

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-50563

Date: 08-03-2025

Title: RHYNCHOGLOSSUM BLUME (GESNERIACEAE): A NEW GENERIC RECORD FOR FLORA OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	√			
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity		√		
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

The manuscript presents a new generic record of *Rhynchoglossum* Blume (Gesneriaceae) for the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. The study documents the first occurrence of *Rhynchoglossum obliquum* Blume in this region, providing a detailed taxonomic description, images, a distribution map, conservation status, and ethnomedicinal uses.

The introduction provides a clear overview of the significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in terms of floral diversity and endemism. The authors successfully establish the relevance of their study by outlining the previous absence of *Rhynchoglossum* in this region and highlighting the importance of reporting new species occurrences.

The taxonomic treatment is thorough and well-structured, detailing synonymy, morphological characteristics, habitat, and distribution. The inclusion of flowering and fruiting periods, along with habitat preferences, adds valuable information for botanists and conservationists. The manuscript also provides an extensive list of regions where *R. obliquum* has been recorded, reinforcing its wide geographical distribution beyond India.

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The methodology for specimen collection and identification appears robust, and the authors provide precise location details, including latitude, longitude, and altitude. The deposition of voucher specimens in Port Blair further strengthens the credibility of the study.

The conservation status section is well-articulated, noting the fragmented population observed in the Limestone Cave area of Nayadera Village, Baratang Island. The discussion on potential threats such as human disturbance and tourism underscores the need for further ecological assessment. The provisional classification of *R. obliquum* as Data Deficient (DD) for Andaman and Nicobar Islands aligns with IUCN guidelines.

The ethnomedicinal use of *R. obliquum* as an antifungal agent is a noteworthy addition, linking botanical research with traditional knowledge. The citation of relevant literature strengthens the discussion on this aspect.

Overall, the manuscript effectively documents the first record of *Rhynchoglossum* in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, offering comprehensive taxonomic, ecological, and conservation-related insights.