*Peristylus manii* (H.G. Reichenbach) Mukerjee

[Orchidaceae] - a new record for Nepal

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Abstract

*Peristylus manii* (H.G. Reichenbach) Mukerjee [Orchidaceae] is reported from Nepal for the first time. A morphological description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

**Key words:** Peristylus manii, New record, Nepal

*Peristylus manii* (H.G. Reichenbach) Mukerjee is recorded from India (Khasia Hills & Manipur) and China (S. Sichuan & C. and W. Yunnan) (Hooker f. 1888 – 1890; Chen *et al* 2009) but the species has not been recorded from Nepal (Hara *et al*. 1978; Banerji & Pradhan 1984; Press *et al*. 2000; Rajbhandari & Dahal 2004, 2010) so far.

During an intensive survey of species diversity in forests (Scheidegger *et al*. 2010), an orchid species was recorded from Shyo, Lho Village Development Committee (VDC), Gorkha District, Central Nepal which resembled *Herminium* in gross morphological characters. The orchid was found on an open meadow adjacent to a *Pinus-Rhododendron* forest.

On critical examination the specimen was identified as *Peristylus manii* (H.G. Reichenbach) Mukerjee. The genus *Peristylus* is characterized by the presence of a short, pendulous, scrotiform spur. The species *Peristylus manii* was confirmed by the presence of 1 or 2 linear leaves 0.4 – 0.5 cm wide and a labellum that is 3-lobed near the middle with lateral lobes as long as the middle lobe. The specimen was also compared with the specimen of *P. manii* (Kingdon Ward 18706 deposited at AMES) collected from Khasia Hills in August 1949.

Plant 14 - 16 cm tall. Stem thin, with one tubular sheath at base. Leaves 1 or 2, 3 – 4 x 0.4 – 0.5 cm, linear, acuminate, base extended to long tubular sheath. Inflorescence 8 - 10 cm, flowers distant, laxly 8 – 10 flowered; flowers ca. 10 mm apart, spirally arranged, green; floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, 4.5 – 5 x 2 mm, as long as or slightly shorter than ovary, acuminate. Ovary 5 – 5.5 mm including pedicel. Dorsal sepal 1.5 x 0.8 mm, oblong-ovate, concave, subacute; lateral sepals 1.5 x 0.5 mm, oblong, acute. Petals 1.25 x 0.25 – 0.5 mm,
ovate acuminate to oblong acuminate. Labellum ca. 1.6 – 2.0 mm long, spreading, narrowly oblong, ecallose, 3-lobed near middle; lateral lobes diverging 1 x 0.2 mm, as long as mid-lobe, narrowly oblong; mid-lobe 1 x 0.5 mm, oblong to triangular; spur pendulous, scrotiform, ca. 1 mm, obtuse.

**Distribution:** Nepal (Shyo Lho), India (Meghalaya), China (Sichuan & Yunnan).

**Flowering:** October

**Specimen Examined:** Central Nepal, Gandaki Zone, Gorkha District, Shyo Lho VDC, 3000 m, 10 October 2012, S. K. Rai, J. P. Gajurel, S. Devkota, Bibas Rai & Bhim Rai, 25624, KATH.

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**LITERATURE CITED**


