

# SPECIES ID GUIDEBOOK

SELECTED MEDICINAL PLANT SPECIES OF NEPAL

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Note: This guide is prepared to assist the field level enforcement officials to identify selected medicinal plant species, focusing on the parts in trade. This book should be used as a reference, but the respective official should follow designated procedure to validate and confirm the identification.

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**Team:** Reshu Bashyal, Kumar Paudel, Prakash Poudel, Dristee Chad, Sanish Dhungana

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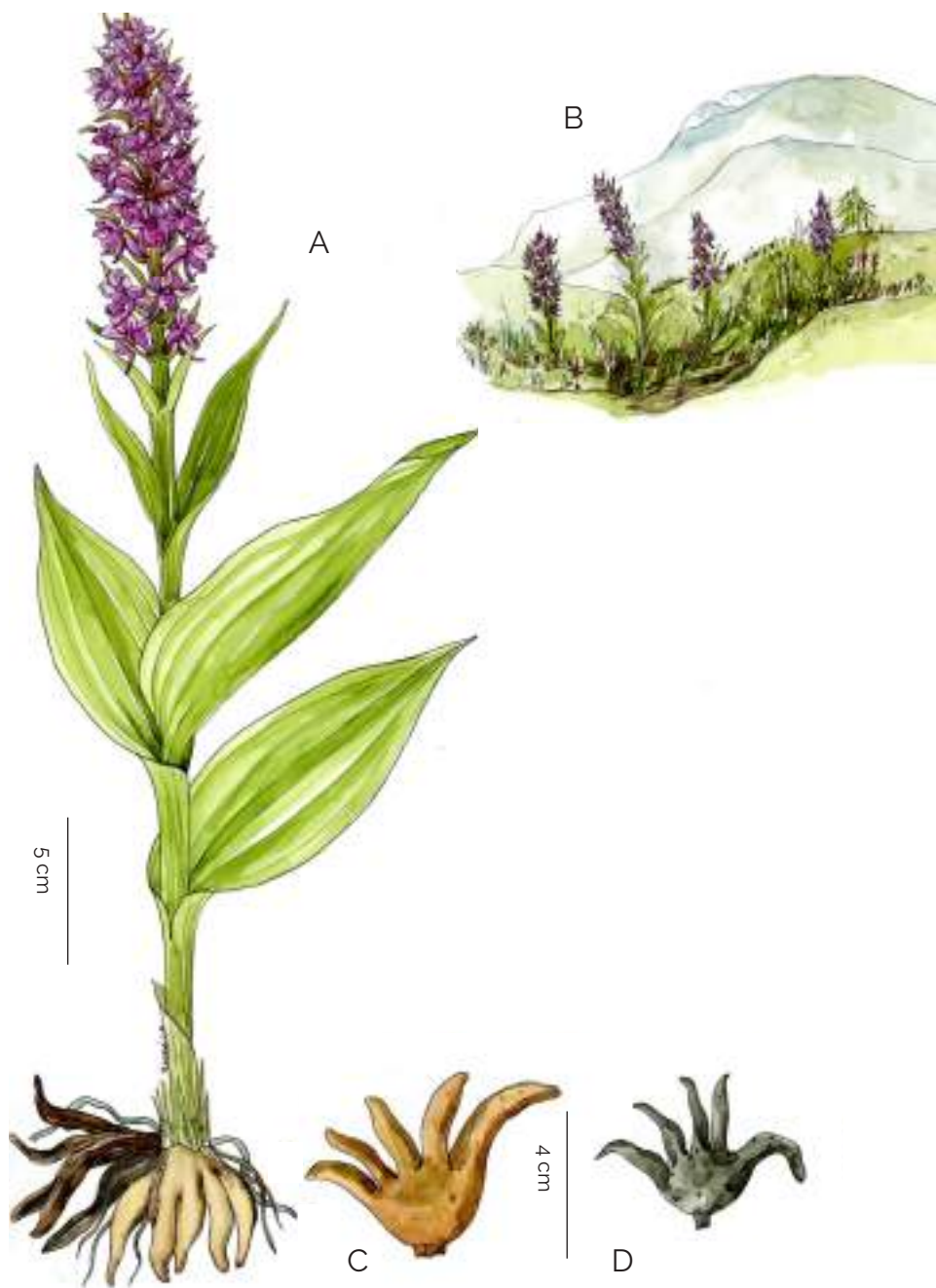
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Himalayan Marsh Orchid	1
Early Blooming Pleione	5
The Nepalese Satyrium	9
The Necklace Shaped Dendrobium	13
The Long-horned Dendrobium	17
Hardy Ginger	21
Spikenard	25
List of Terminology Description	29
References	31

