
**THRIXSPERMUM FORMOSANUM (HAYATA) SCHLTR. (ORCHIDACEAE)
FROM KARBI ANGLONG (ASSAM):
A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA**

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Abstract

A new record for India, *Thrixspermum formosanum* (Hayata) Schltr. (Fig. 1) has been described for the first time from Karbi Anglong (Assam). A detailed description and illustrations with photographs have been provided in this communication.



Fig. 1. *Thrixspermum formosanum* (Hayata) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 4: 273 1919. Digital photo Tues-01Feb-11. plant in situ, Karbi, Anglong, Assam, India.

Key words: *Thrixspermum*, *Thrixspermum formosanum*, Orchidaceae, new record, India

INTRODUCTION

During the field explorations in Karbi Anglong districts of Assam in March, 2011, under Karbi Anglong Documentation Program, collected a species of *Thrixspermum* in flower bud condition. The species was grown at the Regional Orchids Germplasm Conservation and Propagation Centre (Assam Circle), Assam where it flowered in March, 2012. On critical examination, it turned out to be *Thrixspermum formosanum* (Hayata) Schltr. which is earlier reported from China, Vietnam and Taiwan (Chen *et al.* 2009). Scanning through the literature (Misra, 2007; Kumar & Manilal 1994; Hooker, 1890; Pradhan, 1979) reveals that it was earlier not recorded from India, hence the present collection represents its first record for India. A detailed enumeration of the species have been prepared based on the fresh specimens along with habitat, colour photographs of inflorescence, single flower, mature fruits, present status, distribution within Assam and geographical distribution is provided here to authenticate the new record and facilitate its easy identification.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

Thrixspermum formosanum (Hayata) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 4: 273 (1919) (Fig. 2). Liu & Su, Fl. Taiwan 5: 1112. 1978. Chen *et al.* Orchidaceae, in Fl. China. 25: 468. 2009. *Sarcochilus formosanus* Hayata, J. Coll. Sci. Imp. Univ. Tokyo 30: 336 (1911). *Dendrocolla pricei* Rolfe, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1913: 144 (1913). *Thrixspermum pricei* (Rolfe) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 4: 274 (1919). *Thrixspermum sasaoi* Masam., Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Formosa 24: 280 (1934). *Pteroceras pricei* (Rolfe) Aver., Prelim. list Vietnam. Orchids 2: 120 (1988).

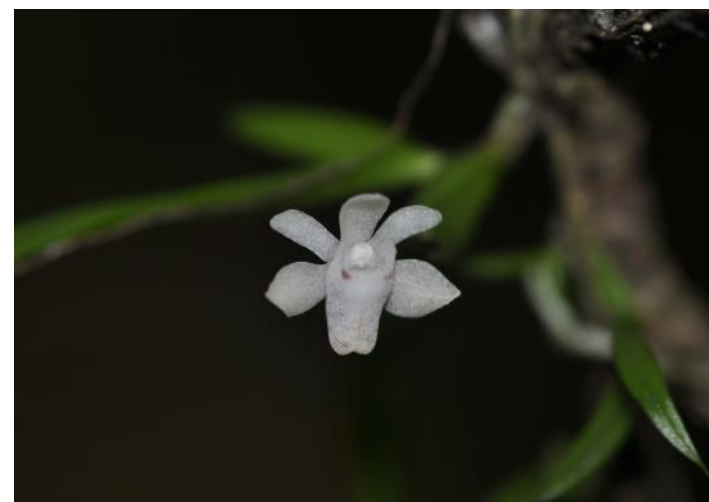


Fig. 2. *Thrixspermum formosanum*, flower, frontal aspect.



Fig. 3. *Thrixspermum formosanum*, flower, frontal aspect, with plant.

Plant: monopodial epiphyte, 5–8 cm tall; stems very small, 1–2 cm long, with many leaves (Fig. 3).

Leaf: nearly basal, abaxially often spotted with purple, linear-lanceolate or narrowly oblong, 4–6 × 0.4–0.9 cm, fleshy, acute, sometimes slightly bilobed at apex.

