

A NOMENCLATURAL NOTE ON *SELAGINELLA PALLIDA* (SELAGINELLACEAE) FROM INDIA

Alston (1945) and Panigrahi & Dixit (1966) described *Selaginella pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Spring and cited *Lycopodium tenellum* D. Don (1825) and *S. nepalensis* Spring (1850), as synonyms. But *S. pallida* based on *Lycopodium pallidum* Hook. & Grev. (1831) must be rejected as an illegitimate name under art. 64 of the ICBN (1972), being a later homonym with *L. pallidum* Beyr. ex Gaud. (1826), despite the fact that the latter is treated as a superfluous name for *L. brasiliense* Raddi (1825). Again, *L. tenellum* D. Don (1825) also turned out as illegitimate, being a later homonym with *L. tenellum* (Palisot) Desv. (1813/1814). To rectify this nomenclatural situation, Spring (1850) seemed to have proposed *S. nepalensis* Spring, what we may term now as a new name (*nom. nov.*) for *L. tenellum* D. Don, as may also be evident from Alston's (1945: 218) remark: "This is the only prostrate species represented among Wallich's Nepal collections and so it must have been Don's *L. tenellum*, the basis of *S. nepalensis* Spring... *L. pallidum* Beyrich ex Gaud. in Freyc. Voy. Bot. 1: 285, 1826 was a *nomen abortivum* (as he cited *L. brasiliense* Raddi 1825)".

The present note attempts to straighten out this nomenclatural confusion. The citations are as follows:

Selaginella nepalensis Spring in Bull. Acad. Brux. 10: 234. 1843; Monogr. Lyc. II: 261. 1850. *Lycopodium tenellum* D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nepal. 18. 1825; *non* (Palisot) Desv. (1813/1814). *Type*: "in Nepalia, Wallich". *L. pallidum* Hook. & Grev. in Hook. Bot. Misc. 2: 389. 1831, *nom. illegit*; *non* Beyr. ex Gaud. (1826), *nom. illegit* for *L. brasiliense* Raddi (1825). *Type*: Nepal, 1820, Wallich s. n. (E, K, BM.). *Selaginella pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Spring in Bull. Acad. Brux. 10: 234. 1843; Alston, Proc. nat. Inst. Sci. India 11: 218. 1945; Panigrahi & Dixit, Proc. nat. Acad. Sci. India (B) 36(1): 104. Pl. 1 (fig. 4), text fig. 4 (A.B.C.). 1966. *S. plumosa* var. *pallida* (Hook. & Grev.) Baker in Jour. Bot. 21: 145. 1883.

Distribution: India (Western Himalayas & Assam), Nepal.

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- SPRING, FR. ANTON. Monographic Famille des Lycopodiacees. second partie. *Mem. Acad. Sci. Bdg.* 24: 1-358. 1850.

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OBERONIA MAXIMA HOOK. F.—AN INTERESTING ORCHID FROM KAMENG DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Amongst the live *Oberonia* collections in the National Orchidarium, one plant (the original locality not clearly known, probably from Mizo Hills), was conspicuous due

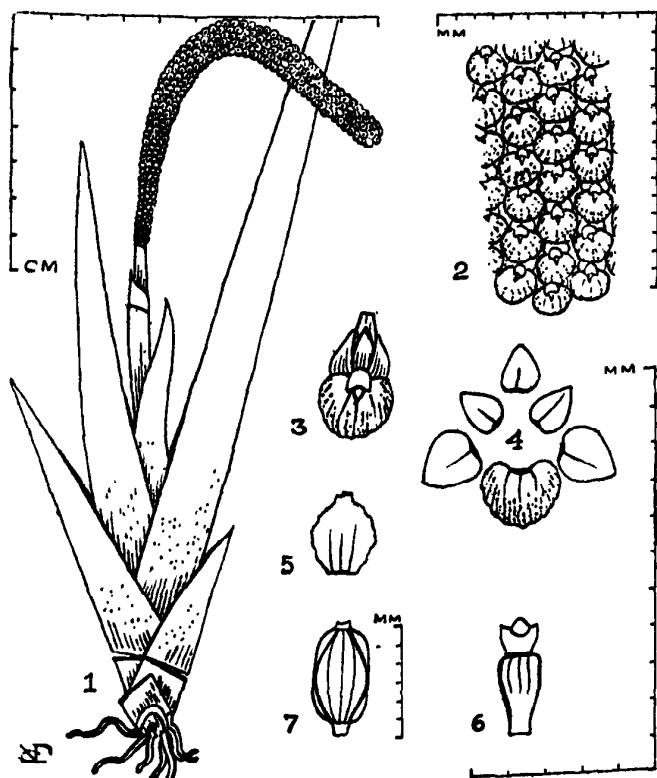
to its large size and robust arcuate nature of the inflorescence. During subsequent botanical explorations in Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, fresh and numerous col-

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lections of this plant were made and kept under observation for two to four years. A critical study proves it to be *Oberonia maxima* Hook. f. with references to the notes and drawings (practically all of them based on study of types) of Seidenfaden (1958) on the genus *Oberonia* in Mainland Asia, and reference to a specimen borrowed from Central National Herbarium, Calcutta, hitherto recorded from Tenasserim. The present collection extends its distribution to M'zo Hills and to the Eastern Himalaya in Kameng District.

A detailed description with analytical drawings is here provided to facilitate further discovery in the country.

***Oberonia maxima* Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 677. 1888.**



Oberonia maxima Hook. f.

Figs. 1-7: 1. Habit. 2. Portion of inflorescence. 3. Flower. 4. Perigone with lip. 5. Bract. 6. Column with ovary. 7. Fruit.

Epiphytes. Erect or pendant, coespitose herbs. *Leaves* 11-26 × 1.5-2.8 cm, 5-6 in number, outer ones smaller, distichous, fleshy, ensiform, entire, articulate at base, acute at apex. *Inflorescence* 8.5-25 cm long, spicate, equal or shorter than the longest leaf, terete, flowers numerous, congested. *Bract* 2-2.5 × c. 1.5 mm, lacinate towards apex, green. *Flowers* 3.5-4 mm long from stalk to the tip of lip, greenish-yellow, subsessile or shortly pedicelled; *dorsal sepal* 1.5 × 1 mm, ovate, erect when young, reflexed in age, entire, obtuse at apex, *laterals* equal, 1.5-2 × 1.5 mm, ovate reflexed, irregularly dentate at apices; *petals* equal, 1-1.5 × 1 mm, ovate-lanceolate, irregularly dentate at apices; *lip* orbicular, crenulate 1.5-2 × 1.5 mm, concave, yellowish. *Column* 1 mm high; *anther* acute at apex; *pollinia* 2, obovate. *Capsule* 5 mm long, shortly stalked, ridged, ellipsoid.

Flowering: June.

Fruiting: October.

Specimens studied: ARUNACHAL PRADESH: Kameng District: Kalaktang 75 km, 16 Nov. 1970, A. S. Rao 50401, 50814; 2 km from Kalaktang. 14 Oct. 1973, Hajra 10 Sept. 1965, A. S. Rao 18681 (ASSAM). Upper Burma, Makhaye Hill, 1893, Dr. Prain's collector, Acc. no. 449529 (CAL).

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