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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ALPINIA CALCARATA: A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD IN THE ZINGIBERACEAE FLORA OF MANIPUR

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Abstract

The present paper includes *Alpinia calcarata* Roscoe as a new record in the Zingiberaceae flora of Manipur. The plant is described along with the field photographs.

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Introduction:-

Zingiberaceae is considered as one of the most important and valuable group of monocots. It is a well-known plant family for its medicinal and economic significance⁵. They are mostly distributed in tropical and sub-tropical region of the globe with maximum distribution in South East Asia.^{4,6}

Manipur is situated in the north-east India and is centrally located on the eastern arm of the Himalayas- Purvanchal consisting of a valley embosomed in the mountainous region. The specimen was observed during the field survey in the valley districts in 2016. Detailed studies were undertaken with the various floras and herbaria and is subsequently identified as *Alpinia calcarata* Roscoe. The collection forms a new distributional record in the Zingiberaceae flora of Manipur.

Taxonomic treatment:-

Alpinia calcarata Roscoe- Trans. Linn. Soc. London 8: 347. 1807 (IK)

Pseudostem to 1.3m; leaves sessile; ligule 0.8-1.2 cm, glabrous, apex obtuse bilobed; leaf blade linear, lanceolate, 25-33 x 2.5-3.7 cm, glabrous, green, base attenuate; leaf margins with short bristles; panicle 11.2 cm, rachis velvety; proximal branches 3 flowered; bracteoles membranous, apex obtuse, 1.4 cm long; pedicel 3 mm, pubescent; calyx apex 3-toothed, pubescent, 1.2cm, split on 1 side, white in colour; corolla white, glabrous, obtuse, lobes oblong, 2 shorter, 1.8 cm x 0.5 cm, 1 larger, 2 cm x 0.9 cm; lateral staminodes red, subulate, 3 mm, adnate to the base of labellum; labellum white with cherry red streaks, obovate, apex emarginated, 3.3 cm x 2.4 cm; stamen 2.2 cm; anther dorsifixed, bilobed, 0.7 cm, filament slender slight pinkish at the base, 3.3cm; stigma capitate; presence of 2 oil glands, yellow, 0.2 cm; capsule globose, pubescent; ovary trilobular.

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Fig.1:- *Alpinia calcarata* Roscoe in the natural habitat.

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