



Robiquetia rosea (Lindley) Garay (Orchidaceae): A new record for India

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***Robiquetia rosea* (Lindley) Garay (Orchidaceae):
A new record for India**

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Abstract

Robiquetia rosea (Lindley) Garay (Orchidaceae) is reported for the first time from India. Detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

INTRODUCTION

While investigating the orchids of Western Ghats of Karnataka, the author collected an interesting species of *Robiquetia* from Kudaremur, Karnataka. On critical examination, Jeffrey J. Wood of Orchid Herbarium, Kew and Eric Christenson of New York Botanical Garden identified the author's specimen as *R. rosea*. The present collection of *R. rosea*, therefore, forms a new record for India.

The genus *Robiquetia* Gaudich. is so far known to have four species in India (Sathish Kumar, 1999) viz., *R. gracilis* (Lindley) Garay, *R. josephiana* Manilal & Sathish Kumar, *R. spatulata* (Blume) J.J. Smith, and *R. succisa* (Lindley) Seidenf. & Garay. Of these, two species viz. *R. gracilis* and *R. josephiana* have been reported from South India. The report of *R. rosea*, an endemic Sri Lankan species, by the earlier workers (Joseph, 1962; Abraham & Vatsala, 1981) from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, however, is doubtful, as their specimens have been subsequently identified as *R. josephiana* by Manilal and Sathish Kumar (Manilal & Sathish Kumar, 1984). A brief description of the plant is given below.

***Robiquetia rosea* (Lindley) Garay**, Bot. Mus. Leaflet 23(4): 197. 1972; Jayaweera in Dassan. & Fosberg, Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 2: 257, fig. 114. 1981. *Saccolabium roseum* Lindley, Gen. et Sp. Orch. 225. 1833; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 58. 1890. *Malleola rosea* (Lindley) Schltr. in Feddes Rept. 1: 981. 1913 (Fig. 1).

An epiphytic herb with long slender roots; stem non-pseudobulbous, up to 20 cm long. Leaves up to 9x1 cm, linear-oblong, recurved, flat, unequally notched at apex, fleshy, channeled along the centre. Racemes axillary, up to 7 cm long, few to c. 12-flowered;

