

A NEW SPECIES OF *BULBOPHYLLUM* (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM NEPAL

B. B. RASKOTI & R. ALE

Bulbophyllum nepalense Raskoti & Ale (Orchidaceae) from Nepal is described and illustrated. Notes on the diagnostic characters used to distinguish it from the similar species *Bulbophyllum retusiusculum* are provided.

Keywords. Nepal, new taxa, orchids.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Bulbophyllum* Thouars is a large orchid genus comprising about 1900 species in the tropical and subtropical parts of Asia, Africa, Australia, the Mascarene Islands and Madagascar (Pearce & Cribb, 2002; Chen & Vermeulen, 2009).

In Nepal *Bulbophyllum* is represented by 34 species (Press *et al.*, 2000; Rajbhandari & Dahal, 2004; Rajbhandari & Baral, 2010). During field work an unidentified species of *Bulbophyllum* was collected by the first author from the Sivapuri National Park, central Nepal, which later proved to be an undescribed species. We describe it here as *Bulbophyllum nepalense* which belongs to *Bulbophyllum* sect. *Cirrhopetalum* (Lindl.) Rchb.f.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

***Bulbophyllum nepalense* Raskoti & Ale, sp. nov. Figs 1, 2.**

The new species is allied to *Bulbophyllum retusiusculum* Rchb.f. but differs by its longer and narrower pseudobulbs, the falcate acute-acuminate lateral sepals, and two strips of papillae or short hairs on the adaxial side of the lip. – Type: Nepal, Sivapuri National Park, 2300 m, 3 viii 2010, *Raskoti Bhakta B.* 325 (holo KATH).

Epiphytic herbs. *Rhizome* stout, creeping, c.5 mm in diameter, covered by dark brown sheaths. *Roots* from the base of the pseudobulbs, numerous, rigid, wiry, flexuose. *Pseudobulbs* 1–4 cm apart from each other, conical-cylindric, covered by net-veined sheaths, 2–4 cm long, 2.5–5 mm in diameter, with one terminal leaf. *Leaves* oblong, 4.5–12 × 0.8–1.5 cm, leathery, base contracted into a short petiole, apex obtuse and slightly emarginate. *Scape* arising from the base of the pseudobulb, suberect, 5–9 cm long, slender; umbel 6–10-flowered; peduncle filiform, c.1 mm in

