



## A new species of *Zingiber* (Zingiberaceae) from Northeast India

RAMESH KUMAR<sup>1</sup>, JOHN MOOD<sup>2</sup>, SUSHIL K. SINGH<sup>1</sup> & B.K. SINHA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong—793003, India;  
rkpaliwalbsi@yahoo.com, sksbsinc@rediffmail.com, drbks2004@yahoo.co.in

<sup>2</sup>Lyon Arboretum, Uni. of Hawaii, 3860 Manoa Rd., Honolulu, Hi., 91711-315, U.S.A.;  
zingiber@warmlava.com

### Abstract

The new species *Zingiber meghalayense* (Zingiberaceae) is described from Meghalaya, Northeast India.

### Introduction

The study of the genus *Zingiber* Miller (Zingiberaceae) as it occurs in Northeast India has a long history beginning with the description of *Z. capitatum* Roxburgh (1810: 348), *Z. marginatum* Roxburgh (1810: 349) and *Z. rubens* Roxburgh (1810: 348). In the intervening years, only four other endemic *Zingiber* species have been recorded from the area: *Z. chrysanthum* Roscoe (1828: t. 86) *Z. clarkei* King ex Baker (1892: 248) and *Z. intermedium* Baker (1892: 246). More recently, these and other non-endemic *Zingiber* species were reviewed by Tripathi & Singh (2006).

In the last two decades or so, there has been a renewed interest in Zingiberaceae taxonomy in Asia, resulting in the description of many new species and several new genera [*Newmania* N.S.Lý & Škornič. from Vietnam (Leong-Škorničková *et al.* 2011) and *Larsenianthus* W.J.Kress & Mood (Kress *et al.* 2010) from Northeast India and Burma]. The new taxon described herein exemplifies the ongoing research and represents the first of several new *Zingiber* species currently under study from Northeast India.

### *Zingiber meghalayense* Sushil K.Singh, R.Kumar & Mood, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Similar to *Zingiber rubens* Roxb., but differs in having much larger leaves c. 45.0 × 7.5 cm, linear bracts with rounded apices, larger lateral staminodes, labellum and white anther extension.

Type:—INDIA, Meghalaya: Garo Hills, Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, c. 800 m, 26 March 2011, R. Kumar 104078 (holotype ASSAM, isotype CAL).

*Deciduous herbs* c. 2.0–2.5 m. tall. Rhizomes subsurface, small, creamy yellow inside, roots many, fleshy, without tubers. *Stems* erect, thick, basal sheaths green. *Leaves* 20 or more in one plane (distichous), petioles c. 5 mm, glabrous, ligule c. 5 mm, bilobed, apices round, villous, coriaceous, green, margins hyaline; laminae 40–45 × 7.0–7.5 cm, oblong-lanceolate, bases attenuate, tips acuminate, glabrous. *Inflorescences* radical, procumbent, several per plant, capitate to semiglobose, peduncles 7–9 cm, sheaths 2.5–3.0 × 1.0 cm, obovate, reddish, glabrous; spikes ovate or subglobose, 4–7 × 3–4 cm long, bracts loosely imbricate, involute, thin, numerous, 3–4 × 0.5 cm, linear, apices rounded, red, bracteoles 2.0 × 0.6 cm, lanceolate, reddish, glabrous. *Flowers* many, 7–8 cm long, calyx 1.0–1.2 cm, tubular, shortly tridentate, unilaterally split, pinkish white, glabrous; corolla tube slender, 4–5 cm long, pinkish cream, glabrous, corolla lobes subequal, dorsal 3.0–3.2 ×