

## TWO NEW TAXA OF *ORCHIDACEAE* FROM CENTRAL NEPAL

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*Eria annapurnensis* L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha, a new species, and *Gastrochilus calceolaris* var. *biflora* L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha, a new variety (both *Orchidaceae*), are described and illustrated from Annapurna Conservation Area, Central Nepal.

*Keywords.* Central Nepal, *Eria*, *Gastrochilus*, new taxa, *Orchidaceae*.

### INTRODUCTION

In Nepal *Eria* is represented by 19 species (Hara *et al.*, 1978; Press *et al.*, 2000; Bajracharya, 2001; Bajracharya *et al.*, 2002, 2003; Bajracharya & Shrestha, 2003, 2004) and *Gastrochilus* by six species (Hara *et al.*, 1978; Press *et al.*, 2000). During an inventory of the orchids of Annapurna Conservation Area in Central Nepal we collected a new species of *Eria* closely related to *Eria alba* and a new variety of *Gastrochilus calceolaris*. Both these new taxa are described and illustrated below.

#### ***Eria annapurnensis* L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha, sp. nov. Fig. 1.**

*Eria alba* Lindl. affinis, sed differt inflorescentia cum bi ad tres flore, praesentia serratus calli ad centrum labelli disco, praesentia column pedis, pollinia oblonga, claviforma. – Type: Nepal, Gandaki Zone, Kaski District, Chhomrong, 2000 m, 10 vi 2005, L. Shakya, M. Shrestha & S. Shakya 74 (holo KATH; iso TUCH).

Plant epiphytic, 13–16 cm tall. *Pseudobulbs* 3–4 × 1–1.8 cm, arranged in a row, crowded, ovoid to flask-shaped, with 2–3 nodes, marked with many distinct vertical lines, brown. *Leaves* 3, 8–11 × 1 cm, linear, acuminate, sheathed at the base, sessile. *Inflorescence* 4 cm long, shorter than leaves, terminal, erect, racemose, laxly 2–3-flowered. *Flowers* 1.5 cm across, sepals and petals white, lip mid-lobe yellow, lateral lobes purple; pedicel and ovary 5–6 mm long, slender. *Bracts* 4.5 × 1.5 mm, elliptic-ovate, shorter than the pedicel and ovary. *Sepals* subsimilar; dorsal sepal 7.4 × 1.5 mm, oblong, acute, 3-veined; lateral sepals 7.4 × 2.5 mm, lanceolate, 3-veined, weakly falcate. *Petals* 6 × 1 mm, linear-oblong, subacute, 3-veined. *Lip* 7 × 5 mm, 3-lobed, fleshy, clawed at base, oblong; lateral lobes triangular-oblong, obtuse, erect-incurved; mid-lobe orbicular, entire, apiculate; disc with 2 thick lamellae between the lateral lobes; with a distinctly serrated keel at the centre of the lip. *Column* 2 mm

