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NOTE

HERMINIUM LONGILOBATUM (ORCHIDACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR BHUTAN

Ugyen Dechen, Tandin Wangchuk & Lam Norbu

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Herminium longilobatum (Orchidaceae), a new record for Bhutan

Ugyen Dechen¹ , Tandin Wangchuk² & Lam Norbu³

^{1,2,3}Tashigang Territorial Forest Division, Department of Forest and Park Services of Bhutan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan.

¹udechen@moaf.gov.bt, ²twangchoks@gmail.com, ³lamnorbu0@gmail.com (corresponding author)

Herminium L. is a genus of terrestrial or rarely epiphytic orchids belonging to the family Orchidaceae (subfamily Orchidoideae, tribe Orchideae and subtribe Orchidinae) (Chase et al. 2015). It is represented by 49 species in the world, distributed in the northern hemisphere with a clear center of diversity in the Himalaya (Pearce & Cribb 2002; Raskoti et al. 2017). Species are characterized by small greenish, whitish or yellowish flowers on the raceme, a (sub) globose tuber, a lip with a concave or spurred base, and column with the stigma-lobes not adnate to the base of the lip (Raskoti et al. 2017).

Bhutan harbors 19 species of *Herminium* (Pearce & Cribb 2002; Gurung 2006; Dalstrom 2017; National Biodiversity Centre 2017; Raskoti et al. 2017) namely, *H. albomarginatum* (King) X.H. Jin, *H. albosanguineum* Renz, *H. albovirens* (Renz) X.H. Jin, *H. clavigerum* Lindl., *H. elisabethae* Duthie, *H. fallax* (Lindl.) Hook.f., *H. gracile* King & Pantl., *H. handelii* X.H. Jin, *H. himalayanum* (Renz) X.H. Jin, *H. josephi* Rchb.f., *H. lanceum* (Thunb. ex Sw.) Vuijk., *H. latilabre* Lindl., *H. macrophyllum* (D.Don) Dandy, *H. monophyllum* (D.Don) P.F. Hunt & Summerh., *H. monorchis* (L.) R.Br., *H. orbiculare* Hook.f.,

H. pugioniforme Lindl. ex Hook.f., *H. pygmaeum* Renz, and *H. quinquelobum* King & Pantl.

During a recent field exploration, we found an interesting epiphytic orchid growing on the dead trunk of an oak tree *Quercus oxyodon* embedded with thick mosses and epiphytic fern at an elevation of 2,746m (27.618°N & 91.531°E) inside the cool broad-leaved forest on 24 September 2018, in the Serkhang-chuu catchment area of Trashigang Yangtse District. Ferns, shrubs, *Symplocos* species, bamboos, and *Quercus semicarpifolia* were other associated vegetation in the area. Photographs of the orchid were sent to the orchid expert, Dr. Dhan Bahadur Gurung, for identification and subsequently it was confirmed as *Herminium longilobatum* S.N. Hedge & A.N. Rao. The specimen was collected on 17 October 2019, and preserved at the Forest Range Office, Doksum under the Trashigang Forest Division. This constitutes the 20th representative of the genus from Bhutan. The same is being presented here with a short description, phenology, ecology and color plates.

