

### 33. A TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT OF *ROBIQUETIA* GAUD. (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM BANGLADESH

(With two text-figures)

*Robiquetia* is an epiphytic Orchidaceous genus of about 20 species, distributed in India, southeast Asia, Malaysia, Solomons and Fiji (Airy-Shaw 1973, Hunt and Grierson (1973). Only two species *R. succisa* (Lindl.) Seidenf. & Garay and *R. spathulata* (Bl.) J.J. Sm. have been reported from India by Pradhan (1979). He mentioned that *R. succisa* (Lindl.) Seidenf. & Garay was also found in Bangladesh. Jayaweera (1981) recorded four species from Sri Lanka. On the other hand, Hooker (1890) included the genus under *Saccolabium* and reported *R. succisa* (Lindl.) Seidenf. & Garay from the Sylhet area now in Bangladesh. So far no systematic study has been done on the genus in Bangladesh. The present work is a study of this genus from Bangladesh. One more species *Robiquetia spathulata* (Bl.) J.J. Sm., is reported from Bangladesh as a new record.

The preserved and living specimens are housed in the Botany Department Herbarium and Orchidarium respectively, at Chittagong University, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Robiquetia*

1. Leaves 12.0-20.0 cm long and 3.0-5.0 cm broad, inflorescence regularly simple and  $\pm$  20.0 cm long ..... *R. spathulata*
1. Leaves 6.5-9.0 cm long and 1.0-2.0 cm broad, inflorescence often branched and  $\pm$  10.0 cm long ..... *R. succisa*

#### ENUMERATION OF THE SPECIES

1. *R. spathulata* (Bl.) J.J. Smith. Smith, J.J. Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg 2. Ser. 8. (1912), In Pradhan, Ind. Orch., 2: 554 (1979). Syn. *Cleisostoma spathulatum* Bl. Blume. C.L. Bijdragen tot. de Fl. van Nedert. Indie-Batavia. 434 (1825), In Pradhan, Ind. Orch., 2: 631

(1979); *C. spicatum* Lindl. in Bot. Reg. t. 32 (1847); Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind., 6: 72 (1890); Grant, Orch. Burma, 311 (1895); Bruhl, Orch. Sikkim, 138 (1926); Bose & Bhattacharjee, Orch. Ind., 148 (1980); *Saccolabium densiflorum* Lindl. Gen. & Sp. Orch., 220 (1833). (Fig. 1)

Inflorescence rarely branched and is one of the long lasting inflorescences where flowers are continuously blooming for about two months. The species is very similar to Pradhan's (1979) descriptions and drawings. Flowers 8 x 8 mm across, yellow with reddish-brown patches on the outer side. Sepals subequal, broadly elliptic. Petals connately obovate. Lip yellowish, adnate wholly to sides of the column and ending in an infundibular spur, dilated, compressed and 3-notched at the apex; side lobes obscurely erose, obtuse and rounded; midlobe thick, triangular-ovate; interior of spur contracted at two points by calli in front and back walls, the back wall callus divided into 2 recurved teeth. Pollinia 2, 0.5 x 0.5 mm, globular, bipartite, attached with 2 mm long slender strap and a small sagittate viscidium. Stigmatic surface 0.5 x 0.5 mm. Capsule not found. Flowering scape initiation: mid April.

Fl.: Mid May-late July

Fr.: Unknown.

**Geographical distribution:** Throughout Southeast Asia including Bangladesh.

**Material examined:** Cox's Bazar dist. Ramu, Dechua palong, 13.x.1986 (collected at vegetative stage, subsequently flowered next year, cultured in Orchidarium), Mokter 56; Ukhia, Kotopalong, 20.x.1986, Mokter, 67.

2. *R. succisa* (Lindl.) Seidenf. & Garay. Seidenfaden & Garay, Contrb. Orch. Fl. Thai. 4. Bot. Tidsskr. 67, (1972), In Pradhan, Ind. Orch., 2: 553 (1979) Basionym of Lindl. *Saccolabium buccosum* Reichb. f. in Gard. Chron., 938 (1871);