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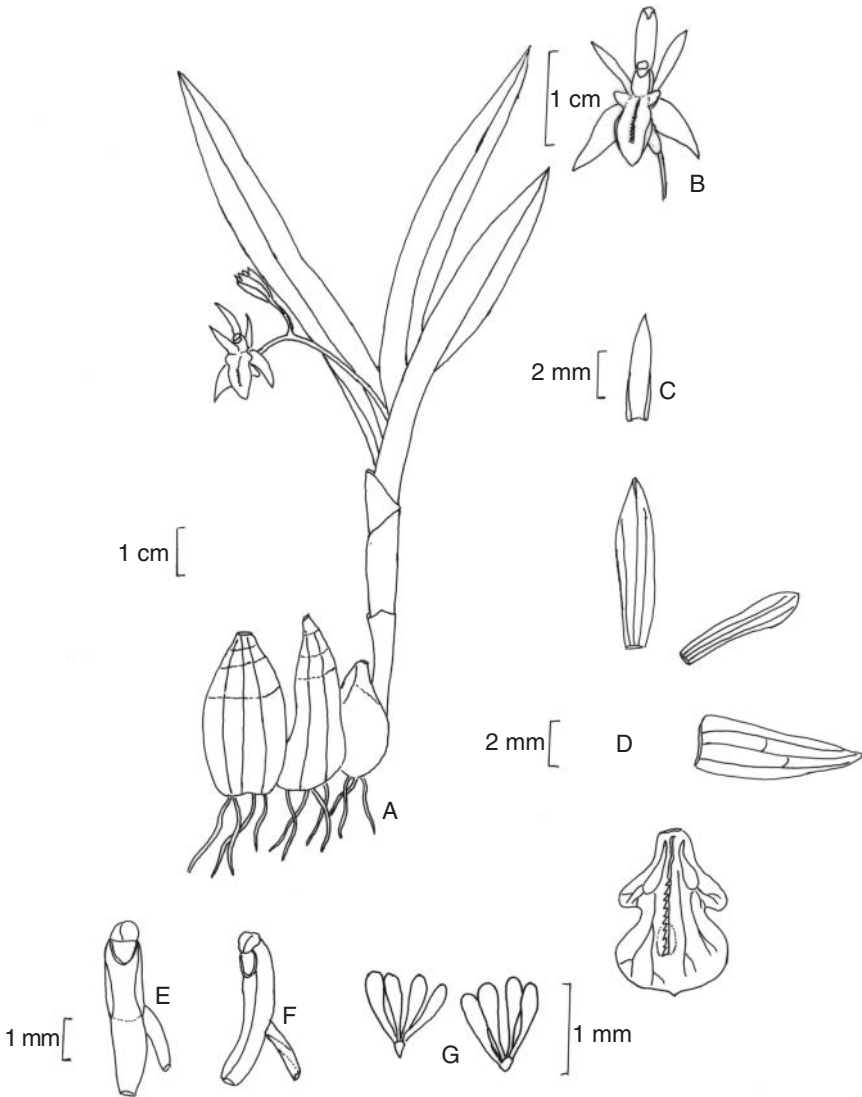


FIG. 1. *Eria annapurnensis* L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha. A, habit; B, flower; C, bract; D, sepals, petal and lip spread out; E, column front view; F, column side view; G, pollinia.

long; column foot distinct, 1 mm long; stigma orbicular; pollinia 8, 0.75 mm long, oblong club-shaped.

*Phenology.* June (flowering and fruiting).

*Distribution.* Annapurna Conservation Area, Central Nepal.

*Etymology.* The specific epithet of the new taxon is based on its type locality, Annapurna mountain range.

*Eria annapurnensis* is allied to *Eria alba* Lindl. from which it can easily be distinguished by its 2–3-flowered inflorescence compared with a 4–8-flowered inflorescence; the presence of a serrate keel at the centre of the lip; the presence of a column foot, and the oblong club-shaped pollinia.

**Gastrochilus calceolaris** (Buch.-Ham. ex Sm.) D.Don var. **biflora** L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha, **var. nov.** **Fig. 2.**

*Gastrochilus calceolaris* var. *calceolaris* affinis, sed differt inflorescentia cum biflore. – Type: Nepal, Gandaki Zone, Kaski District, Chhomrong, 2000 m, 10 vi 2005, L. Shakya, M. Shrestha & S. Shakya 75 (holo KATH).

Plant epiphytic, 23 cm tall. *Stem* short and pendulous. *Leaves* 13.5–20.5 × 1.5 cm, distichous, strongly falcate, narrowly oblong, apex unequally emarginated. *Inflorescence* with two flowers, c.4 cm long, much shorter than leaves. *Flowers* c.1 cm across, sepals and petals yellow to greenish, speckled with brown, blotched with red-brown, lip yellowish, speckled with red; pedicel and ovary 8 mm long. *Bracts* c.3 mm long, ovate, acute. *Sepals* similar, spreading, 7.5 × 2.7 mm, narrowly elliptic, apex obtuse, 3-veined. *Petals* 7.5 × 2 mm, subspathulate, obtuse, 3-veined. *Lip* sessile, c.8.6 mm long, hypochile saccate-globose, c.2.5 mm deep; epichile reniform, margin dentate, disc heavily echinate. *Column* c.3 mm long, stigma orbicular; pollinia 2, waxy, nearly globose, grooved; connected to a long narrow stipe, with viscidium at base.

