

First Record of *Ania viridifusca* (Hook.) T.Tang & F.T.Wang ex Summerh. from Tsirang, BhutanYeshe Phuntsho^{1,2}, Sonam Lhundup^{1,2,*}, Gyeltshen Dorji¹, Karma Yangchen¹
and Kinley Wangmo²**Abstract**

We recorded *Ania viridifusca* (Hook.) T.Tang & F.T.Wang ex Summerh. from Tsirang, Bhutan which is a new record to the flora of Bhutan. It is found in the mixed chirpine and warm broadleaved forest.

Keywords: *Ania viridifusca*, new record

Introduction

Ania Lindl. belongs to subtribe Collabiinae of tribe Collabieae and was described by Hook in 1939 and was for very long time treated as synonym of *Tainia* Blume (Turner, 1992) and is re-established by Li *et al.* (2014). There are seven *Ania* species distributed in tropical and subtropical Asia which are *A. angustifolia* Lindl., *A. elmeri* (Ames) A.D. Hawkes ex Senhgas, *A. hongkongensis* (Rolfe) Tang & F.T. Wang, *A. penangiana* (Hook.f.) Summerh., *A. ruybarrettoi* S.Y.Hu & Barretto and *A. viridifusca* (Hook.) T.Tang & F.T.Wang ex Summerh (WCSP, 2021). In the Orchids of Bhutan,

Pearce and Cribb (2002) mentioned *A. penangiana* and *A. viridifusca* from the neighboring Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal (Darjeeling and Duars). Later, Gurung (2006) reported *A. penangiana* from Trongsa district, Bhutan. Recently, *Ania viridifusca* was found growing in a mixed chirpine (*Pinus roxburghii* Sarg.) and warm broadleaved forest in Tsirang district, Bhutan.

Ania viridifusca was observed during a routine-orchid survey at Wangphu village (27° 4'23.37"N 90° 7'44.45"E) of Tsirangtoed block under Tsirang district on 14 March 2021 at an elevation of 1084 meter above sea level. While it had a limited distribution then, in July 2021 it was observed to be growing in a wider area in Tsirangtoed. *A. viridifusca* is confirmed as a new record to Bhutan after reviewing several references and consultation with experts. Photos of the species were shared on the Facebook forum "Orchids of Bhutan" for confirmation. Its

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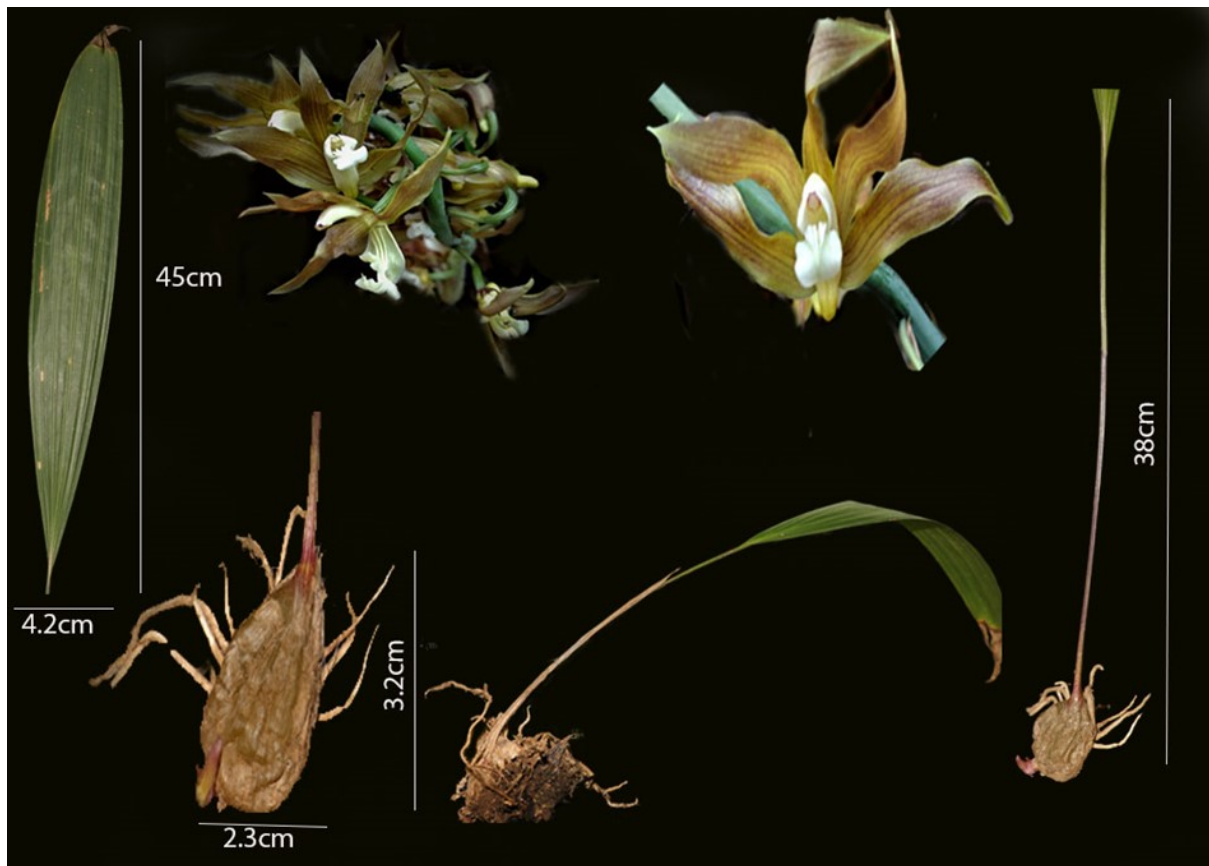


Figure 1: a. Leaf; b. Inflorescence; c. Flower; d. Bulb; e. Whole plant; f. Petiole length

herbarium specimen is deposited in the National Biodiversity Center (THIM487). With the addition of this new record, the total number of orchid species occurring in Bhutan stands at 496 following the publications of Rabgay *et al.* (2021) and Gyeltshen *et al.* (2021).

Description

It is a terrestrial herb growing from up to 150 cm. Pseudobulbs erect, ovoid to ellipsoid, internodes several, 2.3-5.2 x 3.4-9.9 cm. Leaf elliptic, acute to sub-acuminate, many veined, 45-55 x 4.2-8.1 cm; petiole 38 cm long. Inflorescence 20-30 flowered; peduncle 32-105 cm long; peduncle scales up to 7 and sometimes 6, acute, 3.3-4.5 cm long; rachis 24-57 cm long; floral bracts spreading and sometimes reflexed, acute, 0.5-2.3 cm long. Flowers opening together; sepals and petals are purplish-brown to pale green with a red mid-vein, lip cream-

yellow, spotted with lilac on both sides. Dorsal sepal elliptic to obovate, acute to acuminate, 2.2-3.3 x 0.3-0.5 cm; lateral sepals elliptic-obovate, acuminate, falcate, 2.1-3 x 0.4-0.5 cm. Petals obliquely elliptic to obovate, weakly falcate, acute-acuminate, 1.9-2.7 x 0.4-0.6 cm. Lip spurred, 3 lobed, elliptic to obovate, 1.1-1.3 x 0.75-0.85 cm; lateral lobes obliquely triangular to elliptic, obtuse; mid-lobed elliptic, acuminate, margin entire.

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