

them.

B. vahlii (Fig. 1 c-d): The testa surface is pitted. The pits are closely situated and vary in size but are comparatively larger than those of *B. diphylla*. They are angular to elongated, sometimes more or less circular but rarely slit-like.

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38. *KAEMPFERIA SIPHONANTHA* KING EX BAKER (ZINGIBERACEAE) IN THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

(With a text-figure)

The genus *Kaempferia* L. is represented by eight species and one variety in India (Karthikeyan 1989) of which *K. siphonantha* King ex Baker is endemic to the Andaman group of islands (Vasudeva Rao 1986). Collected by King's collector and later described by Baker in Flora British India (Hooker 1890). *K. siphonantha* King ex Baker is the only representative of the genus in the islands.

While on survey in Kalpong reserve forests in North Andamans, the first author collected specimens of the species and confirmed its identification after consulting CNH at Calcutta and scrutiny of literature. The present collection of this rare, vulnerable, herbaceous, endemic plant after a gap of more than a century indicates that the species has not become extinct yet but is on the verge of

extinction as the natural habitats have already deteriorated or are under destruction in view of the proposed first ever hydroelectric project in the collection site.

In the present communication, a description of the species accompanied by an illustration (Fig. 1) are given in order to facilitate easy identification and conservation in the field or by *ex situ* conservation and propagation.

Kaempferia siphonantha King apud Baker in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 222. 1890.

Herbaceous annuals up to 20 cm tall, no leafy stem. Root stock tuberous with slender root fibres. Leaves 3-4 in a tuft, leafblade up to 8-9 x 2-2.5 cm, oblong, acute, minutely crenate, glabrous, membranous, base unequal sided, sides rounded, oblique; petiole 8-9 cm long. Spike as long

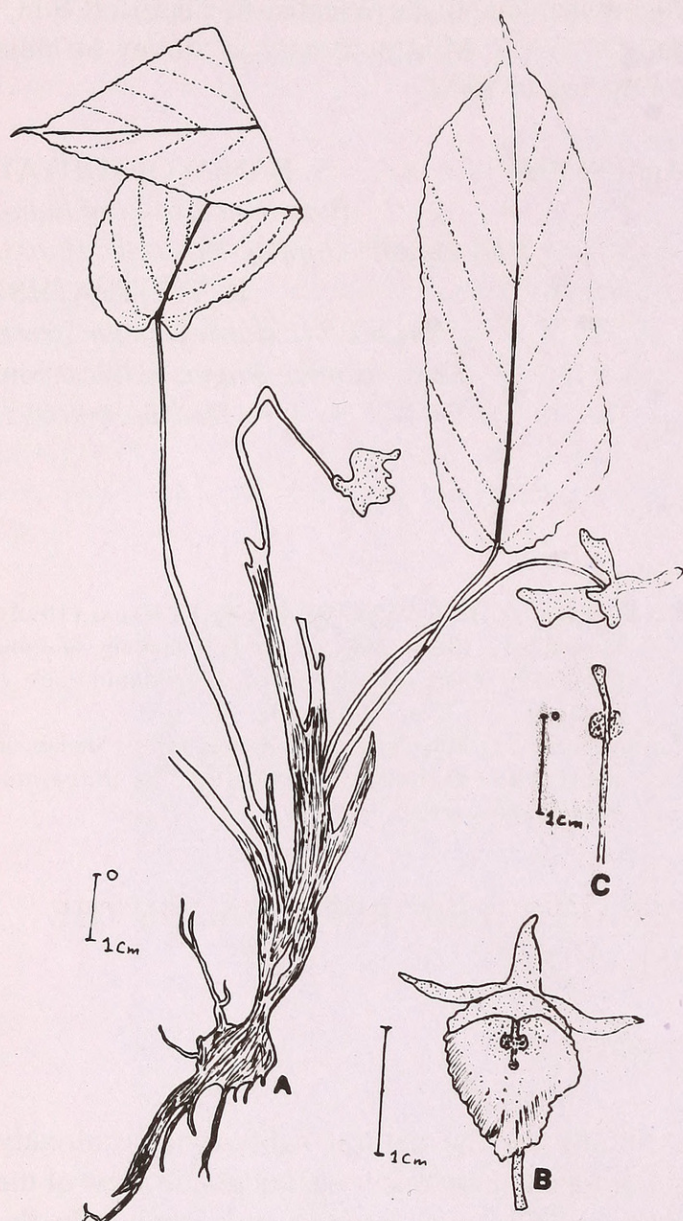


Fig. 1. A-C: *Kaempferia siphonantha* King ex Baker
A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Long style and turbate
stigma with crested anthers on either side of the style.

as or longer than petiole; flowers solitary on a slender spike. Corolla tube much exerted from bract; lobes c. 1.2 cm long, oblong, lanceolate, greenish; lip white, broad, bifid or not, distal end and median tinged with purple blotches. Stamens one, filaments short; anthers on either side of style; connective crested. Ovary 3-celled, style long, filiform; stigma turbinate. Fruits not seen.

Specimens examined: Kalpong hill forest slopes between Diglipur and Kalighat (near forest camp), North Andaman, 3.9.1988, P.S.N. Rao, 13250; Inland evergreen forests of Betapur, Middle Andaman, 23.7.1974, N. Bhargava, 1850 (unidentified).

Note: The species is endangered due to restricted distribution with limited populations, rapid destruction of natural habitats and deforestation/ecological disturbance in its specific niches.

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39. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DIMERIA KANJIRAPALLIANA* K.C. JACOB (POACEAE) IN ANDHRA PRADESH

(With a text-figure)

During the floristic survey of grasses of Andhra Pradesh, we collected a grass from Medak and East Godavari districts, which was identified as *Dimeria kanjirapalliana* K.C. Jacob and constitutes



Rao, P S N and Sinha, B K. 1996. "Kaempferia siphonantha King ex Baker (Zingiberaceae) in the Andaman Islands." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 93, 121–122.

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