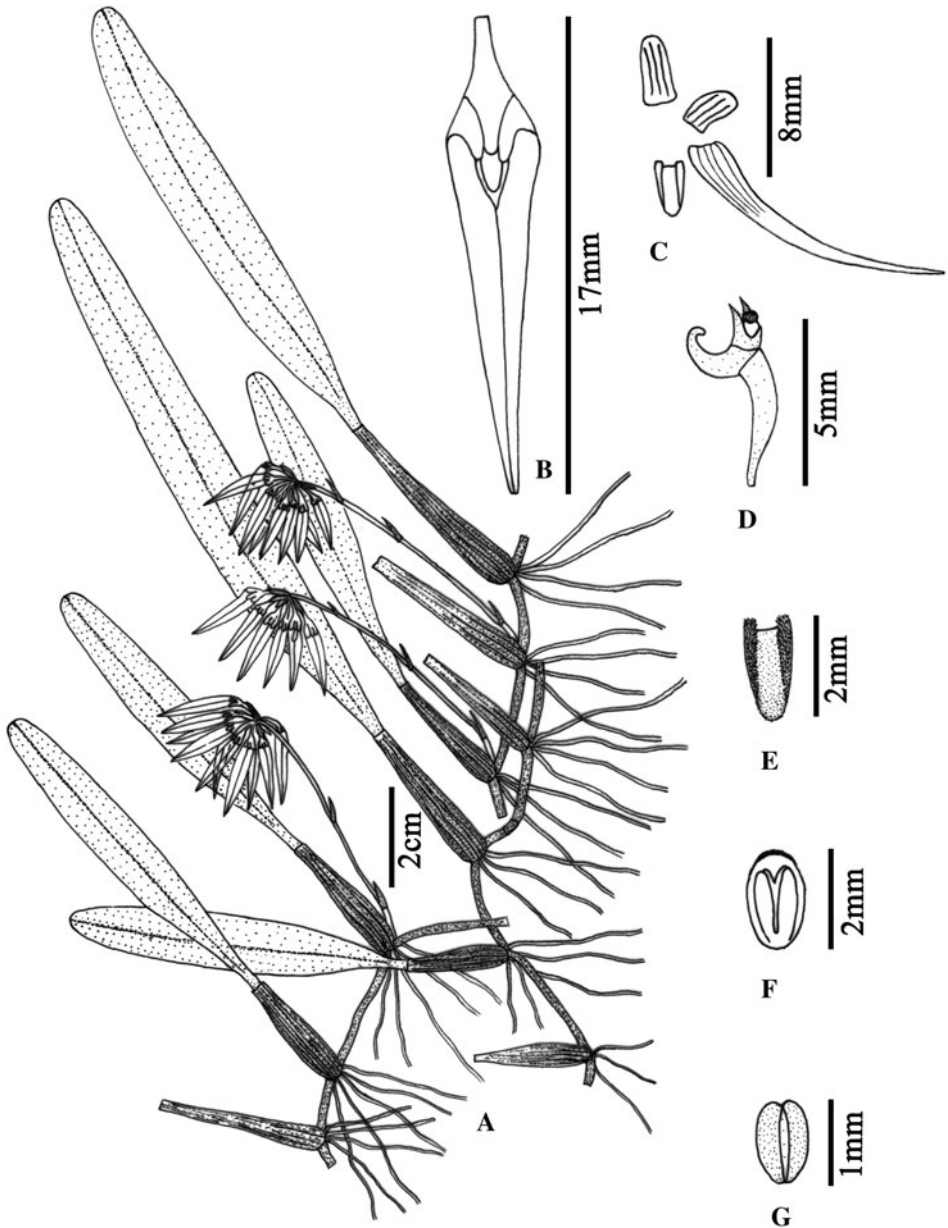


FIG. 1. *Bulbophyllum nepalense* Raskoti & Ale. A, flowering plant; B, flower front view; C, dorsal sepal, lateral sepals and lip (spread out); D, pedicel, ovary and column; E, lip; F, anther cap; G, pollinia. All drawn by the first author from the type specimen.

diameter, with 3–4 tubular 7–10 mm long sheaths; floral bracts narrowly lanceolate, cymbiform, 4–6 mm long, apex acuminate. *Pedicel* and ovary 5–7 mm long, terete. *Flowers* 1.5–1.7 cm long, dorsal sepal and petals pale yellow with prominent deep



FIG. 2. *Bulbophyllum nepalense* Raskoti & Ale. A, plants in the natural habitat; B, flowers (front view).

violet stripes, lateral sepals yellow with reddish veins at the base, lip cream with densely arranged dark purple markings. *Dorsal sepal* oblong, 4×1.5 mm, 3-veined, margin entire, apex obtuse and emarginate; lateral sepals linear, falcate, base weakly oblique, $15\text{--}17 \times 2$ mm, 4-veined, abaxially sparsely papillate, their upper and lower edges connate, apex acute-acuminate. *Petals* obliquely oblong, $3 \times c.1.1$ mm, margins entire or scabrid, apex obtuse. *Lip* decurved, ligulate, $c.2\text{--}2.5 \times 1$ mm, fleshy, attached to the end of the column-foot by a mobile joint, base grooved, two strips of papillae or short hairs on the adaxial side close to the margins, apex obtuse. *Column* c.1.6 mm long, with wings slightly dilated at the base; column-foot c.2 mm long, stelidia subtriangular, c.1.5 mm long; anther cap c.0.7 mm long, papillate. *Pollinia* 4, elongated.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality in central Nepal.

Habitat. Epiphytic in shrubs, growing in full shade in moist humid areas in *Quercus* forest.

Flowering time. July–August.

Etymology. The epithet *nepalense* is derived from the name of the country where the type specimen was collected.

Bulbophyllum nepalense is similar to *Bulbophyllum retusiusculum* Rchb.f., with which it shares the oblong dorsal sepal, the elliptic petals and the oblong decurved ligulate lip (Pearce & Cribb, 2002; Chen & Vermeulen, 2009). It differs from *Bulbophyllum*

retusiusculum by having narrow pseudobulbs, the falcate, acute-acuminate lateral sepals, and two strips of papillae or short hairs on the adaxial side of the lip, close to the margins.

Another species, *Bulbophyllum tigrinum* Hance, is somewhat similar to *Bulbophyllum nepalense* in petals and lip shape but *B. tigrinum* differs in having short pseudobulbs, ovate dorsal sepals (Chen & Vermeulen, 2009; Gloria *et al.*, 2011) and lip apex with hyaline upturned protuberance (Seidenfaden, 1973).

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