

Specimens examined: West Bengal: Darjeeling, Lloyd's Botanic Garden and Sukhna Reserve forest, Dec. 1966, Roy Chowdhury 264, 274, 558 and 545.

Previously reported only from Ceylon.

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HABENARIA DENTATA (SW.) SCHLTR., A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA FROM WESTERN HIMALAYA

Habenaria dentata (Sw.) Schltr., a terrestrial orchid is being recorded for the first time from India. It was collected from Kumaon Himalaya at Bageshwar and Thal, District Almorah, U.P., at an altitude of about 1150 m. The orchid was found growing in a few small patches on the half decomposed humus in gullies and on grassy slopes under the partial shade of *Pinus roxburghii* Sarg.

Habenaria dentata (Sw.) Schltr. in Fedde, Repert. Beih. IV. 125. 1919; Seidenfaden et (Tem) Smitinand in Orchids Thailand 1: 39. t. 28, 29. 1959. *Orchis dentata* Swartz in Act. Holm. 207. 1800. *Platanthera dentata* Lindl. Gen. et. Sp. Orch. 296. 1836.

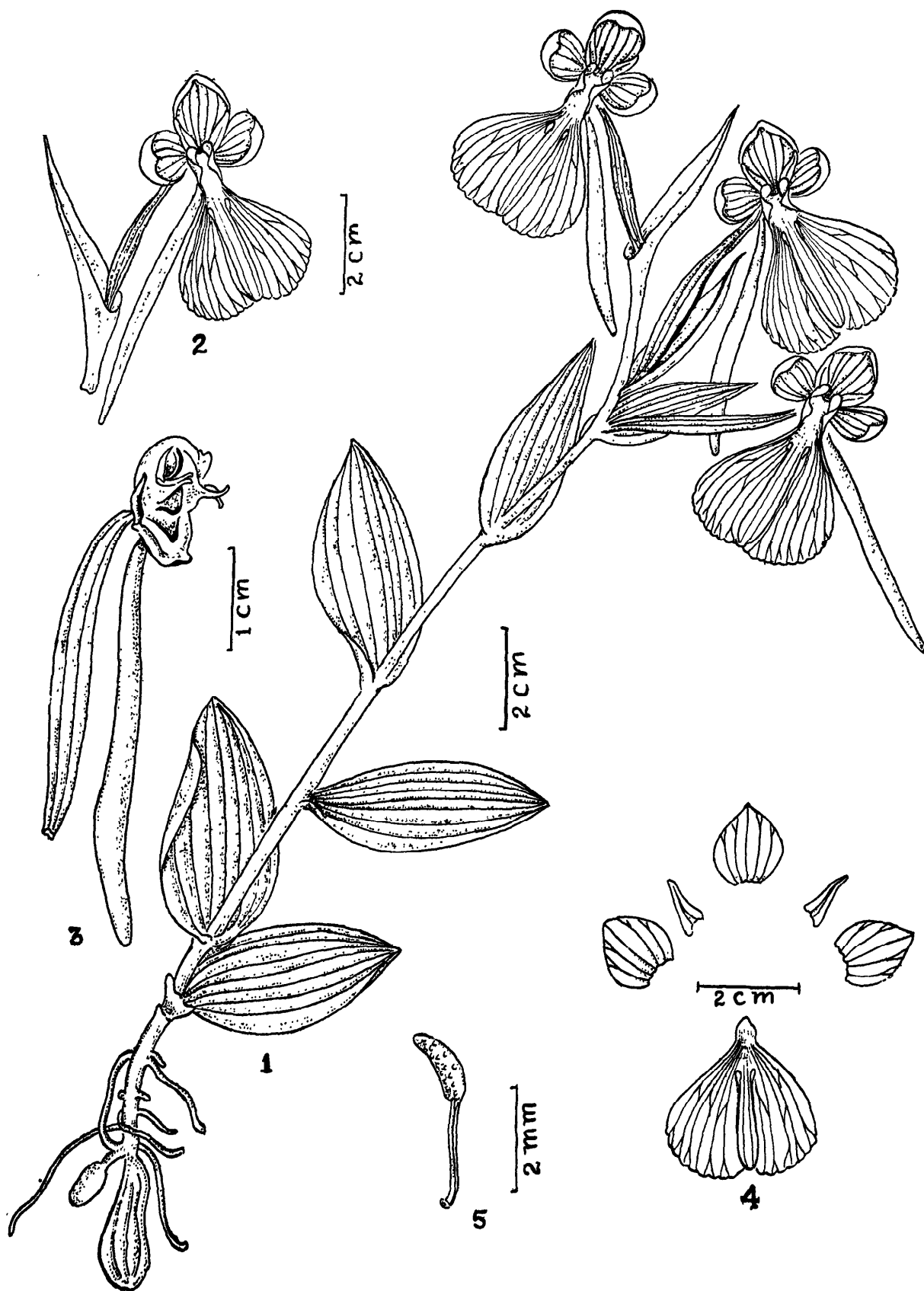
Terrestrial orchid, erect, 30-40 cm high, unbranched; root tuberous. Stem minutely grooved, glabrous. Leaves with sheathing petiole, elliptic lanceolate, many nerved, glabrous. Flowers terminal, milk-white, bracteate, 2-4 flowers on each plant, odourless; sepals subequal; petals much smaller than sepals, triangular. Lip with a long spur swollen at base, three lobed; side lobes rounded, margin dentate 'with open dichotomous venation; midlobe linear, slightly shorter than

the side lobes, free nearly to the base. Anther adnate to the column. Pollinia pyriform. (Figs. 1-5).

A unique feature noticed in this species is the venation of the lip where it is dichotomously branched and free at tips in the side lobes. A similar condition is also noticed in the sepals.

This species is said to be highly variable and according to Dr. G. Seidenfaden (personal communication) this name is used for quite a variable group of plants, and some day a specialist may be able to single out several different units. Our plant differs in some respects from the more usual forms viz., its spur does not seem to be geniculate, and the upper part of the stem usually has a part with leaves reduced to sheaths. It has also been noticed by Dr. Summerhayes (according to Dr. M. P. Nayar, Keeper, Central National Herbarium, Calcutta) that a number of specimens in Kew Herbarium are abnormal.

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Habenaria dentata (Sw.) Schltr.
 Figs. 1-5 : 1. Plant with flowers. 2. Flower—front view. 3. Anther column, spur and ovary. 4. Floral parts.
 5. Pollinia.