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Book Review: **Wild Orchids of Tinsukia District** of Assam, North East India

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The district of Tinsukia, in the extreme northeastern part of India, covers an area of 3790 square kilometers (about 1463 sq. miles). By way of comparison, particularly for Texas readers of the MIOS *Journal*, Tinsukia is larger than Victoria County (2302 sq. km) and a little smaller than Hidalgo County (4100 sq. km.). However, the climate of Tinsukia is tropical/subtropical and although it is more or less a valley, it is sandwiched between the mountainous Arunchal Pradesh foothills of the Himalayan Range and mountains eastward in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

The author has enumerated 102 species of orchids of the Tinsukia District, many of which are well known to orchidists of the Western hemisphere. Still, this area and its orchid richness remains relatively unknown among Western World orchidists, and the ethnobotanical information about the orchids of Tinsukia is generally even less known.

This work has evolved from about seventeen years of the author's exploring, culturing, and seriously studying and publishing about the orchids of this and other districts allied to Tinsukia. The diagrammatic figures are excellent and the floral photographs are of such high quality that it makes the reader wish each was much larger. The printing and color quality in this book are also excellent.

Several orchid species presented in this work will be new to many Western readers, while others such as *Dendrobium aphyllum*, *Phaius tankervilleae*, *Vanda tessellata*, and others have been long known in orchid collections. However, each case of the 102 species enumerated, offers not only a botanical description, but flowering, habitat, and distribution information as well.

Orchid books of this quality tend to be expensive, but this one, ordered from the publisher or author, may be expected to cost in the 25-30 dollar range including shipping charges. It's a bargain price for a book well worth owning!

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