Two new records of *Eria* Lindl. (Orchidaceae) for Nepal

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**The genus Eria Lindl.** is one of the larger polymorphic genera of the family Orchidaceae. It has about 404 species in the world (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew 2003) which are divided into 13 to 17 sections according to the nature of pseudobulbs and leaf characters (Seidenfaden 1982, Pearce and Cribb 2002).

During the revisionary work on Himalayan genus *Eria* Lindl., several deposited specimens in national (National Herbarium, Department of Plant Resources, KATH and Tribhuvan University Central Herbarium, TUCH) and international (Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, CAL, The Natural History Museum London, BM, Royal Botanical Gardens, K and Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh, E) herbaria and collected specimens from East Nepal were examined thoroughly. *Eria concolor* Par. & Rchb. f. and *Eria obesa* Lindl. were found to be new records for Nepal. King and Pantling (1898), Haraj et al. (1978), Banerji and Pradhan (1984), Press et al. (2000) and Bajracharya (2001) did not mention the presence of these species in Nepal. These specimens were crosschecked with the protologue texts of *Eria concolor* Par. & Rchb.f. (1874), Tran. Linn. Soc. 30:148, and *Eria obesa* Lindl. (1830), Gen & Sp. Orch. 68. Both type specimens were collected from Burma and deposited at Orchid Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Both species are distributed in East Nepal, North East India, Burma, and Thailand.


Pinatula concolor (Par. & Rchb.f.) Kunte (1891), Revisio Gen. Pl. 2:679.

Epiphytic orchid 15-20 cm high. Pseudobulbs cylindrical, green, fusiform usually 3-5 cm high, with 4-5 internodes, often swelling between nodes, covered with bright green leaf sheath when young; older pseudobulbs with white line from the vein of old sheath. Leaves at top, 14 x 1.3-2 cm, linear-lanceolate, acute, very narrow membranous. Inflorescence raceme, sub-erect, pubescent, few flowered (2-6). Floral bract ovate-lanceolate, acute 5 mm, small; pedicel plus ovary longer than saccate mentum, more or less hairy. Flowers 1.5-2 mm in diameter, greenish yellow and shaded of dull pink claret; membranous, glabrous. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, acute, 5-7.5 x 2-3 mm, glabrous, dorsal sepal oblong, acute, 5-6.5 mm glabrous; lateral sepals 3-veined, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, falcate; mentum obtusely triangular. Petals linear, acute, ca. 5.5 mm, glabrous, 3-5 veined; labellum obscurely tri-lobed, small indentation in an obtuse angle between hypochile and epichile, 6-7 mm long, nearly 4 mm in width when flattened at hypochile oblong, base narrow cuneate, side lobed very narrow, disk with a thick keels merging at apex of epichile between two half-moon shaped cushion, median keel with distinct swelling at base, terminal lobe reute, apiculate. Column ca. 2-3 mm, glabrous, curved, foot 5.6 mm long, distinct joint between label- lum and foot; operculum ca. 1 mm, pea shaped; dinandrium collar like; rostellum minute and ligulate. Pollinia 8, obovoid, attached to caudicle; viscidium simple. Stigma cavity ca. 1.1-1.5 mm long laterally and two small lobed inside the cavity.

**Type specimens:** Burma: Moulmein, Parish 128 (K!)

**Distribution:** Nepal, Burma

**Ecology:** Epiphyte on Sal tree

**Flowering June**

**Specimens examined:** East Nepal: Bhoqatini, Raja Rani Village, Letang, Morang, 500 m., D. M. Bajracharya, L. R. Shaya and A. Subedi 424; 6 Nov 2001 (TUCH); Burma: Moulmein, Parish 128 (K!)

**Etymology:** Concolor refers to uniform in colour.


Eria lindleyana Griff. (1851), Not. 3:300.


Epiphytic herbs, 15-17 cm high. Pseudobulbs stoutly, clavate-ovate, 4-7 cm long, green with scariosus sheath; leaf sheath 1.1-1.5 cm long, brown, scariosus. Leaves shed before flowering, develop in autumn, about 5-6 leaves and 12 x 1 cm appear before the pseudobulbs started swelling, lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate or glabrous (Griff. 1851); rachis 1 cm long. Inflorescence raceme, lateral sub-corymbose, 2-4 in numbers, puberulent. Floral bract 3 mm large, oval, thin, entire, reflexed at the junction of the stalks, acute; pedicel plus ovary 1.4-2 mm long, pubescent. Flowers white, 2 cm across in diameter, glabrous. Sepals unequal, 1.0-1.2 cm long; dorsal sepal lanceolate, acuminate, entire, 1-1.2 cm x 2 mm, glabrous with 5 veins, lateral sepals lanceolate, slightly oblique, falcate acuminate 12 x 1.5-3 mm, entire, white, glabrous, thin, 5-veins; mentum 1 mm, round, curved, subcoric. Petals...
oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, 10–12 x 2 mm, thin, glabrous, and 3 veins; labellum nearly as long as sepals and petals, linear-oblong, 0.8–12 mm long, 3 mm broad, entire, obscurely uniformed, thin, 3 thickened keels with lateral lobe veins, edges of lobed somewhat thin. Column 3–4 mm long, 2 mm in diameter, white, glabrous, curved, foot 4–5 mm long, concave; operculum 1 mm, sub-orbicular, thick, pappus at the upper surface, two lobed within 8 chambered; clinandrium collar-like, erect posterior acute, 1 dentate; rostellum minute and ligulate. Pollinia 8, obovoid, laterally compressed in appendiculate, attached to glandular caudicle; viscidium simple. Stigmatic cavity 1.5–3 mm long, curved, low stigma obscured furrow or groove, two long lobes inside the cavity.

**Type specimen:** Burma: Altran, Martaban, Wall. 1976, (K!)

**Distribution:** Nepal, North East India, Burma, Thailand

**Ecology:** Epiphyte on Sal tree

**Flowering:** August

**Specimen examined:** East Nepal: Bhogatini, Raja Rani Village, Letang, Morang, 500 m. D. M. Bajracharya, L. R. Shakya and A. Subedi 394, 14 Jan 2001 (TUCH); North East India: Palak, Lushi Hills, Parry (K!); Lorraine s.n. (K 9461!); Burma: Altran, Martaban, Wall 1976, (holotype K!); Moulmein, Griff. drawing (K!); Mergui, Griff. 374 (Herb. Lindl. K!); Mergui 554 type of the E. lindleyana, Parish 24 (K!); Amherest, Lace4495 (K!); Amherest, Parkinson 5288 (K!); Moulmein, Peche s.n. 29 Dec. 1896 (CAL!); Kadanigh, Meebold 17045, 1912 (CAL!); Pugetto Thagahta, Lace 5595, 21 Jan. 1912 (CAL!); Jaraj, Mokim 219, Dec. 1900 (CAL!); Paphi, Meebold 17044, 1912 (CAL!); Nabule valley, Mokim 160, Dec. 1900 (CAL!).

**Etymology:** Obesus refers to fat/stunt pseudobulb.

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