

CHLOROPHYTUM NEPALENSE (LINDLEY) BAKER (LILIACEAE) - A NEW ANGIOSPERMIC RECORD FOR BANGLADESH

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Abstract

Chlorophytum nepalense (Lindley) Baker, a perennial herb, belonging to the family Liliaceae has been described and illustrated as a new genus and species record for Bangladesh.

A perennial terrestrial herb from Runcitia forest under Sherpur district of Bangladesh with white flowers from shady forest floor was collected in May 2008, and identified as *Chlorophytum nepalense* (Lindley) Baker by consulting the descriptions of Hooker (1892) and Xinqi and Tamura (2000).

A detailed descriptive note and illustration are prepared on the basis of a living specimen planted at the Dhaka University Botanical Garden, and also a herbarium specimen kept at the Salar Khan Herbarium, D.U.

The genus *Chlorophytum* Ker-Gawl., of the family Liliaceae, has not been recorded previously from the area now under Bangladesh.

Genus **Chlorophytum** Ker-Gawl., Bot. Mag. 27: t. 1071 (1808)

Perennial herbs, rhizomatous. Rhizome often short, inconspicuous, sometimes thick, elongate. Roots usually slightly fleshy. Leaves basal, subdistichous or fasciculate, sessile or petiolate, conduplicate. Inflorescence a terminal raceme or panicle, bract small. Scape axillary, proximately with bract-like cauline leaves. Flowers bisexual, pedicel articulate. Perianth segments 6, usually white, free, persistent or marcescent. Stamens 6, inserted at the base of tepals; filaments filiform, usually slightly widened near middle, anthers nearly basifixed. Ovary 3-loculed, ovules 1 to several per locule; style slender; stigma small. Fruit a capsule, acutely 3-angled, loculicidal. Seeds black coated, flattened (Hooker 1892).

Chlorophytum nepalense (Lindley) Baker, Journ. Linn. Soc. 15: 330 (1876). (Fig. 1)

Phalangium nepalensis Lindley, Trans. Hort. Soc. Lond. 6: 277 (1826)

Chlorophytum khasianum Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 334 (1892)

Root fibrous, cylindrical, nearly clustered. Rhizome often short, inconspicuous. Leaves ensiform, sessile, flat, convolute, often distichous, c 19.5 x 4.2 cm, acute-acuminate, linear-lanceolate, entire, margin laxly crisped, glabrous, green. Inflorescence an irregular terminal raceme, scape solid, simple or shortly branched, terete or slightly compressed, green, c 20.5 cm long, flowering portion c 6 cm long. Flowers bracteate, bracts c 0.8 x 0.4 cm, lanceolate, green, glabrous. Pedicels c 0.8 cm long, erect, white, jointed above the middle, perianth segments 6, 3 + 3, inner three c 0.8 x 0.3 cm, outer three c 1.0 x 0.2 cm, linear-lanceolate, acute to obtuse, white, glabrous. Stamens 6, exserted, filaments c 0.3 cm long, white, anthers c 0.6 cm long, yellow, dorsifixed, dehiscence longitudinal, not recurved or revolute after flowering. Ovary c 0.25 x

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0.2 cm, green, trigonous, glabrous. Carpels 3, syncarpous, ovules many in each chamber, style c 1.1 cm long, white, stigma minute, c 0.1 cm long, 3-fid, glabrous. Fruit a capsule, trigonous, c 0.8 × 0.9 cm, with 0.1 cm 3-fid stigma. Seeds several per valve, c 0.3 × 0.2 cm, black, opaque.

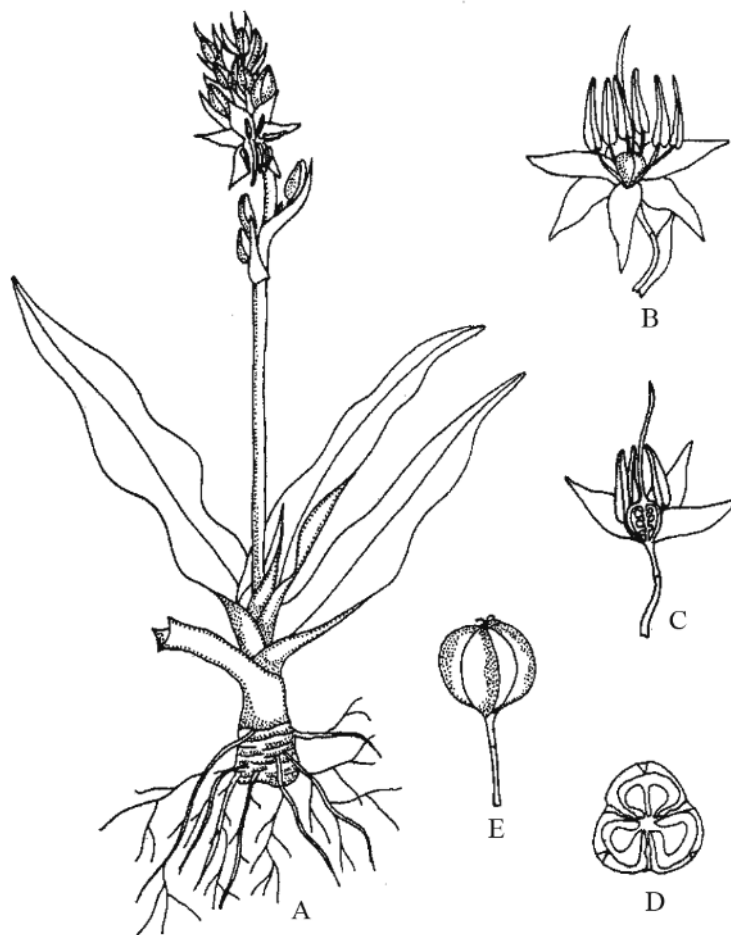


Fig. 1. *Chlorophytum nepalense* (Lindley) Baker, A. habit (× 0.5); B. a flower (× 1); C. LS of a flower (× 1); D. TS of ovary (× 7); E. a fruit.

Flowering and fruiting: April to July.

Specimen examined: **Sherpur:** Runtia forest, 16.5.2008, Ershad Tutul, Salar Khan Herbarium, D.U. 205.

Distribution: Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, China, Nepal and Bhutan.

References

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