Inflorescence: 4–6 cm long; rachis short, slender (Figs. 4, 5).



Fig. 5 *Thrixspermum formosanum*, flower, frontal aspect.

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Flowers: (Figs. 6, 7), 1.2 cm across, white, with brownish stripes on lip, fragrant. Dorsal sepal oblong or elliptic, 0.5–0.7 × 0.2–0.3 cm, obtuse; lateral sepals obliquely obovate or ovate-elliptic, 0.5–0.7 × 0.3–0.4 cm, acute or obtuse. Petals falcate-oblong, 0.5–0.7 × 0.15–0.25 cm, obtuse or subtruncate. Lip 0.4–0.5 cm, saccate at base, 3-lobed; lateral lobes erect, subovate, 0.2–0.3 cm, obtuse; mid-lobe inconspicuous; disk with long hairs and with a fleshy scalelike appendage; sac cylindrical, 6 mm, shallowly bilobed at apex. Column 0.2 cm. with a foot 0.2 cm long. Pollinia 4, 0.1 cm long.

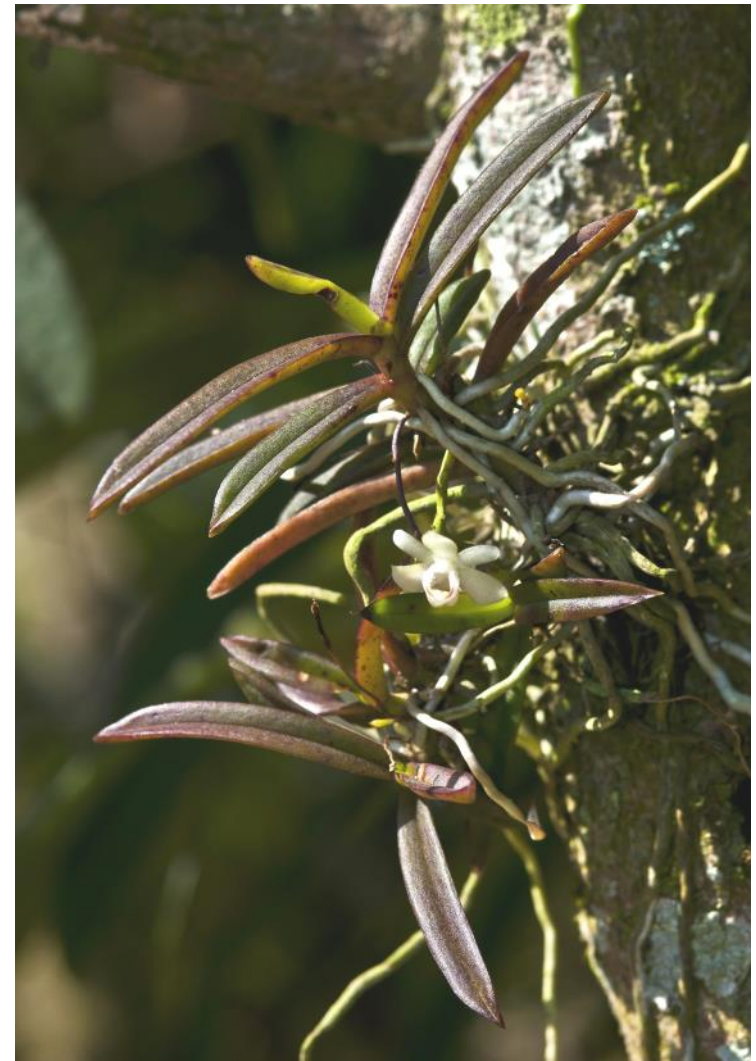


Fig. 6. *Thrixspermum formosanum*, plant. & flower on branch.

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Capsules: linear cylindrical, 5-8 cm long.

Flowering and Fruiting: February-March.

Habitat: Epiphytic on trees or branches in forests.

