

NEW RECORDS OF PLANTS FOR INDIA : ORCHIDS—I

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A B S T R A C T

This note presents three species of orchids viz. *Bulbophyllum penicillium* Par. & Reichb. f., *Dendrobium infundibulum* Lindl. and *Dendrobium podagraria* Hook. f. as new records for India and presents data on their habitat and distribution, both in India and abroad.

During the course of our "Systematic studies in the family Orchidaceae in Eastern India" (cf. Katagi & Panigrahi, 1962 unpublished), a few species of orchids collected from various parts of Orissa, Bihar, Assam and N. E. F. A. have turned up as new records of plants for India, about 8 species of which were listed by Panigrahi (1962). To facilitate their identifications, both in the herbaria and in the field, faithful diagrams of dissections of floral parts, detailed descriptions and habit-sketches are considered essential.

This note presents our studies on these aspects on three such species—viz. *Bulbophyllum penicillium* Par. & Reichb. f., *Dendrobium infundibulum* Lindl. and *Dendrobium podagraria* Hook. f. and furnishes notes on their habitat and distribution, both in India and abroad.

Bulbophyllum penicillium Par. & Reichb. f. in *Trans. Linn. Soc.* 30: 151, 1874; Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 5: 764, 1890.

Epiphytes; rhizome stout, about 5 mm. in diam., lower side covered with dense stout roots; pseudobulbs ovoid, about 2.5 cm. long, stout, one-leaved; leaves linear, coriaceous, acute, 16-18 × 3 cm., margin entire, petiole 3-5.5 cm. long, channelled; inflorescence arising from the base of the pseudobulb, drooping, 30-35 cm. long, raceme about 20 cm. long, tomentose, lax-flowered; sheaths about 8 mm. long; bracts lanceolate, acuminate, 5-6 mm. long; pedicel with ovary about 4 mm. long, slender; sepals narrow, sub-equal, 5-nerved, lanceolate, acuminate, about 1 cm. long; petals small, oblong, crenate; lip sessile on the foot of the column, mobile, lanceolate, crenately hirsute with hairs, about 6 mm. long.

Flowering: May to August.

Occurrence in Eastern India: Assam, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Jorain (16 km. from Jowai), Panigrahi 21926. Rare.

Distribution: Tenasserim; Sikkim.

Dendrobium infundibulum Lindl. in *Jour. Linn. Soc.* 3: 16, 1859; *Gard. Chron.* 1194, 1862; Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 5: 721, 1890.

Epiphytes; stem 20-30 cm. long, internodes—about 3-3.5 cm. long, ribbed, sheaths covered with black deciduous hairs; leaves oblong, sessile, 8-10 × 2-2.3 cm.; lower surface covered with scattered deciduous black hairs, base amplexicaul, tip notched; flowers very large in terminal or lateral racemes, white with golden or yellowish stripes on disk, about 8 cm. in diam.; bracts about 1.3 cm. long, upper-surface covered with black hairs; pedicels with ovary about 4 cm. long, stout; sepals oblong-lanceolate, shortly acuminate, 5-7-nerved, 4.7-5 × 1.5 cm.; petals broadly elliptic or orbicular, acute, 7-9-nerved, about 4.6 × 3 cm.; mentum as long as the dorsal sepal, funnel-shaped, incurved; lip obovate-oblong, toothed, about 5 cm. long and 3.6 cm. broad along the side-lobes, side-lobes rounded, incurved, mid-lobe quadrate, apiculate, shortly 2-lobed, white with golden stripes on disk; column short and stout; pollinia 4, free, oblong.

Flowering: April.

Fruiting: September onwards.

Occurrence in Eastern India: Assam, Lushai Hills, Mustafi.

Distribution: Burma, Tenasserim.

Dendrobium podagraria Hook. f. in *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 5: 728, 1890.

