

NOTES RELATING TO THE FLORA OF BHUTAN: XVII  
Zingiberaceae

R. M. SMITH

A new species of *Hedychium*, *H. griersonianum*, is described and its relationship to *H. ellipticum* discussed. Two new combinations are made in *Stahlianthus*, *S. involucratus* (King ex Baker) R. M. Smith, for which a lectotype is selected, and *S. andersonii* (Baker) R. M. Smith.

***Hedychium griersonianum*** R. M. Smith, **species nova** *H. elliptico* Ham. ex J. E. Smith  
ob folia elliptica, ligulam rubram et bracteas unifloras similis, sed inflorescentia magis  
elongata, floribus multo minoribus, et anthera rubra differt. **Fig. 1A.**

Leafy shoots c. 1m tall. *Leaves* subsessile or very shortly petiolate, 30–35 × 8–10cm, elliptic acuminate, glabrous. *Ligule* red, 1cm long, membranous, entire, pubescent centrally on back; sheaths glabrous. *Inflorescence* drooping, c. 12 × 6cm, elliptic, main axis pubescent; bracts green, imbricating, 1–2 × 0.5–0.8cm, oblong acute with prominent hyaline margins, each subtending a single flower; bracteoles 1cm long, tubular. *Flowers* cream; calyx 2–2.5cm long, obscurely 3-dentate and lightly pubescent at apex; corolla tube 3.5cm long; lobes 2.5–3cm long, linear, acute; lateral staminodes 1.5cm long, 0.2–0.3cm at the widest part, unguiculate, limb narrowly elliptic; labellum 1cm long or a little more, unguiculate in lower, limb 0.4cm wide, elliptic, bilobed in upper  $\frac{1}{3}$ ; filament 2.5–3cm long; anther crimson, 0.6–1cm long; stigma ciliate at mouth; style linear, hidden in a groove in filament which continues within corolla; ovary pubescent. *Fruit* unknown.

Type: S Bhutan: Sarbhang district, Sarbhang-Chirang rd, 19km above Sarbhang, 26° 57' 90" 14' E, 1100m, steep rocky slope in hot forest, flowers fragrant, perianth cream, 1 vi 1979. *Grierson & Long* 1547 (holo. E).

Additional material seen:

S BHUTAN: Chukka district, Marichong 'Mirichoma', 3500', scented, yellow, 3 vii 1914, *Cooper* 1152.

This species is dedicated to the late Mr A. J. C. Grierson, senior author of the *Flora of Bhutan*.

In the vegetative state it is impossible to distinguish *H. griersonianum* from *H. ellipticum* (Fig. 1B), and the drooping inflorescence with its imbricating bracts is also common to both species. *H. griersonianum* differs in the more elongate inflorescence, considerably smaller flowers (those of *H. ellipticum* may be up to 15cm long) which, except for the crimson anther, are uniformly cream throughout, and in the more shortly exerted corolla tube. *Cooper* 1152 deviates in the entirely glabrous ligule.