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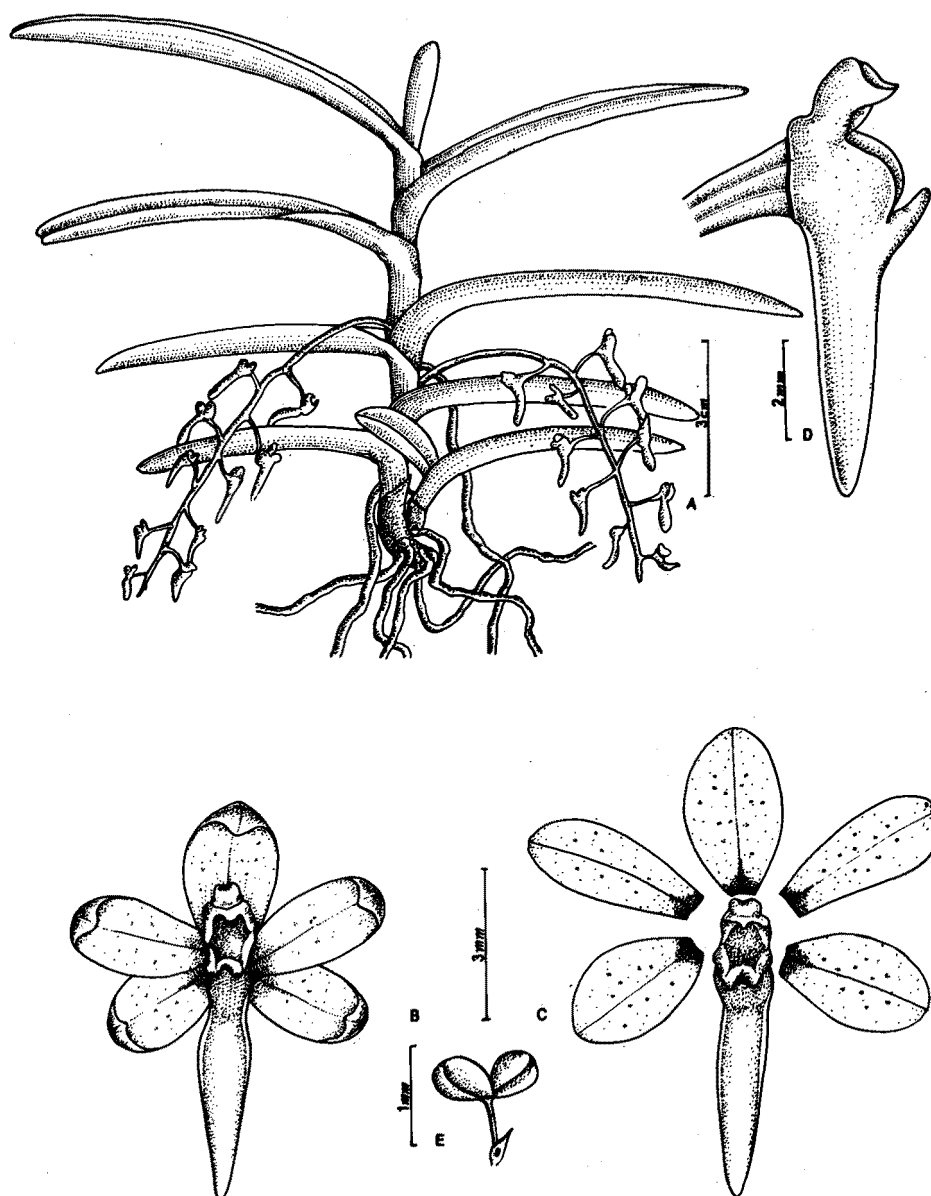


Fig. 1. *Robiquetia rosea* (Lindley) Garay: A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Sepals, petals, spur and column - frontal view; D. Spur and column - side view; E. Pollinarium.

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peduncles up to 3 cm long. Flowers c. 8 mm in diam. purple; floral bracts c. 1.2 mm long, triangular-ovate. Dorsal sepal c. 4 x 2.8 mm, ovate-elliptic, obtuse, 1-veined; lateral sepals c. 4 x 2.8 mm, ovate, obtuse, 1-veined. Petals c. 4x2 mm, oblanceolate, obtuse, 1-veined. Lip obscurely trilobed; side lobes obscure, rounded; midlobe triangular, dark purple; spur up to 1 cm long, laterally compressed, with a 2-lobed projection from the back wall and a fleshy callus on the front wall. Column c. 1.2 mm long; foot absent; rostellum beak-like. Anther c. 1 mm long and as broad, 2-celled; pollinia 2, bipartite, globose, attached by a slender stipe to a large gland. Ovary with pedicel c. 6 mm long.

Flowering: July - October

Specimens examined: India, Karnataka: Kudaremur, Chikmagalur Dist., 800 m, 10 August 1999, Bhat 11327 (K, BSI, MH).

The author's specimen, however, differs from Sri Lankan plants "only in the colour of the lip apex: dark violet purple in *KGB 11327* versus rich dark green in Sri Lankan material" (Jeffrey J. Wood, personal communication).

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to Mr. Jeffrey J. Wood of Orchid Herbarium, Kew and Dr. Eric Christenson of New York Botanical Garden for their valuable opinion on the identity of this species. Prof. B.V. Shetty, Emeritus Scientist, Mangalore University deserves a word of gratitude for his suggestions during the preparation of this paper. Thanks are also due to Prof. K.S. Manilal of Calicut University and Dr. C. Sathish Kumar, TBGRI, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram for providing some literature, and to Dr. N.A. Madhyastha, Poornaprajna College, Udipi for his kind help.

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