Epiphytes; roots fibrous; stem pseudobulbous in the lower part which is about 1.5 cm. long, spindle-shaped, continuing upwards as a thin branched stem, 25-45 cm. long, internodes 20-30 × 2 mm., branched, terete; leaves elliptic-lanceolate, sessile, flat, apex rounded, glabrous, 9-11-nerved, about 4.5 × 5 mm., sheathed; sheaths covering the stem, about 2.2-4 cm. long, persistent or deciduous, glabrous, strongly striated, slightly longer than the internodes, drying to ash-grey; flowers arising from a tubercle at the nodes of the leafless branches, 1-2 together, white, erect, about 1.5 cm. in diam.; bracts 2, ovate-lanceolate, about 3-4 mm. long, concave, membranous, 4-6-nerved; pedicel about 1 cm. long, straight; dorsal sepal lanceolate, about 5 × 1.5 mm. with slightly wavy margin, 3-

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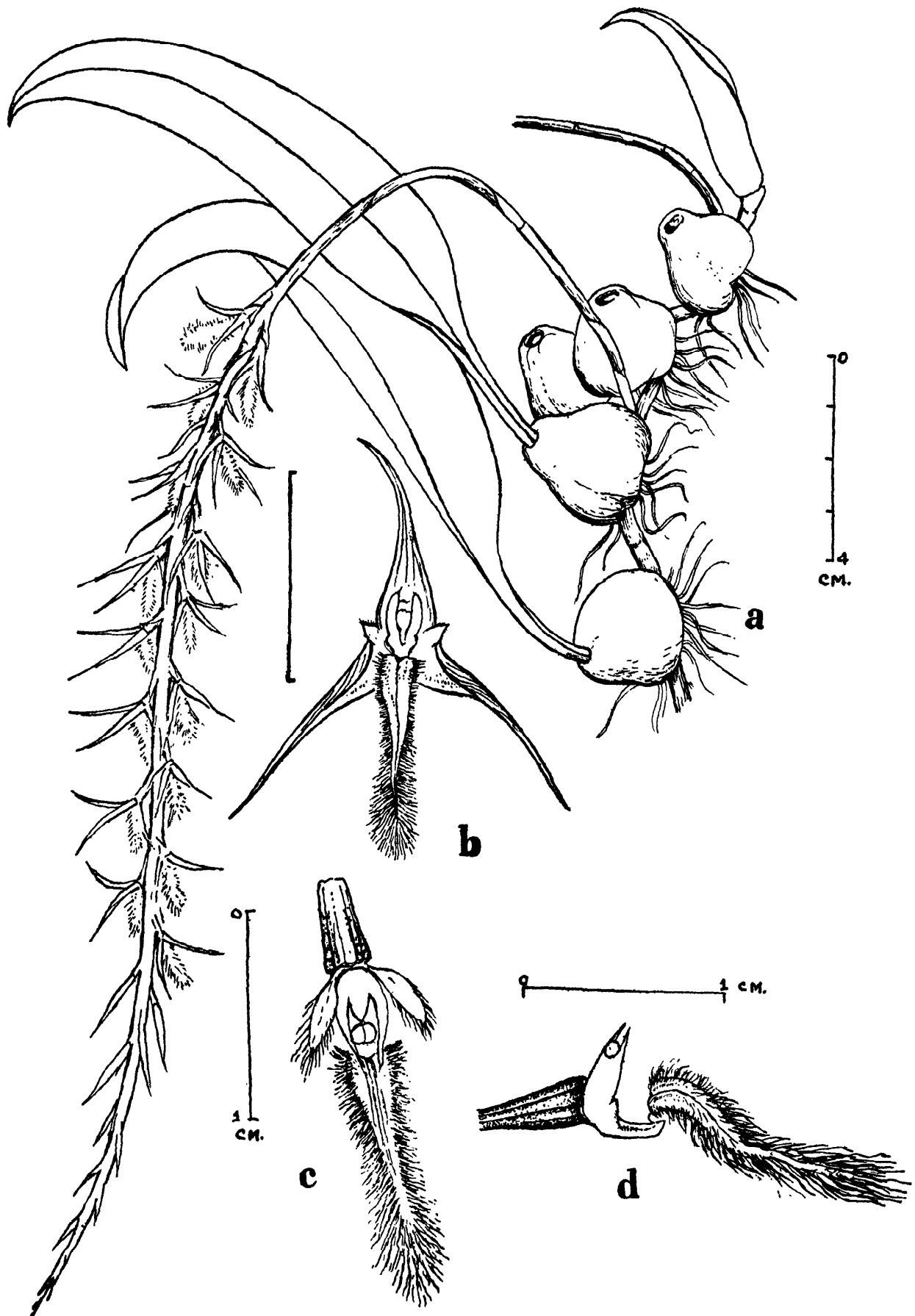