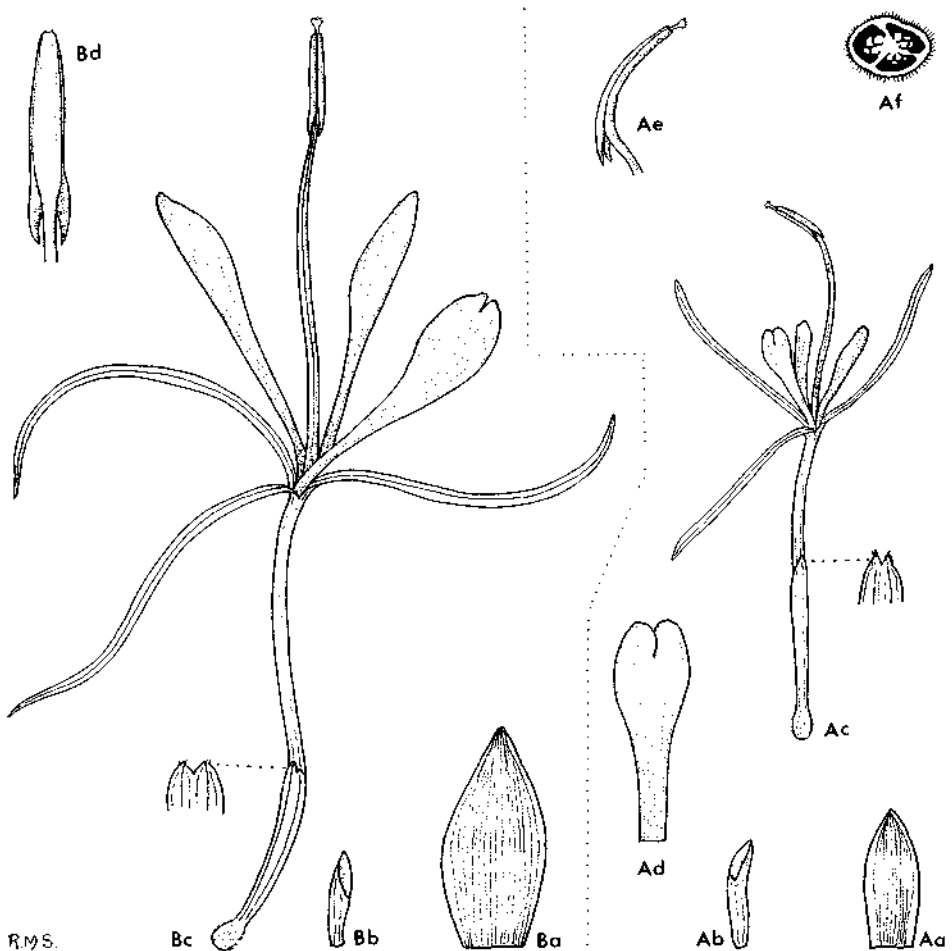


FIG. 1. A. *Hedychium griersonicum* R. M. Smith: Aa, bract x 1; Ab, bracteole x 1; Ac, flower x 1; Ad, labellum x 3; Ae, anther from the side x 2; Af, ovary in T.S. x 4. B. *H. ellipticum* Ham. ex Smith: Ba, bract x 1; Bb, bracteole x 1; Bc, flower x 1; Bd, anther from the rear x 2. All from spirit material. A, Grierson & Long 1547; B, Grierson & Long 2160.

***Stahlianthus invoicratus* (King ex Baker) R. M. Smith, *comb. nov.***

**Basionym:** *Kaempferia involucrata* King ex Baker in Hook.f., Fl.Brit.Ind. 6:231 (1890).  
**Lectotype** (selected here): Darjeeling; Rangirum, 1877, Hort. Calcutta Jaffray s.n. (K). Also in Assam; Jenkins s.n. (n.v.).

***Stahlianthus andersonii* (Baker) R. M. Smith, *comb. nov.***

**Basionym:** *Kaempferia andersonii* Baker in Hook.f., Fl.Brit.Ind. 6:321 (1890).  
**Type:** Burma, Hort. Calcutta, Anderson s.n. (CAL, n.v.).

In transferring the Thai *Kaempferia macrochlamys* Baker to *Stahlianthus* O. Kuntze, Craib remarked 'To *Stahlianthus* also belong *K. involucrata* and probably *K. andersonii*.' He did not make formal combinations.

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This small genus of perhaps half a dozen species has a distribution ranging from N Thailand to Indo-China and the Himalaya; it may also occur in the Philippines. It is distinguished from *Kaempferia* by the conspicuous bell-like involucre which surrounds the inflorescence, the emarginate or only shortly bifid labellum and, *fide* Kuntze, the absence of epigynous glands. No recent collections have been seen and inflorescences, either living or preserved in alcohol are badly needed since their structure is poorly known.