# HIMALAYAN MARSH ORCHID

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Dactylorhiza</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Panchaaule, Hatajadi; India: Hatajari (Kumaon) Salem Panja (Kashmiri), Ambolakpa (Ladakhi), Salap (Urdu); China: Kuanyehongmen lan, Hongmen lan, Mengguhongmen lan, and zhanglie lan
English Name	Himalayan Marsh Orchid
Parts in use and trade	Tuber
Scientific name	<i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i> (D.Don) Soo
Harvest time	September to October (late Bhadra to mid Ashoj)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	<p>Shape: Palm like with 3 to 6 fingers, i.e. lobed, soft and fleshy</p> <p>Size: One dried and ready to transport individual weighs nearly 2.5 gms</p> <p>Colour: Skin coloured, light to dark brown (if stored for longer duration it gets darker)</p>
Remarks related to trade parts	There are two species of <i>Dactylorhiza</i> in Nepal and they all look alike ( <i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i> and <i>Dactylorhiza viridis</i> )
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	<p>Plant size: Upto 70 cm tall</p> <p>Tuber: Palm like with 3 to 6 finger like lobes</p> <p>Stem: Erect with tubular sheaths at base, leafy throughout the lower portion</p> <p>Leaf: Oblong to lanceolate, 8 to 15 × 1.5 to 3 cm, apex acuminate</p> <p>Inflorescence: Terminal, raceme with dense flowers, floral bract lanceolate, apex acuminate</p> <p>Flower: Rosy purple in cluster of a single stalked stem, 2 cm across</p> <p>Sepal: Abaxial sepal ovate-oblong apex obtuse, lateral sepals oblique, ovate-lanceolate, apex obtuse</p> <p>Petal: Ovate-lanceolate, apex obtuse</p> <p>Lip: Spathulate, base spurred, lobeless and usually slightly broader than long</p> <p>Column: Short</p>
Flowering	June to August (mid Ashad to mid Bhadra)
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II, IUCN RL - EN, Forest Act - complete ban
Habitat	Terrestrial



*Dactylorhiza hatagirea* (D. Don) Soo . A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Tuber; D, Tuber Dried



Picture credit: ©National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories



Herbarium of the Department of Botany, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

HERBARIUM

Item: 9 Aug. 2001 No. 1000

Scientific Name: *Ischaemum vaginatum* (L.) Ga.

