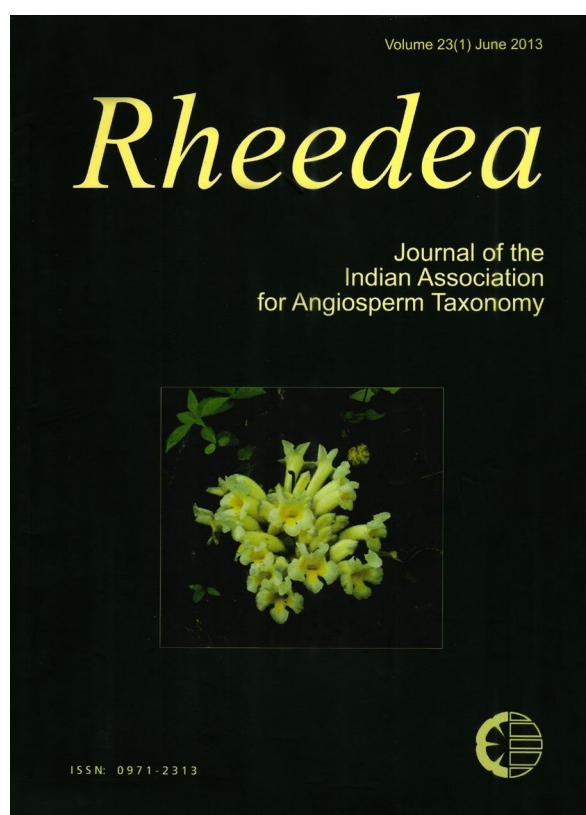




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Globba sherwoodiana (Zingiberaceae) – A new record for India from Manipur

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Abstract

Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda, characterised by large, white bract and imbricate inflorescence with orange labellum is reported and described as a new distributional record for India from Manipur.

Keywords: Manipur, India, New Record, Zingiberaceae, *Globba sherwoodiana*

Introduction

The genus *Globba* L. represents more than 100 species making it the third largest genus of the family Zingiberaceae behind *Alpinia* and *Amomum* (Kress *et al.*, 2002). It is primarily distributed throughout tropical and parts of subtropical Asia, ranging from India to Southern China, south and east Phillipines and New Guinea, with the centre of distribution in monsoonal Southeast Asia, especially Thailand and Myanmar (Williams *et al.*, 2004; Larsen, 1996; Kress *et al.*, 2003). In India, the genus is represented by 21 species and 1 variety with a preponderance in eastern India where 16 species are distributed in different terrains (Baker, 1890; Rao & Verma, 1972; Singh & Kumar, 2011; Sabu, 2006; Somadeva, 1981; Srivastava, 1998; Thongam *et al.*, 2011)

During a floristic assessment of Chavangphai Village in the Moreh region of Chandel district, Manipur in the year 2010, a small population of dry vegetative parts was encountered. The rhizomes were collected and planted at the Zingiberaceae germplasm of Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal. In August, 2011, the plants started flowering following which taxonomic evaluation was conducted and the herbarium is deposited at the Institute (IBSD/Z-49).

On critical examination of the specimen, it was identified as *Globba sherwoodiana* W.J. Kress & V. Gowda reported only from Myanmar (Gowda *et al.*, 2012). Hence, this report represents a new record of the species from India. A detailed description, illustration and photograph are given.