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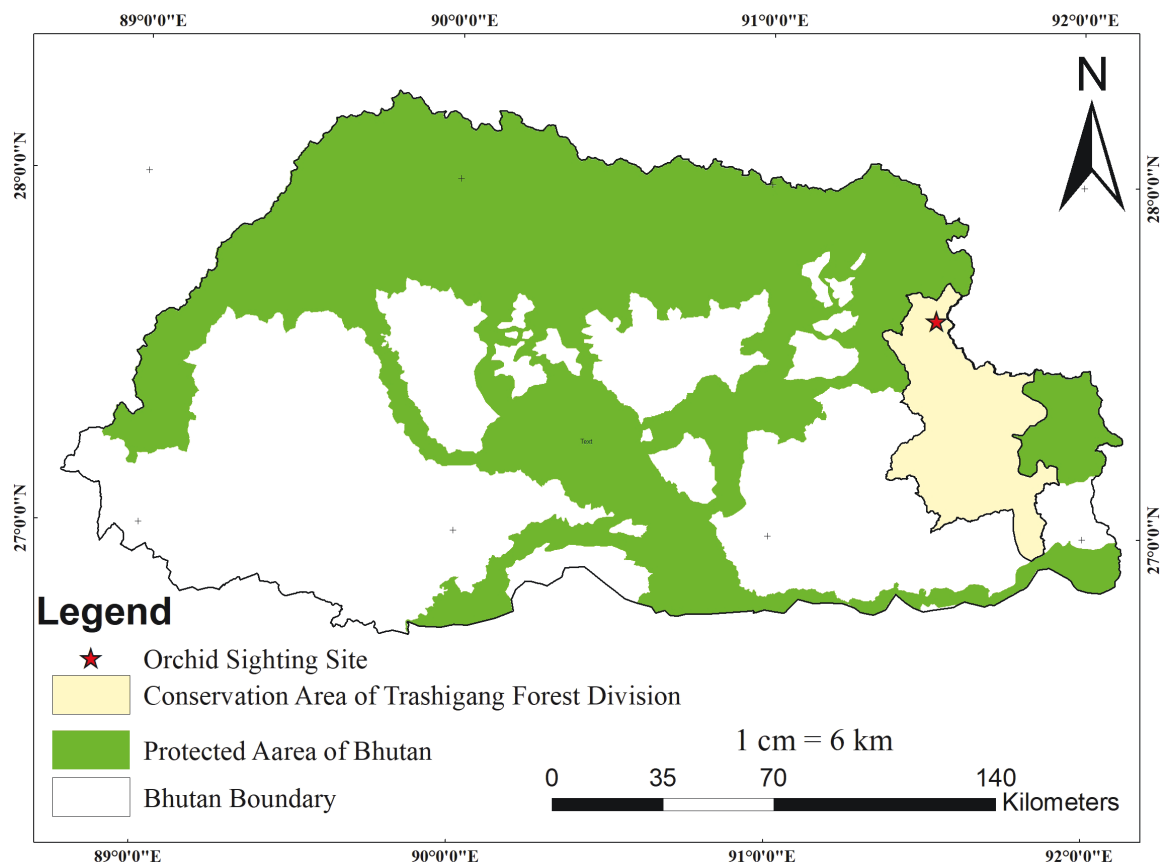


Figure 1. Location of *Herminium longilobatum* in Bhutan.



Image 1. *Herminium longilobatum* S.N. Hegde & A.N. Rao from Bhutan: A—plant in its natural habitat | B—close up of the inflorescence. © Tandin Wangchuk.

***Herminium longilobatum* S.N. Hegde & A.N. Rao**
Himalayan Pl. J. 1(2): 47 (1982).

Type: Yarlung Zangbo–Brahmaputra Region, Towang, 2,800 m, Hegde 3208-A (TIPI).

Plant epiphytic herbs, up to 30–50 cm tall, including inflorescence. Tubers 1 or 2, ovoid, globose to oblong. Pseudostem up to 8–10 cm, long, slender, covered with two tubular sheaths of which the basal is much shorter and few well-spaced leaves near the middle. Leaves linear to oblong-lanceolate, 8–20 × 0.5–1.5 cm, acuminate, narrow at base into a long tubular sheath clasping the pseudo stem. Scape with inflorescence 12–20 cm tall; inflorescence terminal raceme, peduncle terete, with peduncle-scales 0.5–2.4 cm; rachis 5–18 cm, many flowered, flowers laxly arranged. Floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, 1.5–5.0 mm, slightly shorter than the ovary and apex acuminate. Flowers about 5 × 5 mm, opening widely, greenish-white. Sepals subequal, ovate, 2.0 × 1.5 mm, subacute, concave. Petals lanceolate, 2.0 × 1.5 mm, apex subacute. Lip much longer than the other perianth lobes, oblong, 3-lobed, widened at base, with a callus at base of attachment to the column, midlobe short, lanceolate, obtuse; lateral lobes 10 mm long, more than 10 times longer than the midlobe, filiform, uncoiled. Column 1 mm, short; anther cells 2, parallel; staminodes 2, lateral; rostellum two-lobed; stigmas 2, transversely oblong, divergent. The fruit oblong, 7 mm long. Ovary sessile, resupinate, beaked.

Flowering and Fruiting: August–September

Habitat and Ecology: Orchids were found growing on the dead trunk of Oak species *Quercus oxyodon* (five clumps) covered with mosses at an elevation of 2,746 m inside the cool broad-leaved forest.

Distribution: Bhutan, China, India, Nepal.

Specimens examined: Bhutan: Trashi Yangtse District, Serkangchu catchment, 2,746 m, 24.ix.2018., Tandin W., Ugyen D., and Lam N., (Haplotype: Doksum Forest Range). Yarlung Zangbo–Brahmaputra Region: Kameng District, Towang Hegde, 3208 A-C (Orchid Herbarium, Tipi); Phudong-Dirang, Hajra 54808 (Assam). Nepal: Sagarmatha, Solukhumbu District, below Sete, 2,500 m, Raskoti B.B., 01299 (KATH).



Image 2. *Herminium longilobatum*—voucher specimen preserved at Doksum Forest Range, Trashigang Forest Division.

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