

lets obcordate with obtuse or rounded bases, 1.8-2 cm long and 2.3-2.7 cm across; stipules lanceolate, 0.8-1.0 cm; umbellate violet flowers borne on 10-13 cm long peduncles; bracts lanceolate, 0.3-0.4 cm; pedicels 1.5-2 cm long; sepals obovate-lanceolate, glabrous within, 0.3-0.4 cm long; petals spatulate with purple striations running down to the base; capsule erect, tomentose; cells bearing 5-7 seeds.

Profuse on shady banks of channels near Canal Road (JL2).

*Flowers*: February-June.

The two species are native of Mexico and

have got naturalized in Delhi, Assam and north-western Himalayas in North and Penninsular India and Western ghats in the South. The bulbs and sour aerial parts of *O. martiana* Zucc. are reported to be edible. *O. latifolia* H. B. & K. is used for the purposes of inducing sleep (Wealth of India, 7: 200).

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#### ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DIPLOMERIS HIRSUTA* LINDL. (ORCHIDACEAE) IN WESTERN HIMALAYA

Mrs. Geraldine Acomb of Plainfield, New Jersey, U.S.A., who has been painting some of the Himalayan flowers, particularly, of the Nainital-Bhowali region, recently brought some coloured photographs to us for determination of the plants. One of these depicted an orchid with a peculiar, curved spur which we had not, seen so far from any locality in Western Himalaya. On further study, this proved to be *Diplomeris hirsuta* Lindl., hitherto not recorded from any of the sectors of Western Himalaya. STAFF (1925), while illustrating this orchid in the Botanical Magazine, described it as a "rare and very interesting orchid growing on sandstone rocks in the Teesta Valley in Sikkim at 300-400 m and in similar situations in the neighbouring parts of Bhutan at 450 m". It was earlier known from Wallich's collections north of Kathmandu in Nepal (Wall. Cat. No. 7065). It thus appears that this orchid was known, till very recently, only from the Eastern Himalayan Botanical Province, east of 85°E. Long. It was of added interest to us to see the same orchid appearing in a collection of the Government Pharmaceutical

Laboratory, Ranikhet, brought to us for determination by H. C. Pande. This collection, made by Tiwary came from Bodoan on the Kathgodam-Nainital Highway. Mrs. Acomb's photograph had been taken only a few miles higher up along the same highway. In view of the interest thus aroused, one of us (C.M.A.) visited this area recently and succeeded in collecting good specimens of this extremely rare and interesting orchid for the BSD Herbarium.

***Diplomeris hirsuta* (Lindl.) Gen. & Spec. Orchids, 333. 1835; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 167. 1890; King & Pantling in Annals R. bot. Gardn. Calcutta 8: 337, t. 443. 1898. *Diplochilus hirsuta* Lindl. Bot. Reg. sub t. 1499. 1832.**

A terrestrial orchid, almost stemless, mostly 1-leaved, 1-flowered. Leaves oblong-ovate or linear-oblong, hairy on both surfaces. Scape hairy, 1-bracteate. Flowers solitary, very rarely 2, milky white. Sepals hairy, petals shortly apiculate, lip spurred, spur elongate, slender, curved, nearly 6 cm long. Column short, anther with a broad

connective and each anther cell showing a prominent horn-like projection which clasps the large rostellum. Stigmas 2.

A peculiar feature of the lobes of the lip, not recorded previously in literature, is the characteristic dichotomous venation seen on them. The other lobes of the perianth do not present this feature. A similar type of venation is also seen on the lip of another orchid, recently collected for the first time in Western Himalaya, viz., *Habenaria dentata* Schlect. (ARORA, in press). *Diplomeris* is stated to bear close affinity to the genus *Habenaria* (sensu lato) and the unique feature of venation of the lip in the above two species is thus of considerable interest.

*Specimens examined*: On moss covered rocks along the road from Kathgodam to

Nainital (79°33'E. Long., 29°18'N Lat.), 800 m, 14 August 1973 (in flower), 15 September 1973 (fruiting), C. M. Arora 50016 & 52434 (BSD); Tiwary s.n. (Herb. Govt. Pharm. Dept. Ranikhet); Mrs. Acomb, Coloured photo, 30 August 1972.

*Distribution*: Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

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*Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun*

### A NEW SPECIES OF *RHYNCHOSIA* LOUR. (PAPILIONACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA

***Rhynchosia jacobii*** Chandr. et Shetty, sp. nov.

*R. minimae* DC. affinis, sed differt pilis dense hirsutis brevibusque inter pilos longos villososque interjectis; foliolis longioribus quam brevibus, numquam deltoideis; floribus singulis vel interdum binis, rhachidibus gracilibus.

Herbae serpentes, dense hirsutae, pilis brevibus inter pilos longos villososque interjectis, e basi praecipue ramificantes; ramuli effusi, graciles, lignei, teretes, leviter striati; internodia 0.7-8.0 cm longa. Folia alterna, pinnatim trifoliolata; petioli 0.6-3.7 cm longi; stipulae 0.2-1.1 cm longae, linearilanceolatae, hirsutae, extus pilis brevibus inter pilos longos villososque interjectis, intus vero (exceptis apicibus) glabrae, inter nervos distincte sulcatae. Foliola ovato-oblonga, elliptico-oblonga vel oblonga, integra, mucronata, subcoriacea, e basi triplinervia, subterminute flavido-glanduloso; nervis lateralibus

4-7 paribus e costa, nervis et nervulis ab utroque facie elevatis; petioluli usque ad 1.8 mm longi; stipellae mullae; foliola terminalia 0.5-4.0 × 0.4-2.2 cm, basi fere rotundata; foliola lateralibus 0.6-3.7 × 0.4-1.9 cm, inequilateralibus. Flores flavidi, axillares, plerumque solitarii, interdum duo, rhachidibus gracilibus; rhachis usque ad 2 cm longa; pedicellus 1.5-2.6 mm longus; bracteae 2-3 mm longae, ovato-lanceolatae, extus hirsutae, pilis brevibus inter pilos longos villososque interjectis, intus glabrae et inter nervos distincte sulcatae. Calyx 6-8.5 mm longus, hirsutus, pilis brevibus inter pilos longos villososque interjectis; tubus ± 2.4 mm longus; dentes 5, lanceolati, inferior ± 4.6 mm longus, caeteri breviores, ± 3.4 mm longi. Corolla papilionacea; vexillum 8.25-9.0 × 4.0-5.25 mm, obovatum, ungue brevo et auriculis basi inflexis, venis rubris; alae 8-9 × 2 mm, oblique oblongo-obovatae, distincte unguiculatae; carinae ± 8.0 × 2.7 mm,