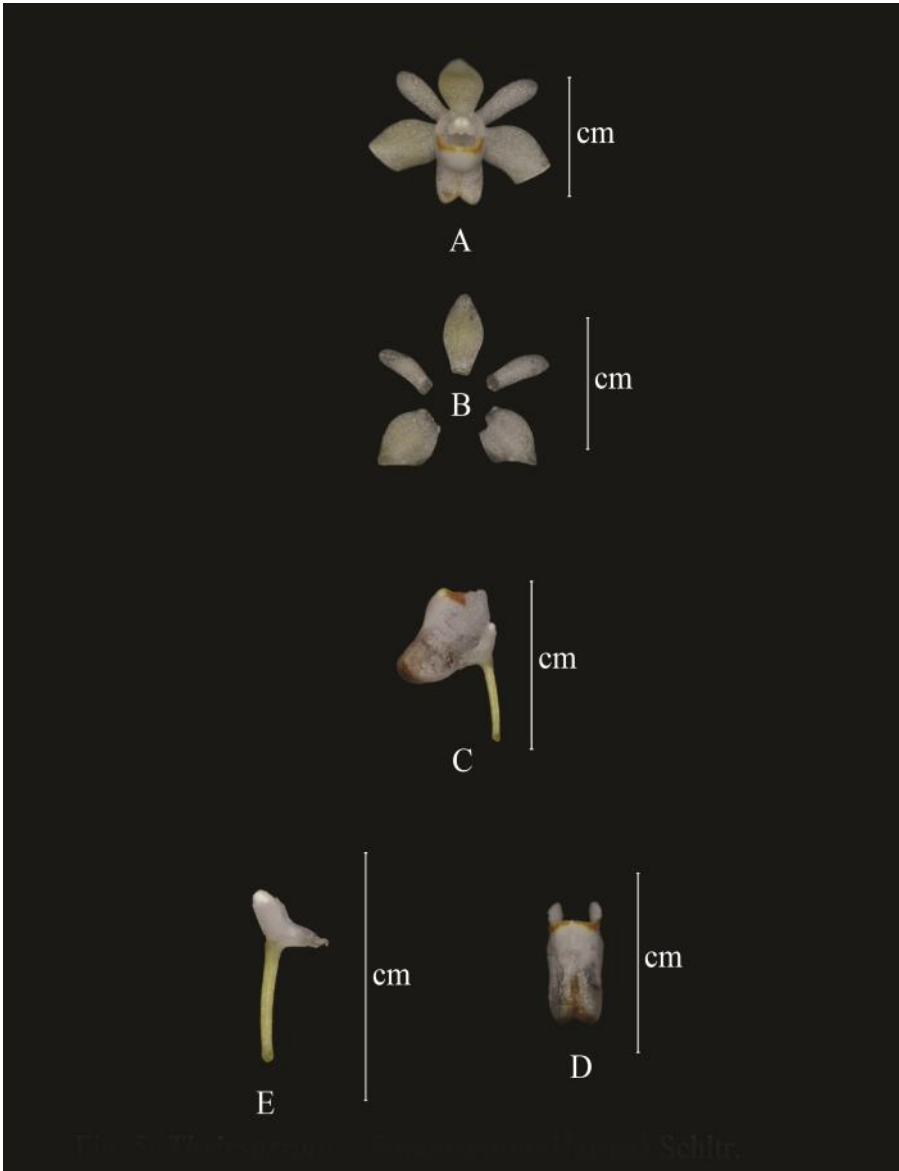


Fig. 7. *Thrixspermum formosanum* (Hayata) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 4: 273 (1919). A. Flower; B. Perigone; C. lip with ovary & column; D. lip; E. ovary & column.

General distribution: India (Assam), China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Status: Rare; the species was found only in one locality.

Note: *Thrixspermum formosanum* (Hayata) Schltr. is similar to *Thrixspermum pygmaeum* (King & Pantl.) Holt. Gogoi *et al.*, 2012 described this species as *Thrixspermum pygmaeum* but differs by having abaxially purple spotted leaves and a white, with brownish stripes, lipped flower.

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