Common Name: *Ischaemum*

Locality: *Ischaemum* No. 1000

Collector: *Ischaemum* No. 1000

Plant: *Ischaemum* No. 1000

Collector: *Ischaemum* No. 1000



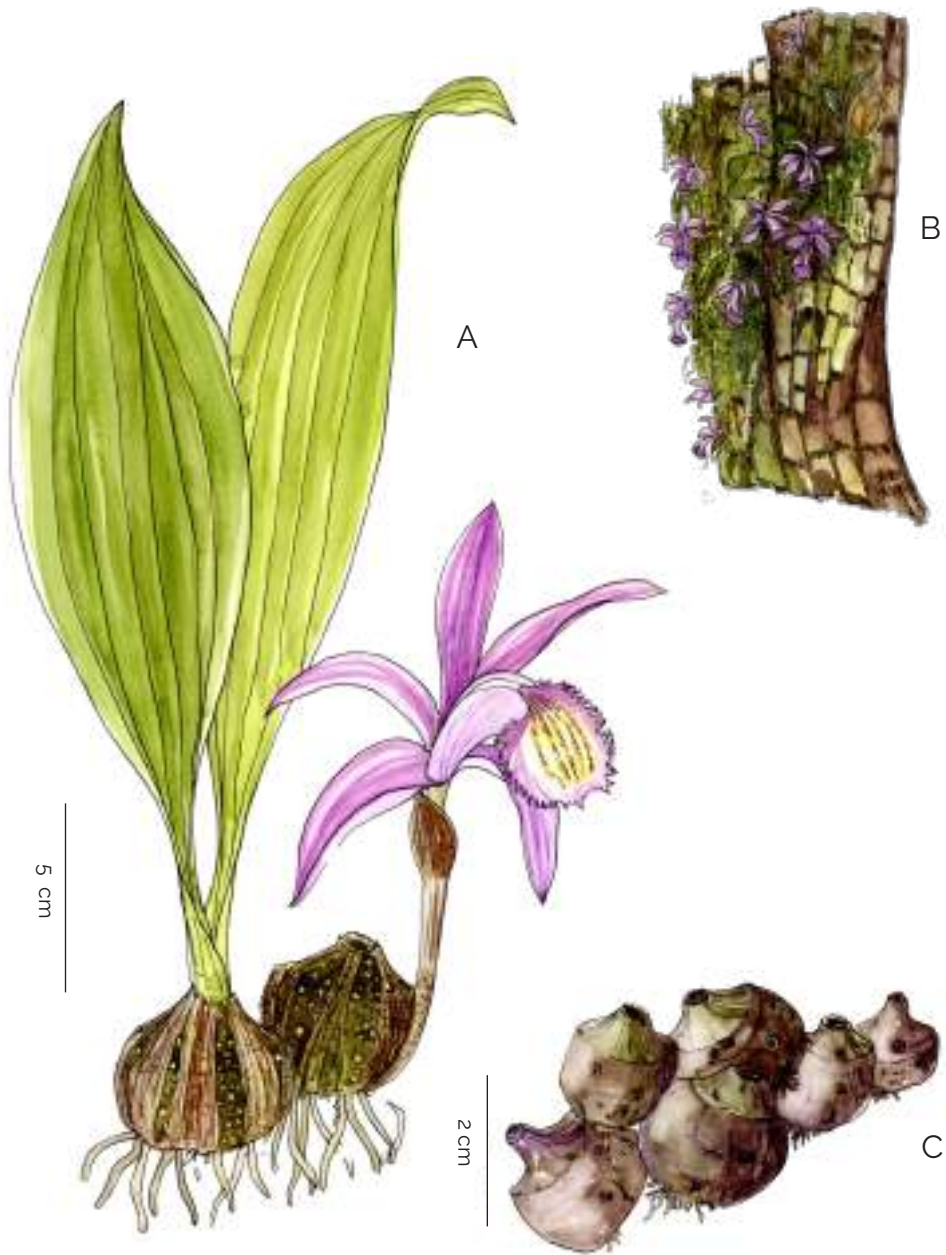


Photo credit: A; B; C; D, © Greenhood Nepal

## EARLY BLOOMING PLEIONE

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Pleione</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Shaktigumba, Kashyumaar meaning the beak of a hen; India: Fambong Lho; China: Pink striped Orchid
English Name	Early blooming Pleione
Parts in use and trade	Pseudobulb
Scientific name	<i>Pleione praecox</i> (Sm.) D.Don
Harvest time	October to November (mid Ashoj to mid Mangsir) (Mostly after fruiting)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	Shape: Pseudobulb is rhombic. It resembles the shape of a gumba (a sacred buddhist monastery or spiritual compound) Size: 1.5 to 4 × 1 to 2.3 cm Colour: Greenish purple, dried ones are brown coloured
Remarks related to trade parts	These are found to be traded in the name of Himalayan Ground Gooseberry (Pani Amala)
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	Plant size: 12 to 25 cm tall Root: Adventitious, often aerial Stem: Usually leafy with one or more swollen pseudobulbs; pseudobulb rhombic shape with usually two leaves at the apex Leaf: Usually entire, alternate or opposite; oblanceolate, 9 to 20 × 3 to 6 cm with apex acuminate Inflorescence: Arising from base of leafless pseudobulb; bracts obovoid Flower: Pinkish purple in colour, lip with yellow lamellae, 10 cm across Sepal: Oblanceolate, apex acute Petal: Linear lanceolate, apex acute Lip: Obovate to elliptic, 3-lobed; lateral lobes rounded, midlobe apically bilobulate, margin dentate, disc with fimbriate lamellae Column: Apex toothed
Flowering	September to November (mid Bhadra to mid Mangsir)
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II
Habitat	Epiphytic, Lithophytic





*Pleione praecox* (Sm.) D. Don. A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Pseudobulb



Scientific name: *Polystachya pruriens* (Sw.) D. Don  
 Family: Orchidaceae Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2018  
 Altitude: 1228 m Coll no: 365  
 Local name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: Beldih Locality: Khele, Janga  
 Latitude: 27° 58' 00.00" N Longitude: 86° 17' 00.00" E  
 Note: Epiphyte, flowers pink, fragrant  
 Collector(s): Sangam Sarki & Ashish P. Ghosh



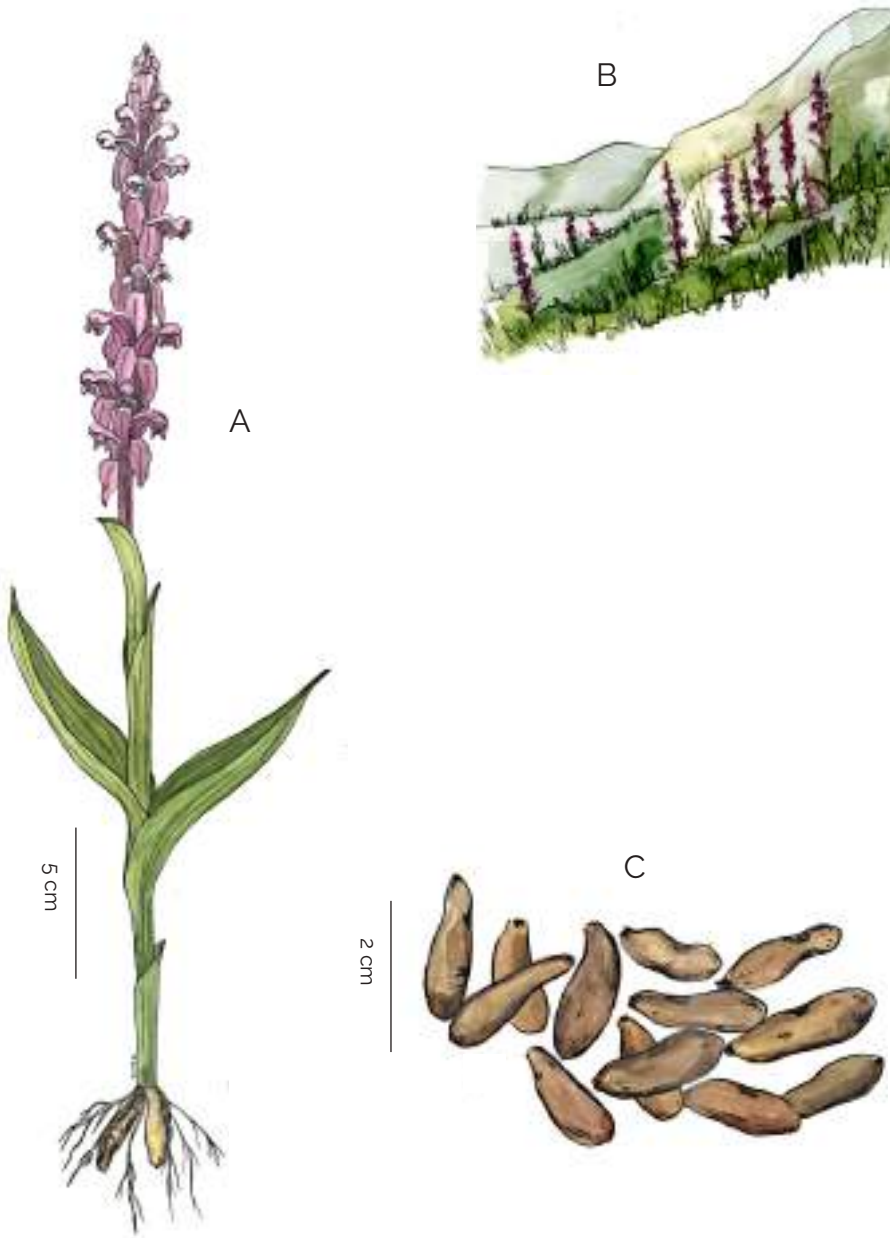
Picture credit: ©National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories



