



Field Status of *Herminium lanceum* (Thunb. ex Sw.) Vuijk (Orchidaceae) : Medicinally important Orchid species from Darjeeling Himalayan Region of West Bengal

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Present paper deals with medicinally important Orchid species *Herminium lanceum* (Thunb. ex Sw.) Vuijk, (Orchidaceae) in Darjeeling Himalaya of West Bengal, India. Detailed description with field status, phenology, altitudinal range, local distribution within Darjeeling Himalaya and geographical distribution are provided.

Keywords : Orchidaceae, *Herminium lanceum*, Medicinal uses, Darjeeling Himalaya.

INTRODUCTION

Darjeeling Himalaya is situated at northern most part of West Bengal. Darjeeling Himalaya is a part of Singalila range of and a part of Himalayan Hotspot and globally known as one of the mega biodiversity hotspot zones and is known to provide shelter to a large number of endemic, rare and interesting plant species. Altitudinal variation ranges from as low as ± 120 m amsl to as high as 3660 m amsl which favour the copious growth of diversified and wealthy vegetation. Orchids belong to the family orchidaceae and exhibit incredible diversity in colour, shape, size, structure and fragrance of flowers and found four different life forms viz., i. Subterranean, ii. Saprophytic, iii. Terrestrial and iv. Epiphytic and comprise 20,000 - 35,000 species distributed throughout the world (Dressler, 1993). Some Orchid species are reported to contain alkaloids, triterpenoids, flavonoids and stilbenoids. Recently, some important phytochemicals like orchinol, hircinol, cyripedin, jibantine, nidemin, loriglossin etc., are extracted from several Orchid species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The intensive field survey work was started from June 2007 to October 2020 covering all the seasons of the year and throughout Darjeeling Himalayan regions. The specimens were collected and properly worked out both in the field and laboratory and pressed in blotting paper. No attention has yet been given on the medicinal uses and current field status of *Herminium lanceum* from the regions in details.

Therefore, present communication is aimed to provide medicinal uses, field status, phenology, altitudinal range, local distribution within Darjeeling Himalaya and geographical distribution of *Herminium lanceum* in details.

Taxonomic Eumeration :

Herminium lanceum (Thunb. ex Sw.) Vuijk., Blumea 11(1): 228. 1961.

Satyrium lanceum (Thunb. ex Sw.) Pers., Syn. Pl. 2: 507. 1807.

Platanthera angustifolia (Lindl.) Rchb. f., Otia Bot. Hamburg. 1: 39. 1878.

Herminium angustifolium (Lindl.) Benth. & Hook. f., Gen. Pl. 3: 622. 1880.

Plant terrestrial, tuberous herb, 26-48 cm tall. Stem erect, sheathed. Leaves 3-4, 9-23 \times 0.9-1.8 cm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, sessile. Inflorescence slender, cylindrical, densely many-flowered. Flowers 0.8-1 cm long, green. Sepals oblong; dorsal sepal 3-4 \times 1-1.4 mm, concave, hooded; lateral pair 2.5-3.4 \times 1.1-2 mm, spreading. Petals 2.2-2.9 \times 0.6-0.7 mm, narrowly linear, subacute. Lip 0.8-1 \times 0.1 cm, tri-lobed, deflexed, base clawed.

Specimen examined : Dello Hill of Kalimpong District, West Bengal, INDIA, 1560 m.

Altitudinal range: 1100 - 2450 m.

Flowering and Fruiting: July - October.

Field status: Sparse.

Distribution within Darjeeling Himalaya of West Bengal:

Algarah forest, Dello Hill, Lava, Todey, Rachel, (Kalimpong District); Dilaram, Chimney (Kurseong Sub-Division of Darjeeling District); Manaybhanjang, Senchale, Sukiapokhare, Pokhraybong, Rimbick, Ramam, Kalpokhari (Darjeeling Sub-Division of Darjeeling District).

Geographical distribution: India (Kashmir to Arunchal Pradesh); Bhutan, China, Korea, Japan, Java, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Phillipines, South East Asia, Sulawest and Thailand.

Medicinal uses : Aerial part or the extract of the whole plant of *Herminium lanceum* is used for curing urinary disorders (Barman *et. al.*, 2016; Kaushik, 2013). Also, it is reported to treat diabetes, fever and bleeding in addition to urinary disorders (Joshi *et. al.*, 2009; Mall *et. al.*, 2015).

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