

ERIA MUSCICOLA (LINDL.) LINDL. VAR. *BREVILINGUIS*—A NEW VARIETY OF ORCHID FROM AGASTYAMALAI, SOUTH INDIA

Eria muscicola (Lindl.) Lindl. var. ***brevilinguis*** Joseph et Chandrasekaran, var. nov. ex Provincia Centrali Ceylonae cognita, est affinis *E. muscicola* (Lindl.) Lindl. var. *oblonga* Trim., a quo tamen differt, praesertim labello ligulato et sessili, non vero ovato-lanceolato ad basimque unguiculato; et in callo mediano ad basim.

Holotypus *Joseph* 44630 A (BSI/SC Acc. no. 86140) a clivis occidentalibus Agastyamalai, c. 1800 m (77°14'-77°15' E long. et 8° 36'-8° 37' N lat.) Trivandrum Dist. (Kerala), India meridionali, die 6.10.1973, est positus in Herbario Centro-nationali, Calcutta (CAL), et isotypi *Joseph* 44630 B-K (BSI/SC Acc. nos. 86141-86150) sunt positi in Madras Herbarium, Bot. Surv. India, Coimbatore (MH).

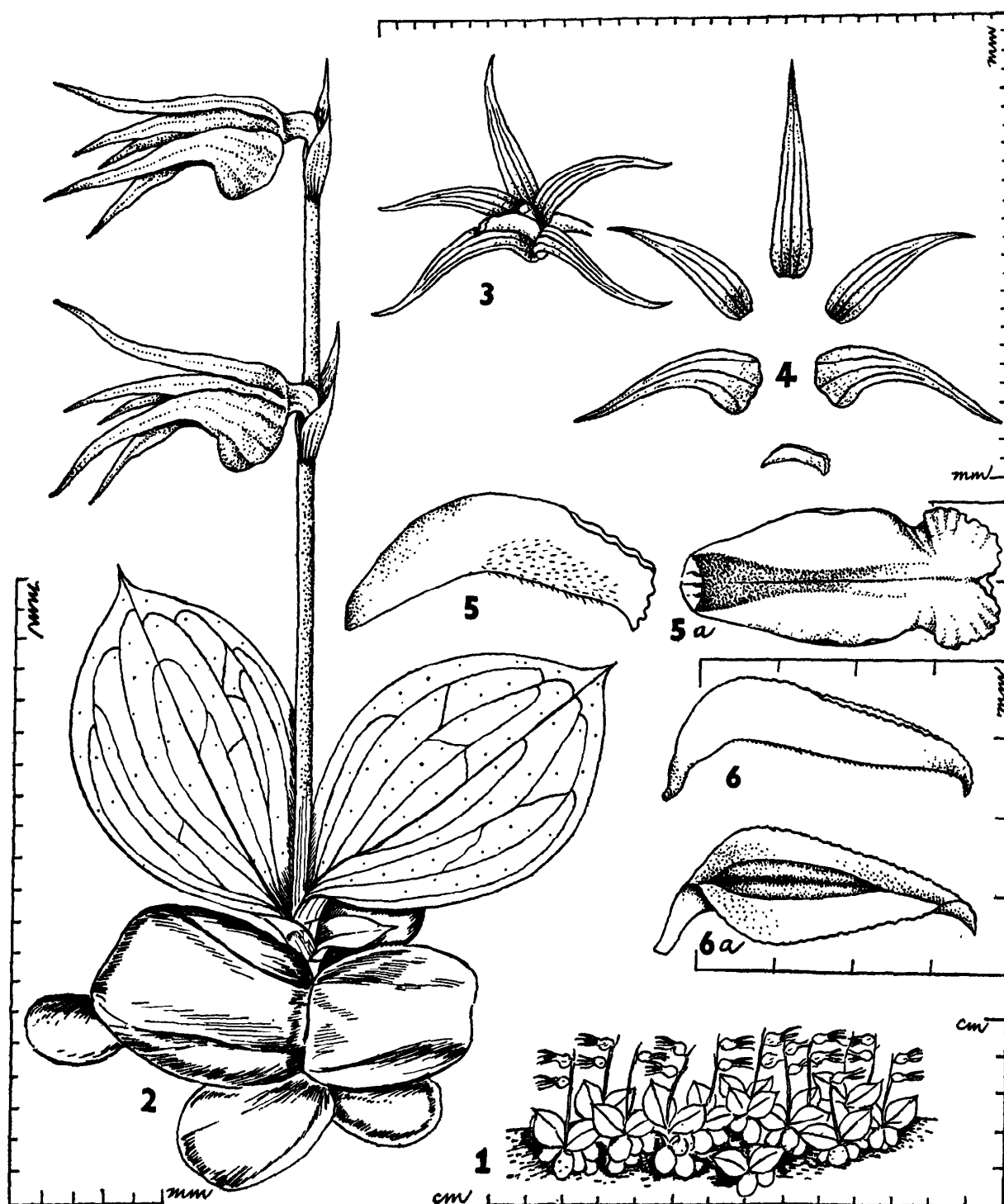
Eria muscicola (Lindl.) Lindl. var. ***brevilinguis*** Joseph et Chandrasekaran is allied to *E. muscicola* (Lindl.) Lindl. var. *oblonga* Trim. reported from Central Province, Ceylon from which it differs, mainly in the lip being ligulate and sessile instead of ovate-lanceolate and clawed towards base, and in having a median callus at its base instead of none.