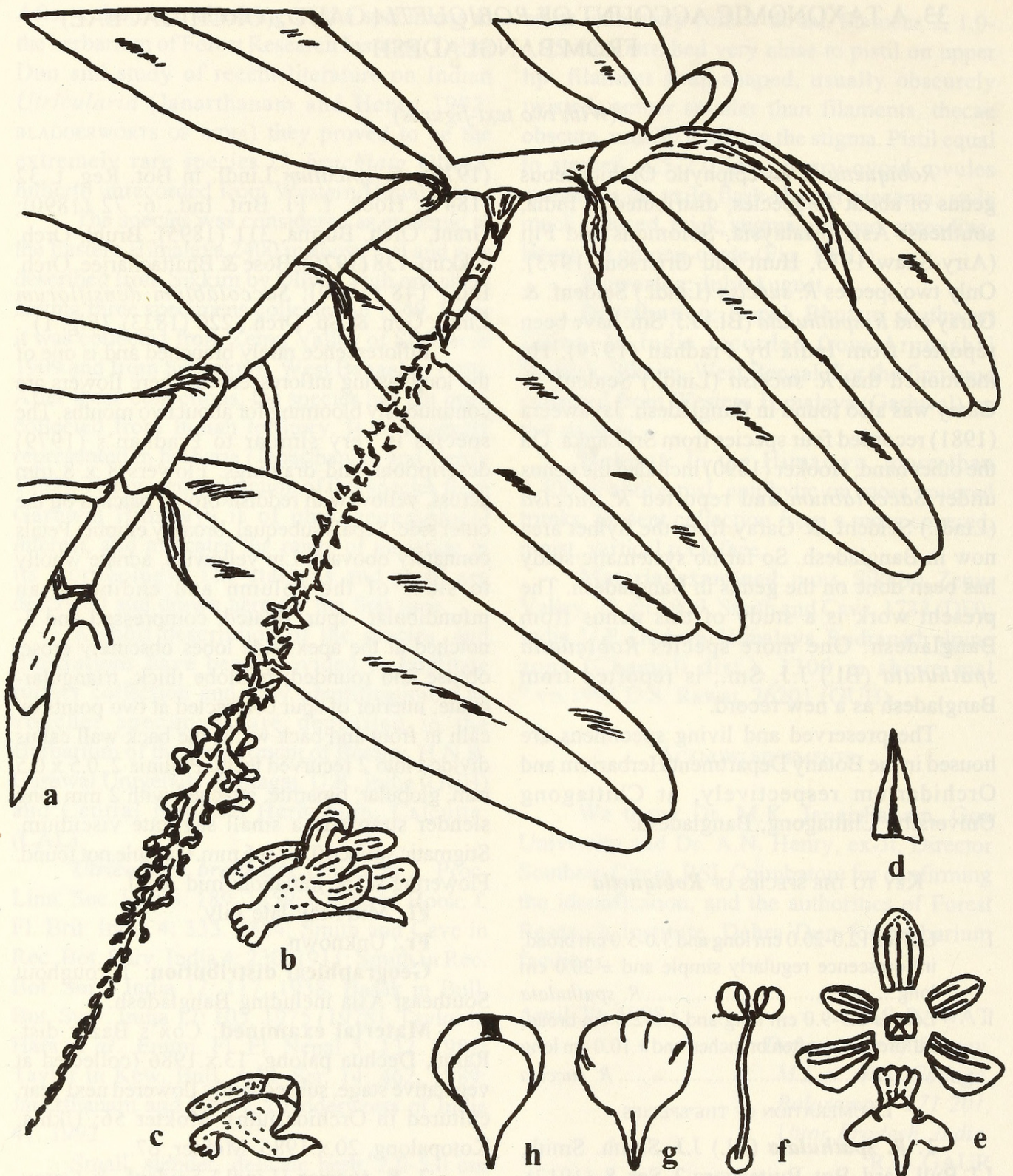


Fig. 1: *Robiquetia spathulata* (B1.) J.J. Sm.: (a) habit with inflorescence (x 1/2); (b) flower from semi-side (x 2); (c) pedicellate ovary, column and lip from semi-side x 2); (d) floral bract (x 3); (e) sepals, petals and lip spread out, column from inside (x 2); (f) pollinia (x 10); (g) operculum from front (x 10); (h) operculum from inside (x 10).



