Malleola andamanica Balakr. and Bhargava (Orchidaceae)—A new species from Andaman Islands

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Abstract. Malleola andamanica Balakr. and Bhargava, sp. nov. of Orchidaceae, discovered from Andaman Islands, is described with illustrations.

Keywords. Orchidaceae; Malleola andamanica.

During the course of a botanical exploration of Little Andaman Island in the Bay of Bengal in 1976, an orchid belonging to the genus Malleola was collected from trees in mangrove forests. Later the same species was again collected in 1978 from Miletilak in South Andamans growing on trees in inland forests. On further detailed study of several specimens, this was found to be a new species allied to the Malaysian M. insectifera. Detailed descriptions and illustrations are given below.

Malleola andamanica Balakr. et Bhargava, sp. nov.

Differt a M. insectifera caulibus brevioribus; foliis angustatis et longioribus; inflorescentiis foliis brevioribus; lobis lateralis labellorum prorsus procurrenibus et lobo intermedio labellii ad basim non carinato. [Holotypus, Bhargava 4189 A (CAL); isotypi, Bhargava 4189 B–E (PBL); paratypi N.G. Nair 6975 A–D (PBL), N.G. Nair 6975 E–F (CAL)].

Epiphyte; stems 6–10 cm long, ± 5 mm thick; internodes 2–5 mm long. Leaves few, jointed, narrowly broad; sheathing base ± 1 cm long, striate. Inflorescence perforating the leaf-sheaths; scape 5–10 mm long; rachis 2·5–7·0 cm long, densely 10–30-flowered; flowers facing in all directions; peduncle hirsute with stiff hairs. Flowers not resupinate, 8–9 mm across, white or creamy white with crimson stripes on sepals and petals; sterile bracts 1 or 2 at the base of peduncle, ovate, acute, ± 2·5 mm long, ± 4 mm wide, prominently keeled beneath, 1-nerved; fertile bracts ovate, acute at apex, ± 2·5 mm long, ± 1·5 mm broad, 1-nerved; pedicel with ovary ± 7 mm long, deeply grooved at apex. Sepals and petals spreading, creamy white with two longitudinal crimson-purple stripes on each, 3-nerved; lateral nerves joining midnerve near the apex. Sepals sub-
equal; dorsal sepal elliptic, strongly concave, boat-shaped, acute at apex, ± 5 mm long; lateral sepals falcate, cuneate at base, subacute at apex, ± 5 mm long, ± 3 mm wide. Petals oblong, cuneate at base, subacute at apex, 3·5-4·0 mm long, ± 1·5 mm broad. Lip immovably joined to the base of the column, 3-lobed, spurred; sidélóbes short, obliquely triangular, acute, pointing forwards, the posterior edge partly joined with the column base, ± 1·5 mm long, ± 1 mm broad, tinged with purple; middle lobe pinnate, triangular, narrowly subulate and curled forwards at apex, rather fleshy, concave at base, ± 2 mm long, ± 1 mm broad at base, white; spur pendulous, parallel with pedicel and ovary, cylindrical and widened towards the mouth, slightly dorsoventrally flattened and constricted above the middle and below the inflated obtuse apex, 5-6 mm long, ± 2 mm wide at mouth, ± 1 mm thick at constriction, ± 1·5 mm thick at apex, white, 5-nerved. Column nearly straight, dilated on each side of the stigma, ± 2 mm long, ± 2 mm wide, projecting backwards; anther located at the back of the column; rostellum short, ovate, convex above, concave below; operculum ovate, slightly beaked, ± 2 mm wide; stipe thin, translucent, ± 1·5 mm long, curved, slender and filiform at base, much broadened and ± 1 mm wide at apex; disc small, quadrate, attached by the middle to the stipe base, placed at the apex of operculum in front of the rostellum; pollinia 2, globose, ± 0·25 mm diam., slightly cleaved on one side (figures 1-12).
A new species from Andamans


Malleola J.J.S. & Schlectr. is a small genus, represented by one species Malleola gracilis (Lindl.) Schlectr. in Peninsular India and Ceylon and 16 species distributed in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and New Guinea. Among these, the present new species is near to M. insectifera (J. J. Sm.) J. J. Sm. of Malaya but differs in the stem being shorter; leaves narrower and longer; inflorescence always shorter than the leaves; sidelaobs of lip projecting forwards and midlobe of lip not keeled at base.