

A Note on the Occurrence of *Luisia unguiculata* (Orchidaceae) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India.

Sanjay Mishra^{1*}, Jeewan Singh Jalal², Vivek C.P.³, Gautam Anuj Ekka³,
Dinesh Kumar Agrawala⁴ and Lal Ji Singh³

¹Botanical Survey of India, Arid Zone Regional Centre, Jodhpur–342005

²Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune–411001.

³Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair–744 102

⁴Botanical Survey of India, Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, Gangtok–737103.

*Corresponding Author: sanjayald74@gmail.com

भारत के अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह में ल्यूसिया अंगूईकुलाटा (आर्किडेसी) की उपस्थिति पर टिप्पणी

संजय मिश्रा, जीवन सिंह जलाल, विवेक सी. पी., गौतम अनुज एक्का, दिनेश कुमार अग्रवाल एवं लाल जी. सिंह

सारांश

प्रस्तुत शोध पत्र में भारत के अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह में ल्यूसिया अंगूईकुलाटा (आर्किडेसी) की उपस्थिति की पुष्टि करता है। इस जाति को सचित्र फोटोप्लेट के साथ वर्णित करते हुये पारिस्थितिकीय टिप्पणी की गई है।

ABSTRACT

The present paper confirms the occurrence of *Luisia unguiculata* J.J.Sm. (Orchidaceae) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. Detailed description, photographic plate and ecological notes have been provided for the species.

KEY WORDS: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, *Luisia*, Orchidaceae.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Luisia* (Orchidaceae: Epidendroideae: Vandaeae) was established by Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre in Louis de Freycinet's Voyage sur l'Uranie et La Physicienne in 1826. The genus comprises about 40 species distributed in Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Indo-China, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands (Pridgeon & al., 2014). In India, 18 species of *Luisia* have been reported (Singh & al., 2019); mainly distributed in North-eastern states, North-west Himalaya, Peninsular India and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Abraham & Vatsala, 1981; Deva & Naithani, 1986; Chowdhery, 1998; Karthigeyan & al., 2014).

The species has a very limited distribution and reported from Timor of the Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia. Scrutiny of the relevant literature revealed that other than Timor, the occurrence of this species in India from

Andaman & Nicobar Islands was mentioned in the checklist by Pandey & Diwakar, 2008. Later, Karthigeyan & al., 2014 reviewed orchid diversity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and reported occurrence of five species of genus *Luisia* (*L. balakrishnanii* S. Misra, *L. brachystachys* (Lindl.) Blume, *L. recurva* Seidenf., *L. tristis* (G.Forst.) Hook.f. (= *L. teretifolia* Gaud.; *L. zeylanica* Lindl), *L. zollingeri* Rchb.f.) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While the occurrence of other three species namely *L. amesiana* Rolfe, *L. tenuifolia* Blume and *L. unguiculata* J.J. Sm. were considered as doubtful due to lack of the details of any locality, herbarium specimen and description. However, during the field expedition for the project Flora of Kyd, Pitman and James Islands wildlife Sanctuary (allotted to Sanjay Mishra, Vivek C.P. and Gautam Anuj Ekka), few plants of *Luisia* were collected in vegetative condition from a littoral forest of Kyd and Pitman Islands. They were introduced in the orchidarium of Dhanikhari experimental garden cum