Plate I. *Bulbophyllum penicillium* Par. & Reichb. f. a. habit ; b. a flower ; c. & d. showing lip.

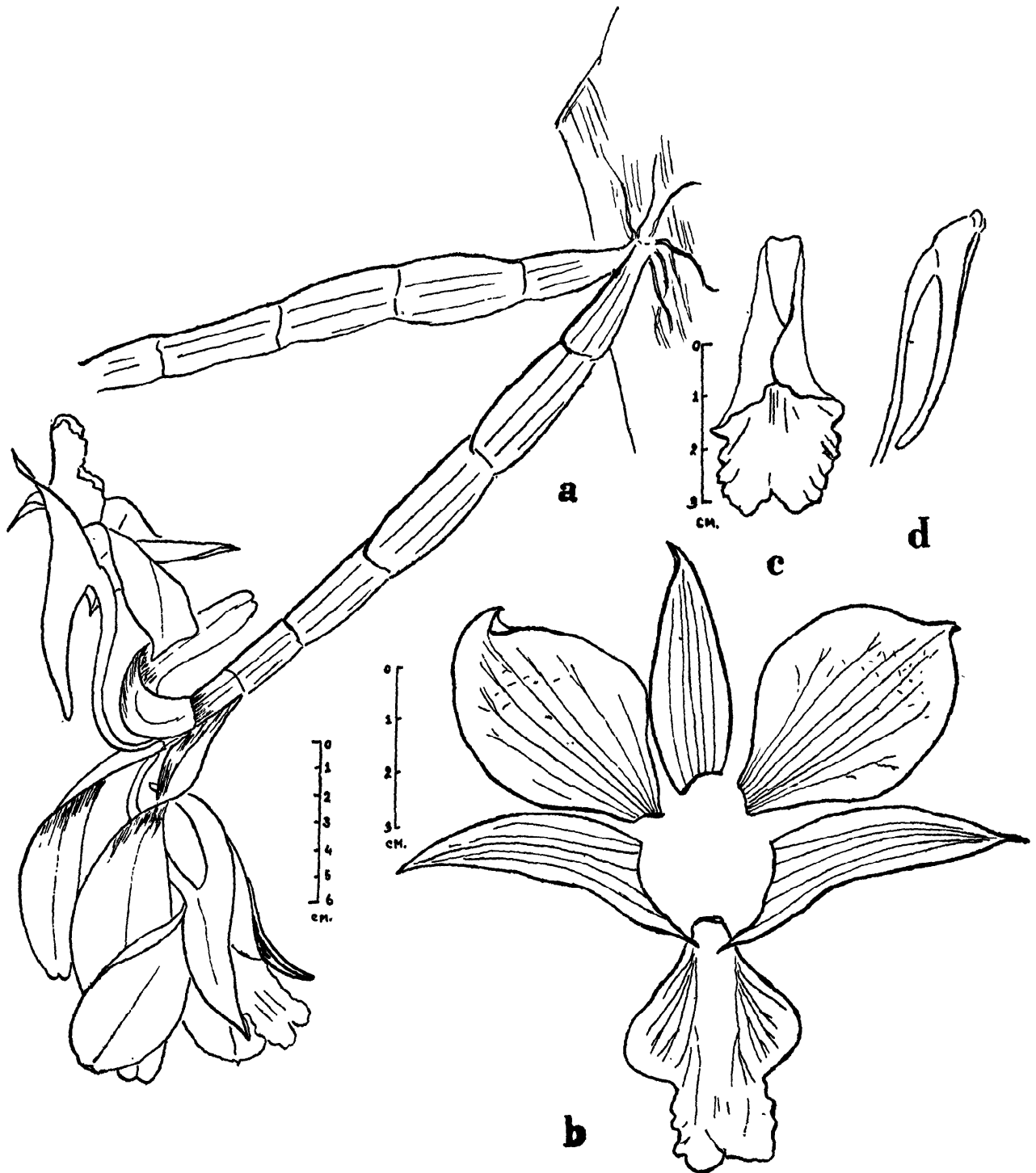
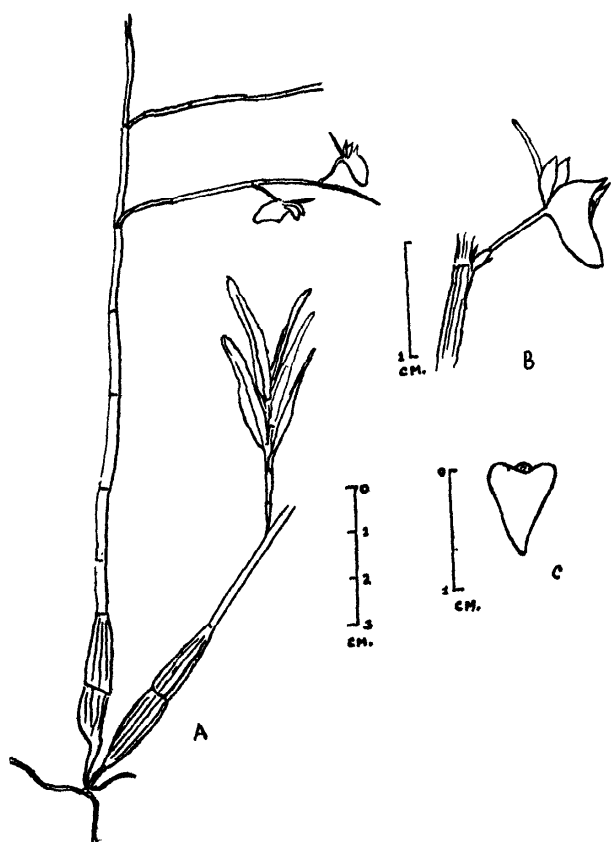


Plate II. *Dendrobium infundibulum* Lindl. a. habit ; b. parts of a flower ; c. lip ; d. column with spur.

Plate III. *Dendrobium podagraria* Hook. f.

nerved, lateral sepals about 8×5 mm., broadest at the base with acute free ends; 6-nerved (7-nerved according to Hooker); petals narrow, 3-nerved; mentum about 8 mm. long, straight or curved; lip as long as the lateral sepals or slightly shorter, obcordate, lateral lobes rounded, slightly emarginate, 5-6-nerved, mid-lobe shorter than lateral lobes, rounded, with a plate and an outgrowth in the sinus; column short; anther 2-celled with 4-free ovate-oblong pollinia; capsule not seen.

Flowering: August.

Occurrence in Eastern India: Assam, Cachar, D. F. O., 22879.

Distribution: Burma, Tenasserim.

LITERATURE CITED

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 PANIGRAHI, G. Cytology and Systematics of Indian Orchidaceae. *Proc. Summer School Botany*, Darjeeling, 249-260, 1962.