

## One new records of *Bulbophyllum* Thou. (Orchidaceae) from Baratang for Andaman Islands.

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### ABSTRACT

*Bulbophyllum patens* King ex Hook. f. a wild indigenous orchid collected from Baratang, Middle Andaman is being reported here as new records for the Bay Islands.

**Keywords:** Andaman, Baratang, *Bulbophyllum*, Islands.

### INTRODUCTION

*Bulbophyllum* Thou is a pantropical genus of the family Orchidaceae with over 1200 species (Vermeulen, 1991). They are mostly epiphytes and occasionally terrestrials. In India, 97 species are recorded of which 35 are endemic (Satishkumar and Manilal, 1994). From Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far 8 species have been reported to occur (Sampathkumar and Sreekumar, 2002) and may increase this number in future.

During the course of research work on Orchids of Andaman & Nicobar Island the author has collected one interesting orchid and identified with the aids of Saeidenfaden & Wood (1992) as *Bulbophyllum patens* King ex Hook. f. of the section *Stenochilus*. The same are so far known to occur in Malaysia, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Himalayas and North East of India (Mathew, 1998). The present collection of this species from Baratang, Middle Andaman extends its range of occurrence and form addition to the orchids of Bay Islands.

### Taxonomic Description

A brief description of the wild indigenous orchid along with a color photograph is provided for further collection and identification-

*Bulbophyllum patens* King ex Hook. f., Flora of British India. 6: 187, 1890; Ic. T. 2954, 1892. (Fig. 1)

Plant epiphyte, with a hairy creeping rhizome, 4-5 mm thick, with 4-4.5 cm between each ellipsoid remote pseudobulbs; pseudobulbs 1-1.2 cm, rounded to attenuated at base, entire, retuse to emarginated at apex, which is enveloped basally by a ring of veins left from an ephemeral sheath and carrying a single, apical, elliptic-oblong, shortly bilobed apically, fleshy leaf. Leaves 18-20 cm long and 4-4.5 cm broad, dark green. Flower blooms on a 8-9 cm long, arching inflorescence with single flower. Flower 4-4.5 cm long, flower purple with some yellow spot, 2-2.5 cm long; sepal elliptic, 10-12\*3-5 mm, caudate at apex, 1-nerved, glabrous; lateral sepal free, column 0.5 mm long; pollinia 2.

**Flowering:** June to July.

**Ecology:** Found growing epiphytically on moss covered tree trunks at an elevation of 95 m.



Fig. 1: *Bulbophyllum patens* King ex Hook. f.

**Distribution:** India, Thailand, Malaysia, Java, Sumatra and Borneo.

**Specimen Examined:** India, Middle Andaman, Baratang, P. K. Sikdar, ANI, 139.

**Medicinal Value:** Pseudobulb extract are applied on forehead to cure headache by the Jarawa tribes of Middle Andaman.

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