Photo credit: A; B; C, © Greenhood Nepal

# THE NEPALESE SATYRIUM

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Satyrium</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Gamadol/ Mishri, Chhedung (Gorkha), India: Salam misri, China: Bird's foot orchid
English Name	The Nepalese Satyrium
Parts in use and trade	Tuber
Scientific name	<i>Satyrium nepalense</i> D.Don
Harvest time	September to November
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	Shape: Each plant has two 0.8 to 1.5 cm tubers Size: Swollen at middle and tapering at both ends Colour: Slightly brown in colour
Remarks related to trade parts	Its tuber resembles to Brachycorythis (an orchid species)
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	Plant size: 11 to 70 cm tall  Root: Adventitious, often aerial, sometimes assimilatory  Stem: Usually leafy, cylindrical with 1 to 3 membraneous sheath at the base, 1 to 3 leaved  Leaf: Elliptic-oblong, slightly fleshy, 7 to 10 × 3.5 to 5.5 cm, margin somewhat crisped, apex acute or acuminate, usually basal leaves that are widely spaced and alternate  Inflorescence: Erect or hanging, Spile with densely many flowers, floral bracts reflexed, ovate-lanceolate  Flower: Fragrant, widely spreading; whitish pink or pale purple flowers with hooded lip and two spurs, spike 5 to 20 cm long, 7 mm across  Sepal: Abaxial sepal elliptic, obtuse, lateral sepal oblong-subovate, apical margins minutely ciliate  Petal: Elliptic, obtuse, usually free  Lip: Hooded, 3-lobed, spurs pedulous, longer than the ovary  Column: Short
Flowering	August to September (mid Shrawan to mid Bhadra)
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II
Habitat	Terrestrial



*Satyrium nepalense* D. Don. A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Tuber





Picture credit: © National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories

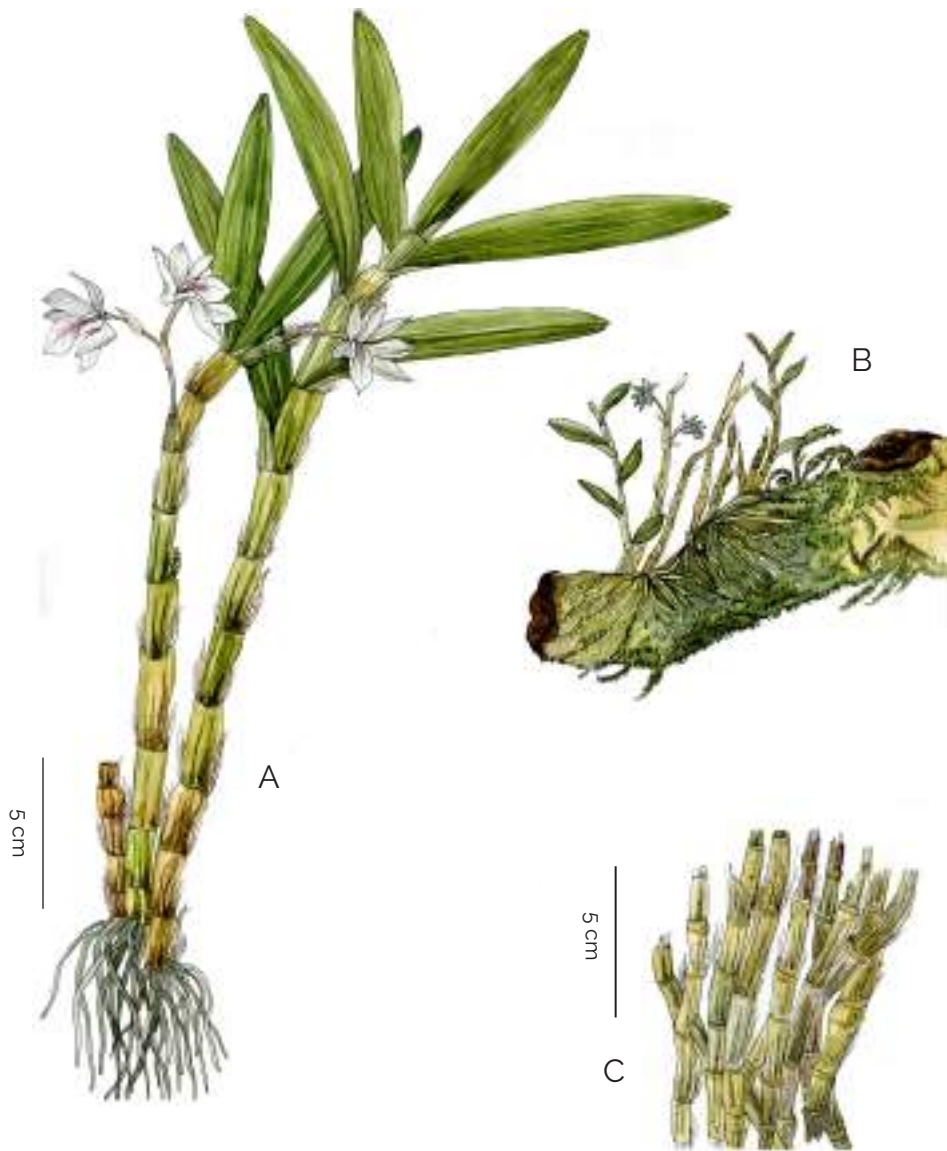


Photo credit: A; B; C, © Greenhood Nepal



## THE NECKLACE SHAPED DENDROBIUM

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Dendrobium</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Sunakhari; China: Thin-stemmed Dendrobium
English Name	The Necklace Shaped Dendrobium, Carrot Fern
Parts in use and trade	Stem
Scientific name	<i>Dendrobium moniliforme</i> L (Sw.)
Harvest time	May to June (mid Baishak to mid Ashar)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	<p>Shape: Slender with many nodes, internodes upto 2.5 cm long</p> <p>Size: Usually erect, cylindric, 30 to 40 cm long and 3 to 5 mm thick</p> <p>Colour: Yellow tinged with dark gray when dry</p>
Remarks related to trade parts	Stems are dried (steam or sun) before transporting to local traders
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	<p>Plant size: 17 to 40 cm tall</p> <p>Root: Fibrous root with relatively stretched parts, cylindrical</p> <p>Stem: Erect, cylindric, elongated cane to like pseudobulbs/stem</p> <p>Leaf: Lanceolate, 5 to 7.5 × 0.5 to 0.8 cm, apex obtuse, obliquely bifid and usually deciduous before flowering</p> <p>Inflorescence: Usually bears 1 to 3 flowers, creamy white to pale yellow or white tinged with pale purplish red, sometimes fragrant</p> <p>Flower: White to pale yellow flower, lip with yellow blotched at the base, 3 cm across</p> <p>Sepal: Broadly lanceolate, sub acute</p> <p>Petals: Ovate lanceolate, acute</p> <p>Lip: Ovate lanceolate, apex acute, incurved, disc with long callus</p> <p>Column: Short</p>
Flowering	April to May
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II
Habitat	Epiphytic, Lithophytic



*Dendrobium moniliforme* L (Sw.) . A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Stem



# Flora of Nepal

*Dioscorea* (Dioscoreaceae) (L.) Sw.

*Dioscorea*

No. 11542/707

Eleusine 1101 m

Date: 20/11/04, 21

Locality: Tumbel (Dhule), Kailash, Panchajanya

Notes: Sample collected in the forest of Kailash, Panchajanya

Collector(s): J. Bhandari & J. Bhandari & S. Chakrabarti

Date: 11/11/04, June 200

HERBARIUM OF NEPAL  
KATHMANDU



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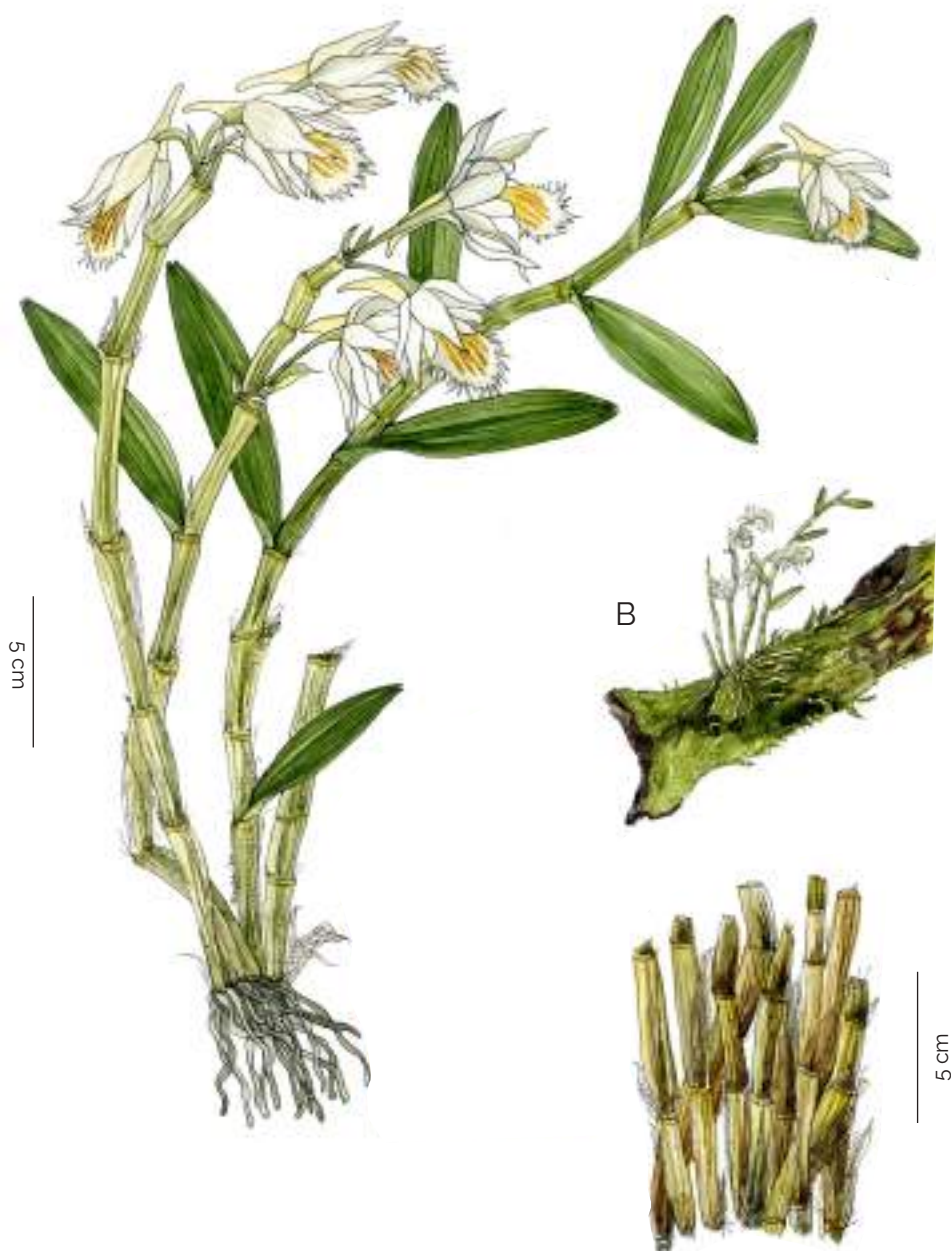
Picture credit: ©National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories



Photo credit: A; C, © Greenhood Nepal; B, © Abu Hang Samuel

## THE LONG-HORNED DENDROBIUM

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Dendrobium</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Sunakhari, Jiwanti; India: Hatajori; China: Long-spurred Dendrobium, Changju Shihu
English Name	The Long-horned Dendrobium
Parts in use and trade	Stem
Scientific name	<i>Dendrobium longicornu</i> Lindl.
Harvest time	mid June to mid September (Ashar to Bhadra)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	<p>Shape: Suberect, terete, thin, clustered, pendulous, cylindric, tufted, minutely sulcate, somewhat fractiflex</p> <p>Size: 7 to 35 cm long, 2 to 4 mm in diameter, slightly rigid and unbranched, has many nodes and internodes of 2 to 4 cm</p> <p>Colour: Light green covered in black hairs stems</p>
Remarks related to trade parts	Stems are used in ancient Chinese medicines
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	<p>Plant size: 10 to 40 cm tall</p> <p>Root: Adventitious, often aerial</p> <p>Stem: Tufted, minutely sulcate, covered by black hairs, usually leafy, often with one or more swollen internodes forming pseudobulbs</p> <p>Leaf: Usually entire, alternate or opposite, plicate and usually sheathed, 4 to 7 × 0.5 to 0.8 cm, covered with fine black hairs, lanceolate, apex acute</p> <p>Inflorescence: Erect or hanging, borne on leafy stem, short, axillary, raceme with one to many flowered either on basal, lateral or terminal end, floral bracts ovate, acute</p> <p>Flower: Pure white flower with orange streak, 4/5 cm across, Lip is rhombic, 3 lobed; lateral lobe rounded, midlobe suborbicular, fimbriate</p> <p>Sepal: Lanceolate, acuminate</p> <p>Petal: Ovate to lanceolate, acute</p> <p>Lip: Rhombic, 3-lobed, lateral lobes rounded, midlobe suborbicular, fimbriate and has a comb like structure</p> <p>Column: Short</p>
Flowering	September to November (mid Bhadra to mid Mangsir)
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II
Habitat	Epiphytic



*Dendrobium longicornu* Lindl. . A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Stem





Picture credit: ©National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories

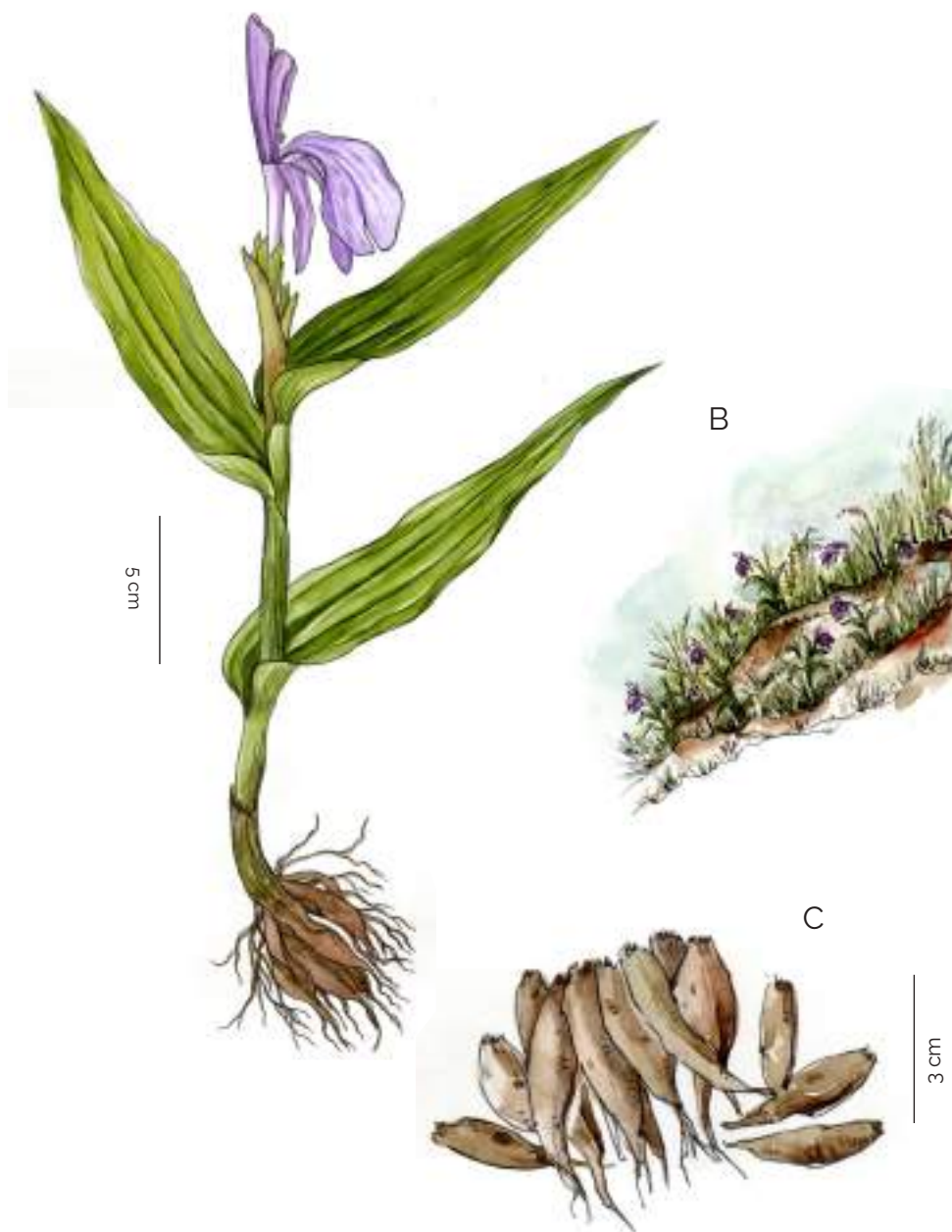




Photo credit: A, © Abu Hang Samuel; B, © Greenhood Nepal, C, © Amy Hinsley

## HARDY GINGER

PLANT INFORMATION	
Genus	<i>Roscoea</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Gurkha, Rasgari, Katare, Kakoli; India: Yuwangon; China: Ivory Ginseng
English Name	Hardy Ginger
Parts in use and trade	Rhizome
Scientific name	<i>Roscoea purpurea</i> Sm.
Harvest time	October (mid Ashoj to mid Kartik) (Autumn)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	Shape: Thick, fleshy, fasciculated, tapering at the ends Size: 4 to 5 gms each Colour: Light brown
Remarks related to trade parts	It is an astavarga plants and used as tonic in many ayurvedic formulations such as Chyawanprash, and it is often confused with panchaunle rhizome
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	Plant size: 30 to 45 cm tall Root: Fleshy and thick Stem: Leafy, elongated with 5 to 6 lanceolate leaves Leaf: 4 to 8 somewhat wavy, bright green, smooth or ciliate leaves with purple or reddish leaf sheaths; narrow ovate bracts mostly hidden by the upper leaves Inflorescence: Sessile spike holding flowers Flowers: Purple, mauve, red or white, appearing in succession from among the upper leaves; lasting only about 2 days Petal: Dorsal petal ovate, 2 cm wide and divided at the tip, and lateral lobes linear lanceolate
Flowering	June to September (mid Ashar to mid Bhadra)
Conservation status	Not Assessed
Habitat	Terrestrial



*Roscoea purpurea* Sm. A, Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Rhizome





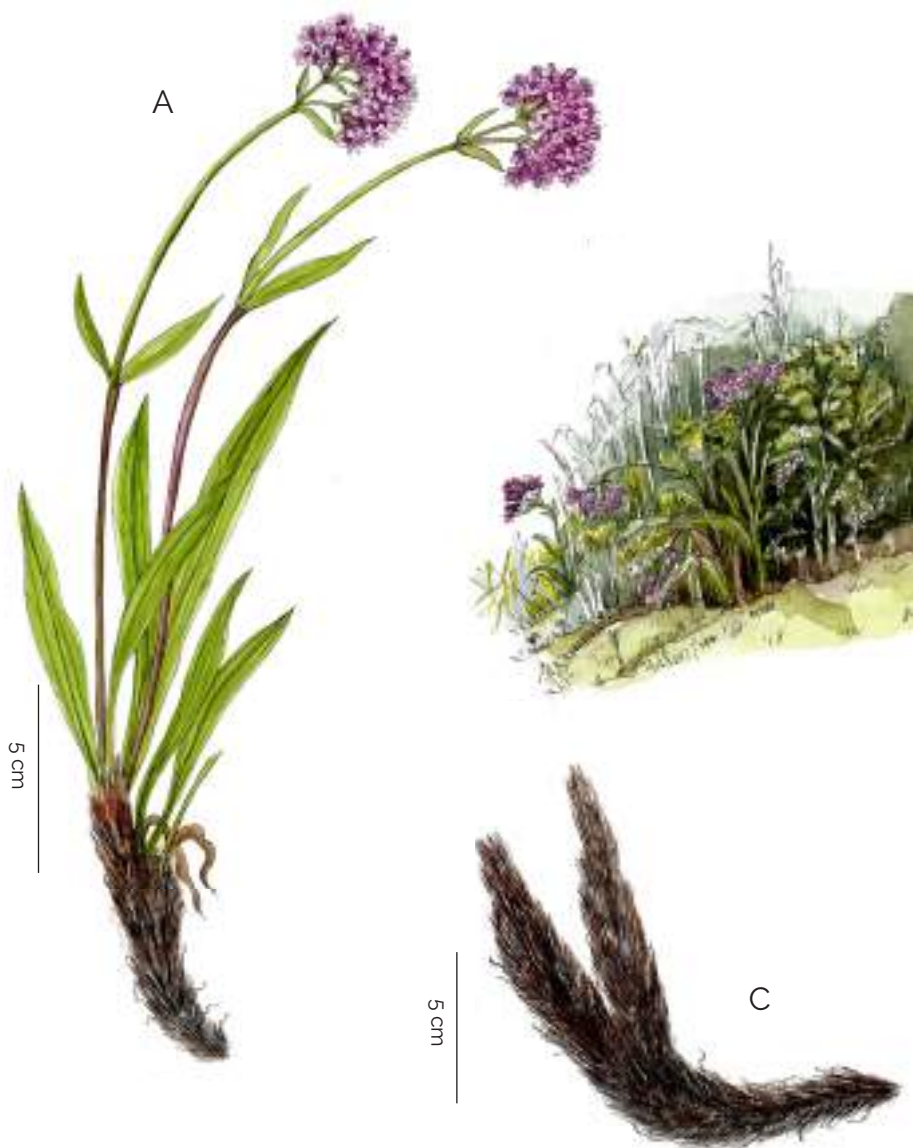
Photo credit: A; B; C,© Greenhood Nepal; D, © Google Images