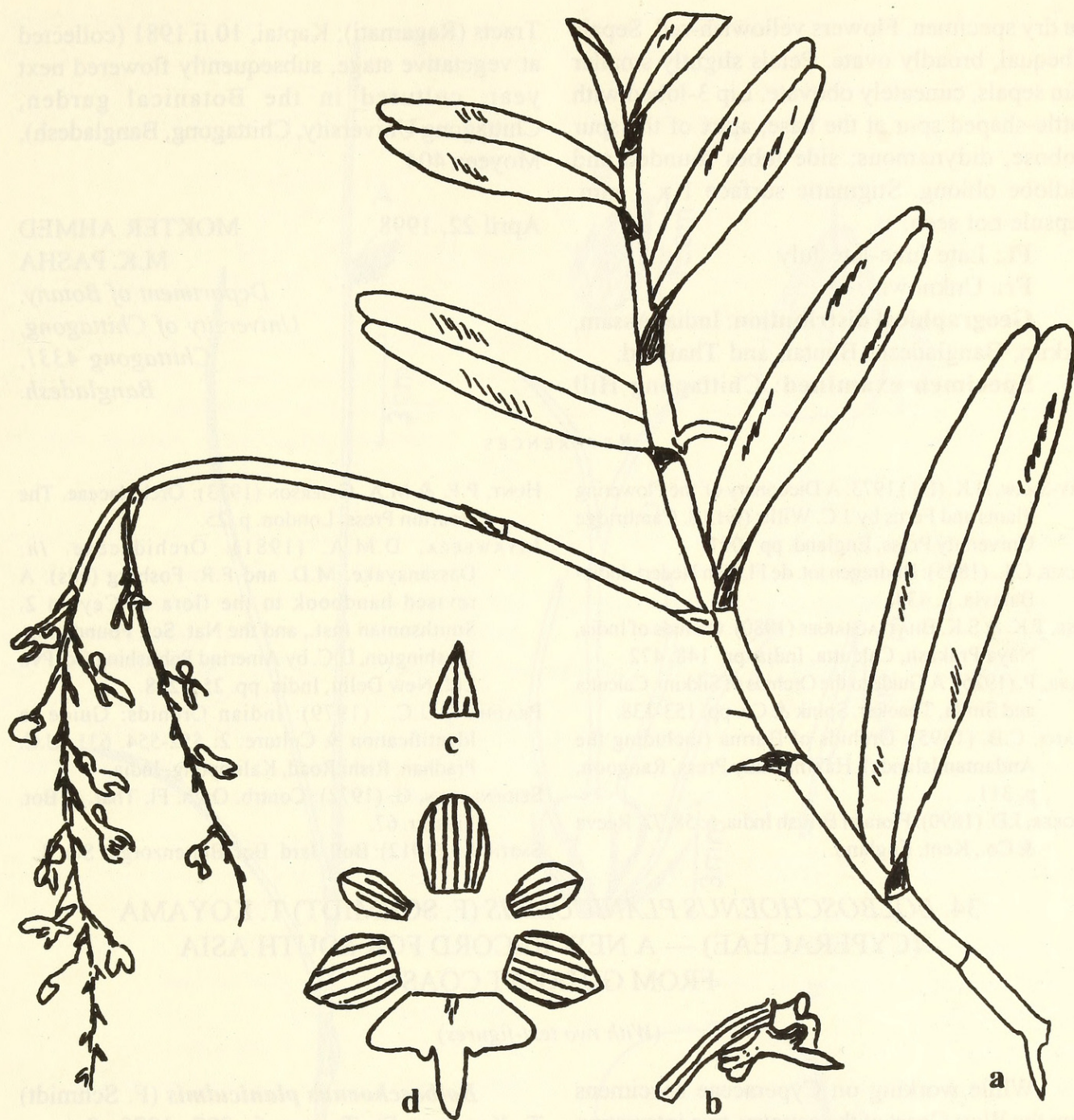


Fig. 2: *Robiquetia succisa* (Lindl.) Seidenf. & Garay: (a) habit sketch with inflorescence (x 1); (b) pedicellate ovary, column and lip from side (x 2); (c) floral bract (x 3); (d) sepals, petals and lip spread out (x 3).

Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind., 6: 58 (1890); Bruhl, Orch. Sikkim, 135 (1926); Bose & Bhattacharjee, Orch. Ind., 472 (1980). (Fig. 2)

The species was collected by Moyeen from Kaptai forest of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, growing as an epiphyte on *Tectona*

*grandis* L. f. I carefully examined this single specimen preserved in the herbarium of the Botany Department, Chittagong University, Chittagong, which closely matches Pradhan's (1979) description and drawings. Unfortunately, I could not find the operculum and pollinia in



the dry specimen. Flowers yellowish-red. Sepals subequal, broadly ovate. Petals slightly smaller than sepals, cuneately obovate. Lip 3-lobed with bottle-shaped spur at the base, apex of the spur globose, didynamous; side lobes rounded and midlobe oblong. Stigmatic surface 1 x 1 mm. Capsule not seen.

**Fl.:** Late June-late July

**Fr.:** Unknown.

**Geographical distribution:** India, Assam, Sikkim, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Thailand.

**Specimen examined:** Chittagong Hill

Tracts (Ragamati); Kaptai, 10.ii.1981 (collected at vegetative stage, subsequently flowered next year, cultured in the Botanical garden, Chittagong University, Chittagong, Bangladesh), Moyeen 404.

April 22, 1998

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### 34. *BOLBOSCHOENUS PLANICULMIS* (F. SCHMIDT) T. KOYAMA (CYPERACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR SOUTH ASIA FROM GUJARAT COAST

(With two text-figures)

While working on Cyperaceae specimens from the West Coast of the country, two interesting specimens were found labelled as *Scirpus maritimus* L. var. *affinis* Clarke. As some striking, superficial differences were found in these specimens, a detailed study was made and the specimens were subsequently identified as *Bolboschoenus planiculmis* (Schmidt) Koyama which is not yet reported from India and the neighbouring countries, except from the Chinese coast. A detailed description of the species along with illustrations and distribution is given below.

*Bolboschoenus planiculmis* (F. Schmidt) T. Koyama, Fl. Taiwan 5: 207. 1978. *Scirpus planiculmis* F. Schmidt, Reisen Amerlande U. Ins. Sachalin 190, t. 8, f. 1-7. 1868; Koyama in Journ. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo 3, 7(6): 330, f. 13. 1958. Fig. 1.

Perennials with long stolons, 30-50 cm high, stramineous when dry. Stolons slender, 1-1.5 mm thick, covered by brownish sheaths, ending in small tubers; tubers ovoid to oblong-ellipsoid, 10-12 x ca 3 mm, rooting and producing new stems. Stems solitary from the





Ahmed, Mokter and Pasha, M K. 1999. "A Taxonomic Account of Robiquetia Gaud. (Orchidaceae) from Bangladesh." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 96, 499–502.

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