A New Species of *Alpinia* (Zingiberaceae) from Vietnam

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Abstract


Introduction

While working on a guide to plants of Ha Long Bay (N.T. Nguyen & Kiew. 2000), a species of *Alpinia* was collected that does not match any of those cited in Q.B. Nguyen (1994). Further study indicates that it is a new species, which is described here:


Herb 1.5—2 m. *Leaf sheath* glabrous. striate; ligule 8—10 mm. emarginate. shortly hairy, ciliate at margin; *petiole* 2—7 mm. reddish brown. glabrous. *lamina* lanceolate to linear-lanceolate. 22—31 × 3—7 cm. light green above. yellowish green beneath with reddish brown midrib. glabrous on both surfaces; margin with sparse. tooth-like hairs. base acute; apex acuminate. *Inflorescence* terminal. yellowish brown. 26—32 cm long; rachis slender. 2—3 mm diameter. sparsely hairy. *cincinni* diffuse, becoming denser towards apex. axes hairy; bract subtending inflorescence pale pinkish brown. to 18 x 2 cm. caducous; *cincinni* without bracts, usually with a very short flap of free tissue at the join with the rachis; *bracteoles* broadly ovate. split to the
base, pinkish white to pink, hairy at tip and margin, usually subtending 2—3 flowers, first bracteole 12—14 x 8—10 mm. subsequent ones smaller: ovary globose, hirsute; epigynous glands c. 3 mm long, fused into a truncated cone; calyx tubular. 12—14 mm, adpressed silky hairy outside, split into three short ciliate teeth above; corolla tube as long as calyx, very sparsely hairy outside, dorsal corolla lobe 14—19 x 4—6 mm, oblong, slightly hooded, lateral corolla lobes smaller, 14—16 x 5—7 mm; labellum c. 14 x 18 mm, broader than long, shortly bifid at apex, margins frilled, lateral lobes pure crimson with white margin, centre with longitudinal crimson lines: lateral staminodes 4—5 mm, fleshy; filament 13—14 mm, anther 4—5 mm long, sparsely short hairy on back, thecae parallel, connective sometimes produced as a small flap of tissue: style filiform. stigma funnel-form, ciliate: fruit globose. 6—7 mm.


Habitat: In rock cracks and crevices in open places from sea level almost to the summits of limestone islands.

Notes: This species is illustrated in colour by Wendy Gibbs in Plate 17 of Wild Plants of Ha Long Bay (T.N. Nguyen and Kiew. 2000).

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References