Holotype *Joseph* 44630 A (BSI/SC Acc. no. 86140), from Western slopes of Agastyamalai ca 1800 m (77°14'-77°15' E long. and 8°36'-8°37' N lat.) Trivandrum District (Kerala), South India, on 6.10.1973 is deposited in Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL) and Isotypes *Joseph* 44630 B-K (BSI/SC Acc. nos. 86141 to 86150) are deposited in the Madras Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH).

Eria muscicola (Lindl.) Lindl. var. ***brevilinguis*** Joseph et Chandrasekaran var. nov.

Tiny, bulbous, creeping epiphytic orchid on branchlets of trees. *Pseudobulbs* moniliform, in large spreading clusters, 3.9 × 2.6 mm, more or less dorsiventrally compressed, ovoid to oblong, greenish-yellow, glab-

rous with one or two mild ridges, bereft of leaves. Fresh shoots from lower side of the bulbs, very short, ± 3.2 cm high (with the raceme), usually with two radical distichous leaves with one or more sheaths and inflorescence. *Leaves* 5.0-15.0 × 3.0-8.0 mm, ovate, finely scabrous, abruptly narrowed into a short conduplicate and articulated sheathing base, cuspidate at tip, many nerved; midrib prominent beneath. *Inflorescence* a raceme, 1.0-2.8 cm high, erect, 1-2 flowered only; scape filiform, short, with or without a sterile bract. *Flowers* very conspicuous, large (8.0-13.5 mm), greenish-yellow, secund, geniculate, perianth more or less spreading beyond the middle, very shortly pedicellate. *Bracts* $\pm 5.0 \times 2.5$ mm, lanceolate, acuminate, erect, encircling the peduncle and the pedicel, usually both fertile (rarely one sterile). *Ovary* short, ± 1 mm long, geniculate holding the flower at right angles to the peduncle. *Sepals* and *lateral petals* narrowly lanceolate, long acuminate at tip, 3-nerved. *Dorsal sepal* 7.5-12.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm; lateral sepals as long as or a little shorter than the dorsal, 2.5-3.5 mm broad towards the base, falcately lanceolate, united with the long incurved foot of the column forming a broad saccate mentum. *Lateral petals* 6.0-9.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, as broad as but shorter than the dorsal sepal. *Lip* $\pm 4 \times 2$ mm, inconspicuous, quite small compared to other perianth parts, sessile, immovably attached to the tip of the foot of the column, slightly deflexed at the middle, conduplicate, finely puberulous on the abaxial surface towards the distal half along the median sector, reflexed and slightly spreading towards the apex, ligulate when spread out, with a median oblong callus at base, closely trinerved along the median line, rounded and finely crumpled along the apical margin, more or less retuse at tip. *Column* very short; foot long, ± 3 mm, projecting downwards for about 1/3 of its length



Eria muscicola (Lindl.) Lindl. var. *brevilinguis* Joseph et Chandrasekaran, var. nov. (Joseph 44630A)

Figs. 1-6a: 1. Habit. 2. Whole plant. 3. Flower partly opened to show the lip. 4. Perigone spread out. 5. Lip, side view. 5a. Lip, spread out. 6 & 6a. Lip from Thwaites C.P. 2355, 6. Side view. 6a. Spread out.

and then bent forward for the rest. *Pollinia* 8, in 2 groups of 4 each, pyriform.

