

A New Orchid Species Found in Yunnan

Bulbophyllum Thouars is among the largest genera in the orchid family, consisting of 1,868 species and widely distributed in tropical Africa, Asia and South America. There are approximately 32 species in section *Lemniscata*, mainly growing in South to South-East Asia. During a botanical survey between 2009 and 2016 in the karst regions of southern Yunnan, many previously little known orchids were discovered.

Researchers from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, CAS have discovered recently a new species of *Bulbophyllum* in Mengla County, Xishuangbanna. They named it *Bulbophyllum menglaense*.

Bulbophyllum menglaense has close pseudobulbs along the rhizome and carries two apical, deciduous leaves. It also features many flowered raceme inflorescence and lower edges of lateral sepals connate to each other about 2/3 to apex. It seems to belong to section *Lemniscata*.

Bulbophyllum menglaense is epiphytic on tree or rocks in capped forest in karst regions, at elevation 1,100-1,250 m, together with two congeners: *B. hirtum* and *B. muscarirubrum*.

Bulbophyllum menglaense is morphologically similar to *B. cariniflorum* and *B. riste*, but differs from them by: (1) pseudobulbs conical; (2) scape longer than leaves; (3) petals narrowly lanceolate, margins ciliate; (4) stielidia lanceolate.

It is considered as “endangered” according to IUCN categories and criteria.



Bulbophyllum menglaense. Image: LI Jianwu.