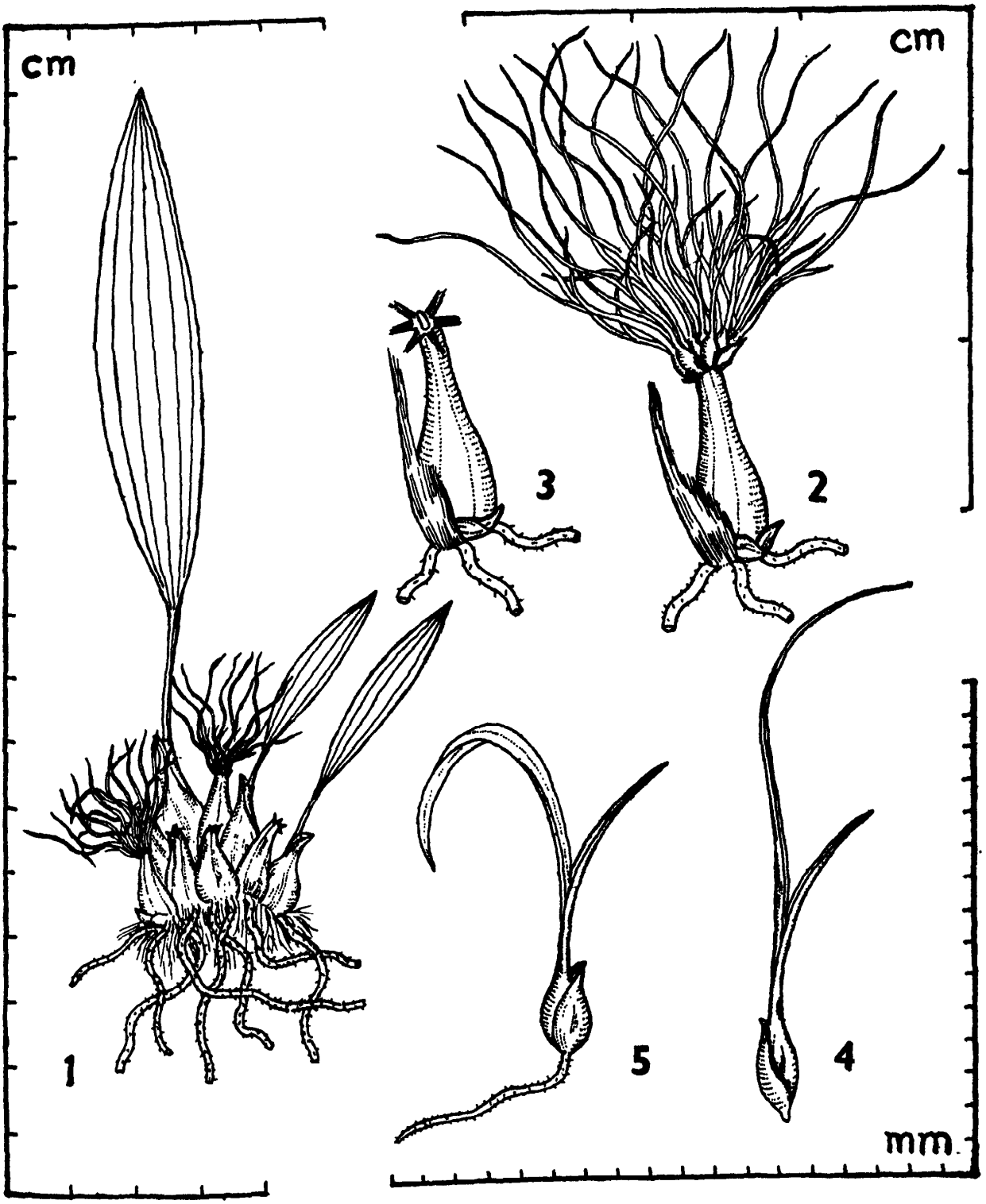
REPORT OF A BULBIL BEARING ORCHID FROM KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS, MEGHALAYA

This interesting bulbil bearing orchid has been gathered from Laithlyngkot (about 20 miles from Shillong towards Pynursla) during a recent intensive collection programme.

It is a caespitose, pseudobulbous, single



Figs. 1-5: 1. Habit. 2. Bulbil bearing pseudobulb. 3. Old pseudobulb. 4. Detached bulbil. 5. Germinating bulbil (Joseph 73569, Assam).

leaved orchid growing on mass covered moist rocky substratum in association with Bryophytes such as *Herberta, Cephalozia, Scapania, Radula, Calipogeia* etc.

Bulbils in umbellate clusters at the top of mature pseudobulbs, about 30 in each cluster, with tiny ovoid dark purplish bulbous base, bearing two filiform unequal juvenile leaves and with a large sheathing scale. Soon after the dispersal each bulbil produces a solitary long slender root covered with root hairs.

The authors observed the plant both under cultivation and in natural habitat for its flowering over an year, but with no avail. However, it has a close morphological resemblance to the genera like *Pleione* and *Oreorchis* of this region, but for want of flowers the authors hesitate to include it in either.

Pseudobulbs 7 - 16 × 5 - 8 mm, ovoid with short or long neck, aggregate, 1-leaved, covered with a large sheath, dark purplish pink, leafless while bearing bulbils. *Roots* up to 8 cm long and 1 mm thick, many, crowded, covered with root hairs. *Sheaths* as long as or longer than the pseudobulbs. *Leaves* 2.5 - 10.0 × 0.4 - 2.0 cm, elliptic-oblong, obtuse to acute, plicate, 3-5-veined, narrowed at base into a petiole, deciduous; petiole 4 - 15 mm long, grooved adaxially. *Old pseudobulbs* with persisting scales at the apex, prominently grooved or smooth, covered with persisting sheath fibres at base.

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A NOTE ON THE REPORTED OCCURRENCE OF *LEPIDIUM DIVARICATUM* SOLANDER IN INDIA

Lepidium divaricatum Soland., a native of tropical South Africa, was recorded for the first time from India by Bhattacharyya & Majumdar (1979), based on collections from Lahul, North West Himalaya (Jispa, 3200 m, 14th Aug., 1970, *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 40793; Koksar, 3100 m, 7th Aug., 1970, *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 40674—both at BSD). A study of the above specimens reveals that they are annual or biennial herbs; stems many from the base, ascending and spreading, densely puberulous throughout; fruiting racemes dense, 4-6 cm long; silicula 1.8 - 2.0 × 1.5 - 1.75 mm, elliptic or broadly ovate, distinctly emarginate and notched at the apex; style included within the notch.

On the basis of the above findings and a critical review of the literature, the specimens are now determined as *L. africanum* Burm f.) DC. and not *L. divaricatum* Soland. *L. africanum* is also a new record for India.

Solander (1789) described *L. divaricatum* based on plants cultivated in green house at Kew, the type of which is preserved in Herb. Deless. (G). Marais (1966) pointed out, that Solander's type with large, broad, pinnately lobed leaves does not represent the typical form of the species, the majority of which are fairly slender plants having small, narrower leaves. He (*l. c.*) had further shown that out of the three Burmann's specimens of *Thlaspi africanum* only one agrees well with his diagnosis. De Candolle (1821) wrongly excluded this specimen from *L. africanum* when he made the combination and considered the same