The *en masse* flowering of these tiny plants with their upright racemes of green-

ish-yellow flowers, almost concealing the rest of the plant body is an eye-catching and attractive sight.

Thwaites collection (Thwaites C. P. 2355)

from Central Province, Ceylon in the Madras Herbarium (under Acc. no. 62022) and referred to by Thwaites (1861), King & Pantling (1898) and Henry Trimen (1898) has been studied by the authors. The flowers are 2 or more per raceme, and smaller (± 5.5 mm long) than in our variety. Lip $\pm 4.0 \times 1.5$ mm, lanceolate, narrowed into a stalk, acute and reflexed at tip, margins wavy and without a callus at the base but trinerved along the median line (Figs. 6 & 6a).

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A NEW VARIETY OF *SAXIFRAGA POLUNINIANA* H. SMITH FROM WESTERN HIMALAYA

Saxifraga poluniniana* H. Sm. var. *mucronata Bhattacharyya et Viswanathan, var. nov. ad sectionem Kabschiam pertinens. *S. poluniniana* H. Sm. var. *poluniniana* similis sed foliis mucronatis, majoribus, calycibus erectis, acutis, floribus majoribus, et venarum numeris majoribus in petalis, differt.

Herba perennis pulvinos magnos (15-20 cm diametro) hemisphaericos formans; rami numerosi, filiformes, caespitosi, vetustiores atro-brunnei, rigidi, nudi cum ramentis foliorum basium. Folia caulina alternata, sessilia, patentia, vel parum recurvata, ad apicem rosulas imbricantes formantia, linearia ad oblonga, 5-7 foveolata, integra, anguste marginata, basi minute et parciter denticulato-ciliata, apice acuta, mucronata, nervi supra obscuri, infra prominentes, 6-12 mm longa, 1.5-2 mm lata. Caulis florifer 1.5-2 cm supra folium, glanduloso-pubescent, cum 2-3 foliis minoribus, erectis, glandulosis, angustis. Flores solitarii, pulchri, pallide rosei ad albi, numerosi super eodem pulvino. Calyx dense glanduloso-pubescent, ± 5.5 mm longus, 3 mm latus, lobis ovatis, acutis, erectis, 3-nervis, 2.5-3 mm longis, 1-1.5 mm latis. Petala

oblonga, supra lata et rotundata, nervis purpureis, modice patentia, 12-16 mm longa, 5 mm lata. Stamina 5 mm longa, antheris rubris. Ovarium sub-inferum, stylis rubris, 5 mm longis, stigmatibus sub-capitato.

Saxifraga poluniniana* H. Sm. var. *mucronata Bhattacharyya et Viswanathan, var. nov. belongs to the section Kabschia. It is similar to *S. poluniniana* H. Sm. but differs in having larger, mucronate leaves, erect acute calyx and larger flowers with greater number of veins in petals.

Perennial herb forming large hemispheric cushions, 15-20 cm diameter, branches wiry, numerous, caespitose, older dark brown, rigid, naked with raments of leaf bases. Stem-leaves alternate, sessile, patent or slightly recurved forming imbricating rosettes at the apex, linear to oblong, 5-7-foveolate, entire, narrow margined, base minutely and sparsely denticulate-ciliate, apex acute, mucronate, nerves obscure above, prominent beneath, 6-12 mm long, 1.5-2 mm broad. Floriferous stem 1.5-2 cm above leaf, glandular hairy with 2-3 erect, glandular, narrow, smaller leaves. Flowers solitary, showy, pale pink to white, many on same cushion. Calyx