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FIRST REPORT OF *Zeuxine longilabris* (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

While surveying in Chhattisgarh, a small terrestrial orchid was encountered in flowering by one of the authors. The specimen was subsequently collected & upon critical morphological examination, along with a literature survey. The specimen was identified as *Zeuxine longilabris* (Lindl.) Trimen. *Zeuxine longilabris* (Lindl.) Trimen is collected for the first time in Chhattisgarh, India. Detailed description, distribution, and photographs are provided.

Keywords : Chhattisgarh, orchids, *Zeuxine*.

Introduction

The genus *Zeuxine* Lindl. is widely distributed from Africa through tropical Asia to the Pacific (POWO, 2026). It comprises 84 species in the world. However, in India, the genus is represented by 21 species (Bhattacharjee & Chowdhery, 2018; Singh *et al.*, 2019; Schuitman *et al.*, 2022; Gogoi and Mega 2025; Yonzon, 2025).

While surveying in Chhattisgarh, a small terrestrial orchid was encountered in flowering by one of the authors. The specimen was subsequently collected & upon critical morphological examination, along with a literature survey (Hooker, 1894; Bhattacharjee & Chowdhery, 2018; Chaurasia *et al.*, 2018), the specimen was identified as *Zeuxine longilabris* (Lindl.) Trimen. A thorough review of the regional floristic literature (Sharma & Sarkar, 2002; Kumar *et al.*, 2007; Garg *et al.*, 2025) revealed that this species had not previously been recorded from the state of Chhattisgarh. Thus, the present collection becomes the very first record of *Z. longilabris* from Chhattisgarh, thereby adding to the state's known orchid diversity. A brief description and photographic documentation are provided here to facilitate its easy

identification in the field. Voucher specimen was deposited in the Central National Herbarium, BSI (CAL).

Taxonomic treatment

Zeuxine longilabris (Lindl.) Trimen, Syst. Cat. Fl. Pl. Ceylon: 90. 1885; Hook.f., Fl. Brit India 6: 107. 1890; Santapau & Kapadia Orchids Bombay 169. t. 39. 1966; S. Misra, Orchids India: 320. 2007; Bhattacharjee & Chowdhery, Fasc. Fl. India 28: 174. 2018; S.K. Singh & al., Orchids India, 517. 2019; *Monochilus longilabris* Lindl. in Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl.: 487. 1840; *Haplochilus longilabris* (Lindl.) D. Dietr. in Syn. Plant. 5: 173. 1852. (Plate 1).

Type: Ceylon, 1829, Macrae 4 (holotype: K).

Terrestrial herb upto 10-30 cm tall. Rhizome fleshy, greenish brown, swollen at node, creeping below. Stem brownish green, decumbent at base, erect above, unbranched, with a few membranous sheaths formed by leaf bases. Leaves 3–5, crowded at base, thin, green, petiolate, ovate-lanceolate, acute. Inflorescence terminal raceme, laxly 3–5 flowered, pubescent; scape 15–20 cm tall, slender, teret, with long white retrorse hairs. Bracts 4–9 mm long, narrowly

lanceolate, acute at apex, equally or slightly longer than the ovary. Flowers 15-20 mm long, resupinate. Sepals sub-equal, pubescent; dorsal sepal ovate, sub-triangular, fused with the petals forming a hood; lateral sepals ovate-lanceolate, acute, enclosing base of lip. Lip trilobed; hypochile cymbiform, adnate to the column forming a sac; one papillose gland on each side; mesochile long with folded margins; epichile shortly clawed, distinctly two lobed, white, with reddish green tinge at base, margin mostly irregularly serrate. Column long, with 2 short frontal appendages near base of rostellum, bifid, obtuse at apex, slightly curved downwards. Ovary including pedicel terete, twisted, pubescent to villose.



**Plate 1 : *Zeuxine longilabris*. A. Habit & Habitat,
B. Flowers.**

Flowering & Fruiting: January to May.

Habitat: The species was found growing in shade under the leaf litter of *Shorea robusta* C.F.Gaertn. Common associated species include *Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br., *Strobilanthes pavala* (Roxb.) J.R.I.Wood, *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall. ex Nees etc.

Specimen examined: INDIA, Chhattisgarh, Dantewada, Tehsil Barsur (Poya Dongri), Village Reka, 08.02.2026, *Bhaskar Chandra* 98914 (CAL).

Distribution: India (Chhattisgarh (Present report), Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, & West Bengal), Bangladesh; Cambodia; Laos; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal; Sri Lanka; Thailand.

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