*Phenology.* May to June (flowering and fruiting).

*Distribution.* Known only from the type locality.

*Etymology.* The varietal epithet *biflora* was chosen because this variety has an inflorescence with two flowers.

*Gastrochilus calceolaris* var. *biflora* is closely allied to *G. calceolaris* var. *calceolaris* in gross morphology but differs from it in the inflorescence being two-flowered compared with the more than 12-flowered corymbose inflorescence of *G. calceolaris* var. *calceolaris*.

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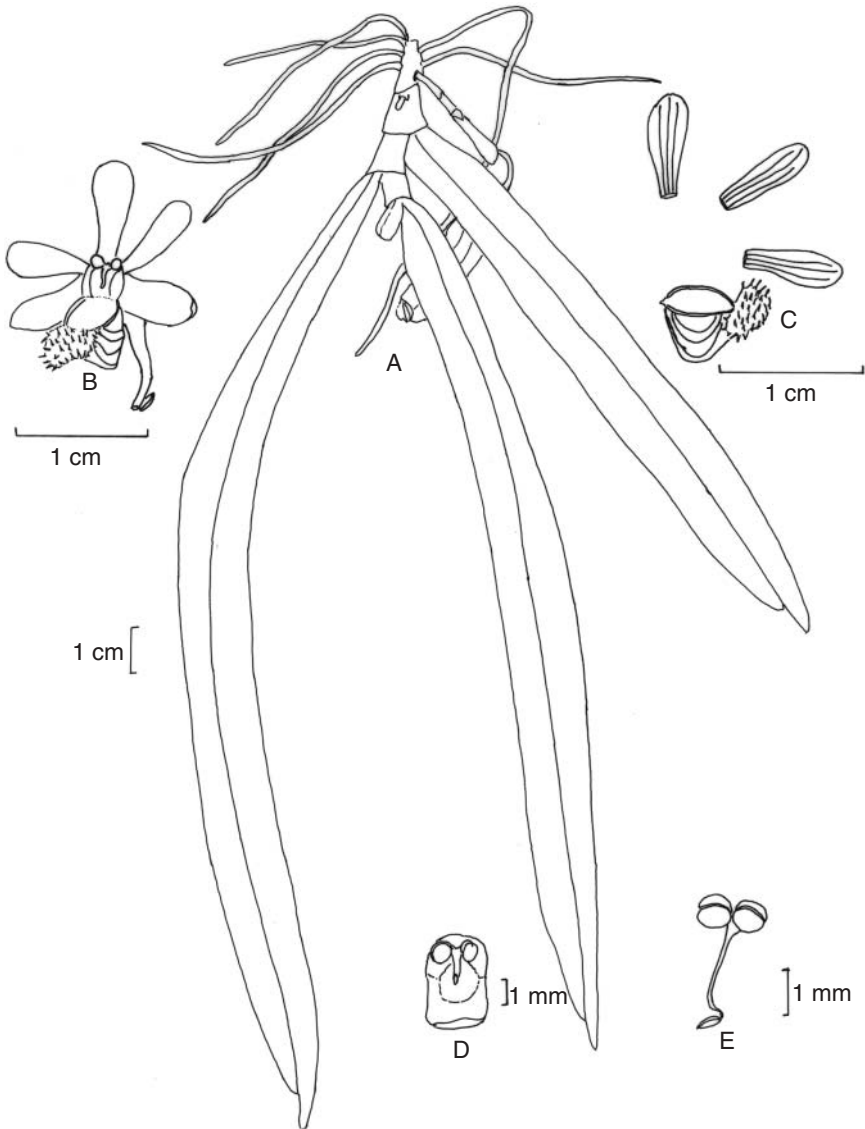


FIG. 2. *Gastrochilus calceolaris* (Buch.-Ham. ex Sm.) D. Don var. *biflora* L.R.Shakya & M.R.Shrestha. A, habit; B, flower; C, sepals, petal and lip spread out; D, column; E, pollinia.

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