Globba sherwoodiana W.J. Kress & V. Gowda, Phytokeys 13:5-14, 2012. **Fig. 1,2**

Perennial herbs. Leafy shoots slender, 30–40 cm tall, light green in colour. Rhizomes compact, non tuberous, white. Leaves 6–8 in number, shortly petiolate, 0.4–0.6 cm long, ligule small, bilobed, sparsely pubescent on midrib. Lamina oblong–

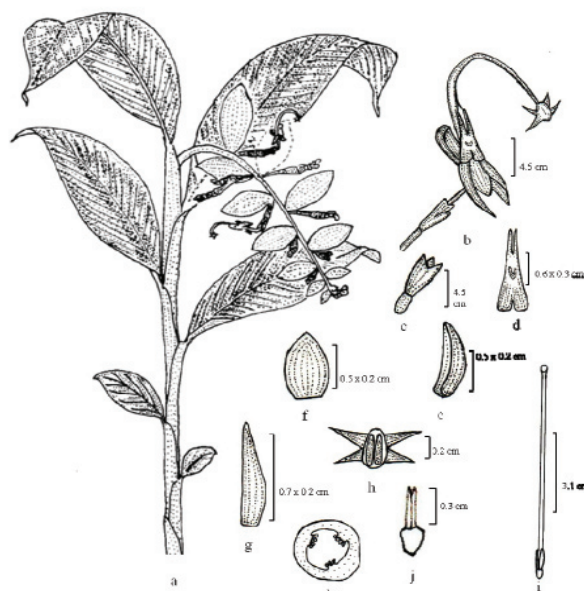


Fig. 1. *Globba sherwoodiana* W.J. Kress & V. Gowda: **a.** Habit; **b.** Flower; **c.** Calyx; **d.** Labellum; **e.** Dorsal corolla lobe; **f.** Lateral corolla lobe; **g.** Lateral staminodes; **h.** Anther; **i.** Style with epigynous gland; **j.** Epigynous glands; **k.** T.S. of ovary.



Fig. 2. *Globba sherwoodiana* W.J. Kress & V. Gowda

lanceolate, 15–20 × 5–8 cm, margin entire, lower surface minutely pubescent along the mid rib, upper surface glabrous, apex acuminate, base attenuate. Inflorescence terminal, drooping, 8–12 cm long, peduncle 3–4 × 0.4–0.5 cm, pale green. Bracts spirally arranged, reflexed, imbricate and widely separated, ovate to ovate-oblong, decreasing in size from base to the tip, 2.5–3 × 1.5–1.8 cm, snowy-white, glabrous. Bracteole tubular, smaller than the bract, persistent. Flowers small, sessile, yellowish-orange, 4–4.5 cm long. Calyx tubular, 0.3–0.4 cm long, trilobed, greenish-yellow, glabrous. Corolla tube 1.1–1.4 cm long, slender, widening gradually towards the mouth, with lobes reflexed. Corolla lobes 3; dorsal lobe concave, c. 0.5 × 0.2 cm, orange in colour; lateral lobe ovate, c. 0.5 × 0.2 cm. Labellum triangular, 0.6–0.8 × 0.2–0.4 cm, orange-yellow with a reddish patch at centre, tip deeply bifid, glabrous. Lateral staminodes elliptic, 0.7–1 × 0.2–0.5 cm, orange-yellow, glabrous. Filament slender, c. 1.6–2.6 cm long, orange, glabrous, anther linear, 0.2–0.3 cm long, thecae parallel, with two triangular appendages on either

side, glabrous. Style filiform, stigma with hairy margin. Epigynous glands 2, linear, apex pointed. Ovary 0.3 cm long, pale green, glabrous, unilocular with many ovule on parietal placenta.

Flowering: August–September.

Altitude: 260 m above sea level

Ecology: Found growing as undershrub in the tropical deciduous forest floor.

Notes: *G. sherwoodiana* was originally described from a cultivated source in Myanmar. It is also assumed that wild populations might be present in the border region between Myanmar and Thailand (Gowda *et al.* 2012). This finding presents the first wild collection of *G. sherwoodiana* with populations in the Indian region bordering Myanmar.

Specimen examined: INDIA, **Manipur**, Chandel Dist., Chavangphai, Lat. N 24°15'20.8", Long. E 094°18'47.5" Alt. 260 msl. 20.01.2010, Biseshwori & Bipin (IBSD/Z-49).

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