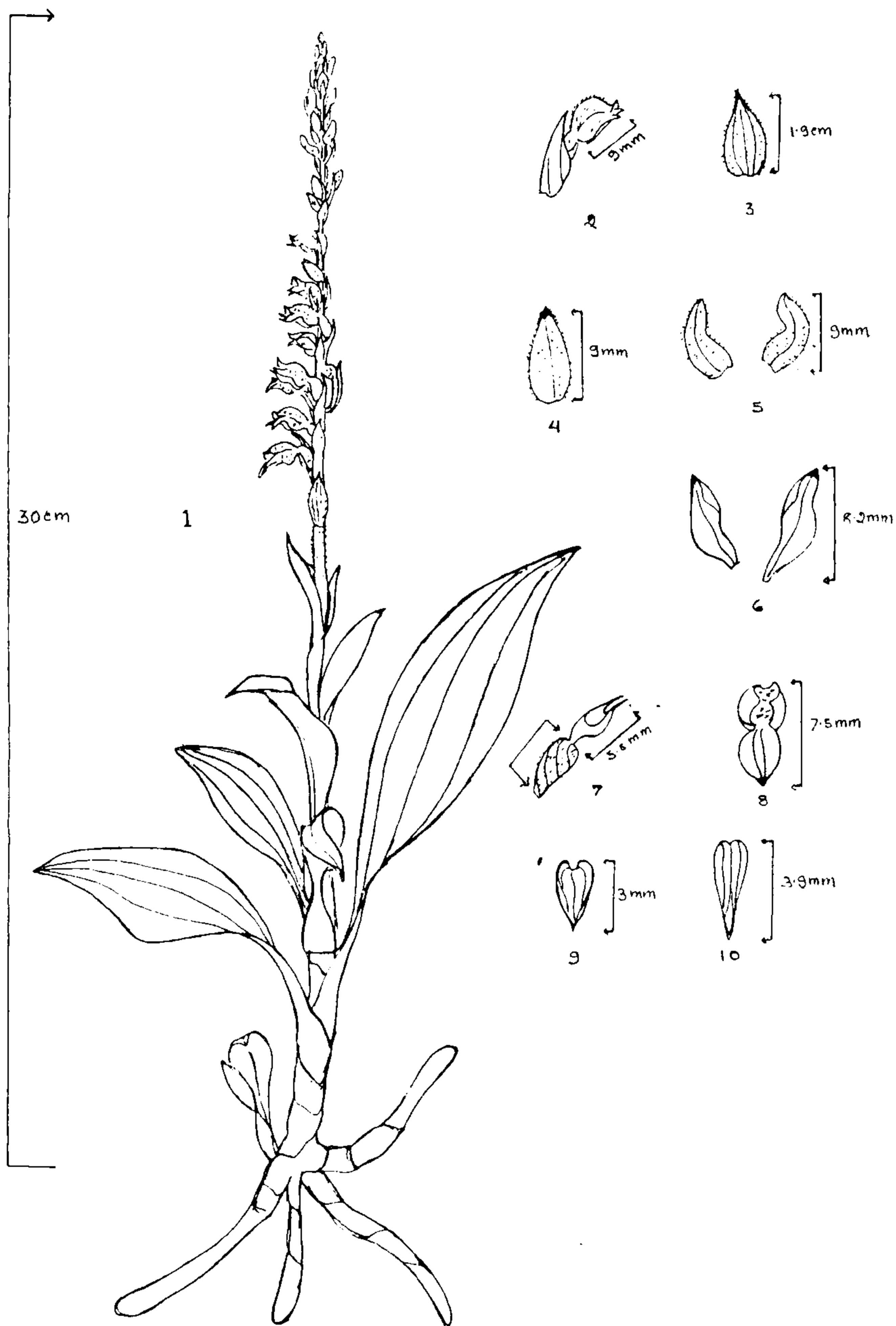
Type : India; Sikkim, Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, 6000ft- 7000 ft, 16th Sep. 1992, S.Z. Lucksom 210 a (Holotype : CAL; Isotype 210 b, 210 a Gangtok Forest Department Herb).

Fls : Sep/Oct

Ecology : Grows on the shady forest floor of montane wet temperate forest and also on moss covered trees of *Castanopsis tribuloides* and *Quercus lamellosa*.

The new species is closely allied to *Goodyera secundiflora* Griff and *Goodyera foliosa* Benth ex Hook f. from which it differs in following characters.

<i>Goodyera foliosa</i>	<i>Goodyera secundiflora</i>	<i>Goodyera dongchenii</i>
1. Stem: Decumbent at the base	Decumbent at the base	Not decumbent at the base
2. Leaves : 6.25 - 8.75 x 1.8-4.13cm, 3-5 nerved, oblique base and undulate edges.	3.75-8.75 x 1.8-3.13 pale green mottled with darker shade, entire margins.	3-7.2x1.1-2.5 cm 3-5 nerved, with obtuse base and entire margins.
3. Flowers: ca 8 mm long, pinkish or orange yellow	ca 8.7 mm long, Yellowish pink	7-9 mm long, pale whitish green
4. Petals : obliquely rhomboid with acute apices and long clawed base	Falcately oblanceolate, the apex obliquely beaked, crenate on the outer margin	Falcately oblanceolate, sub-acute, pale whitish with green tip. One side of the margin slightly folded
5. Lip: with sub-globular yellow sac and with orange white apical lobe	White with green tipped apical lobe	White with green tipped apical lobe
6. Column and, Rostellum long	Short	Short
7. Pollinia : Vertically grooved	Bipartite	Bipartite
8. Habitat : Terrestrial	Terrestrial	Both terrestrial and epiphytic



Figs. 1-10 *Goodyera simplicifolia* sp. nov.

1. Whole plant; 2. A single flower; 3. Floral bract; 4. Dorsal sepal; 5. Lateral sepal; 6. Petals; 7. Column and pedicellate ovary; 8. Lip; 9. Anther; 10. Pollinia.

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