# SPIKENARD

## PLANT INFORMATION

Genus	<i>Nardostachys</i>
Local name/s, trade name/s	Nepal: Jatamansi; India: Jatamansi, Balchar; China: Sweet pine
English Name	Spikenard
Parts in use and trade	Rhizome
Scientific name	<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i> (D.Don) DC.
Harvest time	October to November (mid Ashoj to mid Mangsir) (Normally after seed dispersal)
Identification of trade part (shape, size, colour)	<p>Shape: Rhizomatous herb, surrounded with roots, tapering (thin at the tip) and covered with dense remains of leaves' bases the combination looks like heavy beard</p> <p>Size: The rhizome is 0.5 to 1 cm thick and 10 to 15 cm long</p> <p>Colour: Dark brown, tap root is even longer than 20 cm, yellowish brown with many/dense hair</p>
Remarks related to trade parts	The leftover rhizome after extraction of essential oil is called Marc, Jatamansi oil is often used as an alternative for Valerian (a herbal medicine used for insomnia, anxiety, and nervous restlessness)
Morphological characters (plant size, roots, stem, leaf, inflorescence, flower, floral parts)	<p>Plant size: 10 to 70 cm tall</p> <p>Root: Thick, long reaching upto 30 cm; bearing upto 30 to 50 rhizomes</p> <p>Rhizome: Dark brown, tapering and densely covered with old leaves bases appearing like a heavy beard; sweet smelling</p> <p>Leaf: Dorsiventrally flattened, radical and cauline leaves, rosette arrangement, lanceolate with 5 to 25 cm length and 1 to 3.5 cm wide, radical leaf with petiole, cauline leaves sessile</p> <p>Inflorescence: 10 to 60 cm long peduncle with 4 to 10 flowers; presence of bracts and bracteoles</p> <p>Flower: Pinkish red to bluish white</p> <p>Sepal: Two sepals fused and three free, persistent; corolla fused to form corolla tube</p>
Flowering	September to October (mid Bhadra to mid Poush)
Conservation status	CITES Appendix II, IUCN RL - CR, Forest Act - Ban on raw export
Habitat	Terrestrial



*Nardostachys jatamansi* (D.Don) DC., Mature plant; B, Habitat; C, Rhizome





Manuscript received 10/1/00  
 Accepted 10/1/00

Latitude: 22° 30' 4" N Longitude: 85° 53' 27" E  
Altitude: 270 m

Flowers: tubular 12-15 cm tall, aromatic; white corolla; yellow light pink.

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**Manuela MBE Espadinhas**  
 11000, 1. Rua Nova D. João M. Tachaluta 564  
 Vila Nova, Z.H. 11, 9490 Vilhena 5, S.R., Acharya

*Nardostachys grandiflora*= *Nardostachys jatamansi*

Picture credit: ©National Herbarium And Plant Laboratories





Photo credit: A, © Phuntsho Wangdi; B, © Kalpana Sharma Dhakal, Facebook; C, © Greenhood Nepal

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
Abaxial	The lower surface of a leaf
Acuminate	Tapering to a point
Acute	Tapering to a sharp point
Adventitious	Arising from an unusual position (e.g., roots from stems or leaves)
Aerial	Located or occurring above ground, often in air (e.g., aerial roots)
Alternate	Leaves or flowers arranged alternately on the stem
Assimilatory	Related to photosynthesis or nutrient absorption
Axillary	Growing from the axil (angle between stem and leaf)
Bifid	Divided into two parts or lobes
Bilobulate	Having two lobes
Bract	Leaflike structure bearing a flower or inflorescence
Cauline	Attached to the stem or arising from it
Ciliate	Margins fringed with fine hairs
Crisped	Curled or wavy margins
Dentate	Toothed or with teeth-like projections along the margin
Entire	Smooth margins, without teeth or lobes
Erect	Upright or vertical position
Fibrous	Composed of thread-like or stringy structures, often referring to roots
Fimbriate	Having a border of hairs
Free	Not attached; separate
Hanging	Drooping or suspended
Incurved	Curving inward
Lamellae	Thin plates or layers, often seen in mushroom gills
Lanceolate	Tapering to a point at the apex (spear-shaped)
Lip	Modified petals, often large and colorful, act as a landing platform and guide for pollinators in orchids.

Linear lanceolate	Long and narrow, with a lance-like tapering end
Oblanceolate	Inversely lance-shaped, tapering to the base
Oblong	Longer than wide, with nearly parallel sides
Obovoid	Egg-shaped, broader at the apex
Opposite	Leaves or flowers arranged in pairs on opposite sides of a stem
Ovate	Egg-shaped, broader at the base
Pendulous	Hanging down
Peduncle	The stalk bearing a flower or flower cluster
Persistent	Remaining attached after other parts are shed
Plicate	Folded into pleats or ridges
Raceme	A flower cluster with stalked flowers along a central axis
Radical	Arising from the root or base of the plant
Reflexed	Bent backward
Rosette	A circular arrangement of leaves at the base
Sessile	Devoid of stalk, directly attached
Spathulate	Spoon-shaped
Spurred	With an elongated appendage or spur, often at the base of a petal
Suborbicular	Almost circular in shape
Succession	Sequential development of flowers or leaves
Sulcate	Grooved or furrowed
Terminal	At the tip or apex of the stem
Toothed	Having small projections along the margin

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## OTHER USEFUL SOURCES

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**Department of Plant Resource:** <https://dpr.gov.np/>

**eFloraofIndia:** <https://efloraofindia.com/>

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**POWO:** <https://powo.science.kew.org/>

**Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh herbarium catalogue:** <https://data.rbge.org.uk/search/herbarium/>

This book was developed in collaboration of:



For more information, please contact

**GREENHOOD NEPAL**

Baluwatar, Kathmandu,

Phone: 01-5244333

Email: [info@greenhood.org](mailto:info@greenhood.org)  
[reshu@greenhood.org](mailto:reshu@greenhood.org)



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