

scaly, knotted at base of shoots; roots stout. *Stem* elongate. *Leaves* alternate, distichous, contemporaneous with the flowers; sheaths open; ligule short; nerves pinnate. *Spikes* one to several, radical, around the stem; peduncles slender, enclosed within imbricating bract-like scales; rachis long, slender; bracts several, ascending, 1-flowered; bracteole elliptic. *Flowers* successively opening from base upwards; calyx shallowly 3-lobed, split on one side; corolla tubular; lobes 3, posterior broader and apiculate; lateral staminodes 2, petaloid; lip obovoid, emarginate; stamen 1; filament short; connective broad; anther crest large, subreniform, entire; ovary 3-celled, placentas axile, ovules many; style lying in a staminal groove; stigma turbinate, hairy.

Type species: *Parakaempferia synantha* A. S. Rao & D. M. Verma sp. nov. Species one in Assam, India.

Parakaempferia synantha A. S. Rao & D. M. Verma sp. nov.

Rhizome ca 5 mm thick. *Stem* 40-60 cm high. *Leaves* 4-6, lower sessile, upper petioled; petiole upto 1 cm long; lamina lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, 13-24 cm long, 3.3-7 cm broad, base cuneate, apex caudate-acuminate, upper surface glabrous, lower pubescent, particularly along midrib at base; ligule 2-3 mm long, bilobed, pubescent. *Spikes* 1-3; peduncles 3-6 cm long, ca 1.5 mm thick, villous;

rachis 6-12 cm long, villous; bracts 7-11, lanceolate, convolute, 2-2.6 cm long, 6-8 mm broad, acute, scarious margined, pubescent, pinkish, bracteole 6.5-8 mm long, ca 4.5 mm broad, obtuse, pubescent. *Calyx* ca 1 cm long, pubescent; corolla tube equalling the bracts, white; corolla lobes oblong-lanceolate, 1.5-1.9 cm long, 6-9 mm broad, white with pinkish veins; lateral staminodes oblong, 1.7-2 cm long, 6-7 mm broad, rounded at apex, white with pinkish veins; lip broadly obovoid, 2.5-2.8 cm long, 2.2-2.5 cm broad, white with pinkish veins and a median fleshy band of twin close yellow lines from the base to about centre; filament slender, ca 2 mm long; connective ca 6 mm broad with inflexed edges, purple-red; anther ca 8 mm long; anther crest ca 6 mm high, ca 8 mm broad with deflexed tip, purple-red; ovary ellipsoid, ca 4 mm long, villous; style subequalling the stamen (Figs. 1-10).

Holotype *D. M. Verma* 46585 A, along Kana river, Chaldhowa, N. Lakhimpur, Assam, 22.5.1966 (CAL); isotypes *D. M. Verma* 46585 B-G (ASSAM).

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NERVILIA CRISPATA (BL.) SCHLTR.—A NEW RECORD FOR THE UPPER GANGETIC PLAIN

Rao in a recent account, recorded this interesting terrestrial orchid from several localities in south-western part of Peninsular India and also provided clarification in regard to its identity and nomenclature. In providing an ample description and many illustrations, he expressed the hope that his effort would aid in locating this curious orchid in other areas. During the course of plant collection in the neighbourhood of Rishikesh in Uttar Pradesh the writer of this note came across this orchid in the shaded parts of the Bibiwala Forest, about 8 km from Rishikesh. The present collection of the orchid so far away from its other known localities of occurrence in the sub-continent, viz., Sikkim and south-western India, is not only of

interest but also marks a new record for the entire Upper Gangetic Plain and north-western India. Near Rishikesh, the orchid flowers in June followed by the leaves in August.

Nervilia crispata (Bl.) Schltr. in Bot. Jahrb. 45: 402, 1911. *C. L. Malhotra* 38302 (BSD), Bibiwala Forest, Rishikesh, U.P., June 14, 1968 (flowers); Aug. 27, 1968 (leaves).

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REFERENCE

RAO A. S. *Nervilia crispata* (Bl.) Schltr.—an interesting ground orchid. *Bull. bot. Surv. India* 5: 63-65, 1963.