

quite distinct. The vegetation on the two is quite different and community co-efficient is low i.e. 20.27. On the eastern slopes, however, the calcareous rocks lie higher up, while the non-calcareous rocks are situated immediately below them. Thus a lot of calcium from the higher calcareous rocks flow down year after year and serves to decrease the difference between the strata which is also reflected in lesser dissimilarity in the vegetation they support.

The community co-efficient of the eastern calcareous slopes and the western non-calcareous slopes is low 23.82. This shows, that the two stands are conspicuously dissimilar. This is obviously due to the edaphic factors e.g. the calcium rich and calcium deficient substrata and may be partly on account of direction.

The community co-efficient of the western calcareous slopes and the eastern non-calcareous slopes is 24.15, almost the same as that of the preceding

stands and obviously the same explanation holds good for their dissimilarity.

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### OBERONIA SEIDENFADENIANA JOSEPH ET VAJRVELU—A NEW SPECIES OF ORCHID FROM ANAMALAI HILLS, SOUTH INDIA

**Oberonia seidenfadeniana** Joseph et Vajravelu sp. nov.

*O. platycaulon* Wt. affinis sed distinguibilis praesertim lobo labelli mediano multo minore quam lobos laterales, quadrangulare et ad apicem truncato et nequaquam lato, ovate vel trilobulato.

Planta parva caespitosa epiphytica, super racemos exiles parvorum arborum. *Folia* disticha, articulatus, gradatim ex basim versus apicem majora, 4-7, ensiformia, equitanta, luteo-viridia, crassa; folium minimum  $\pm 2.0 \times 0.4$  cm, maximum vero  $\pm 6.10 \times 0.7-1.5$  cm. Inflorescentia 11-19 cm longa scapo erecto, spica paululo arcuata. *Scapus* compressus, brevior, aequalis vel longior quam folium terminale,  $4.10 \times 0.4-0.8$  cm, subtentusque bractea parva et falcata. *Spica*  $8-11 \times \pm 0.5$  cm, cylindrica, in caudam sterilem attenuata. *Flores* aurei, sessiles, laxae imbricantes, erecti, ad axim appressi. *Bractene*  $\pm 3.0 \times 1.5$  cm, lanceolatae, ad marginem irregulariter dentatae, ad apicem breviter acuminatae, ovarium arcte cingentes, erectae, persistentes, glandulosae, puberulae. *Sepala*  $\pm 2 \times 1$  mm, ovata, super ovarium reflexa, 1-nervia, ad apicem mucronata. *Petala* sepala aequantia vel breviora, multoque angustiora, super ovarium reflexa, lanceolata 1-nervia, obtusa. Labellum erectum, crassus, trilobatum  $\pm 2.0 \times 3.5$

mm; lobi laterales multo majores quam lobum medianum, columnam cingentes et invicem imbricantes, 3-nerves adaxialiter 3-crestis, ad marginem erosa, glandulo-punctata; lobus medianus parvus, quadrangularis, erectus, ad apicem truncatus, integer (vel sinu vado). *Columna* brevis. *Capsula*  $\pm 7.0 \times 3.5$  mm, breviter pedicellata, perianthio marcescente, prominenter 6-costata.

Holotypus *Joseph* 17476-A (CAL) et isotypi (MH) *Joseph* 17476 B-L, lecti in Andiparaishola (alt. 1350 m) supra faciem orientalem montis Anamalai, regionis Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, die 22 Septembris 1962.

**Oberonia seidenfadeniana** Joseph et Vajravelu sp. nov.

This is allied to *O. platycaulon* Wt. but distinctive mainly in the midlobe of the lip being much smaller than the sidelobes, quadrangular and truncate at apex instead of being large, ovate and trilobulate.

Small, caespitose epiphytic orchid, on slender branches of small trees. *Leaves* distichous, jointed at base, progressively larger from base upwards; 4-7, ensiform, equitant, yellowish-green, thick, smallest ones  $\pm 2.0 \times 0.4$  cm, largest ones  $\pm 6.10 \times 0.7-1.3$  cm. *Inflorescence* 11-19 cm long with an erect

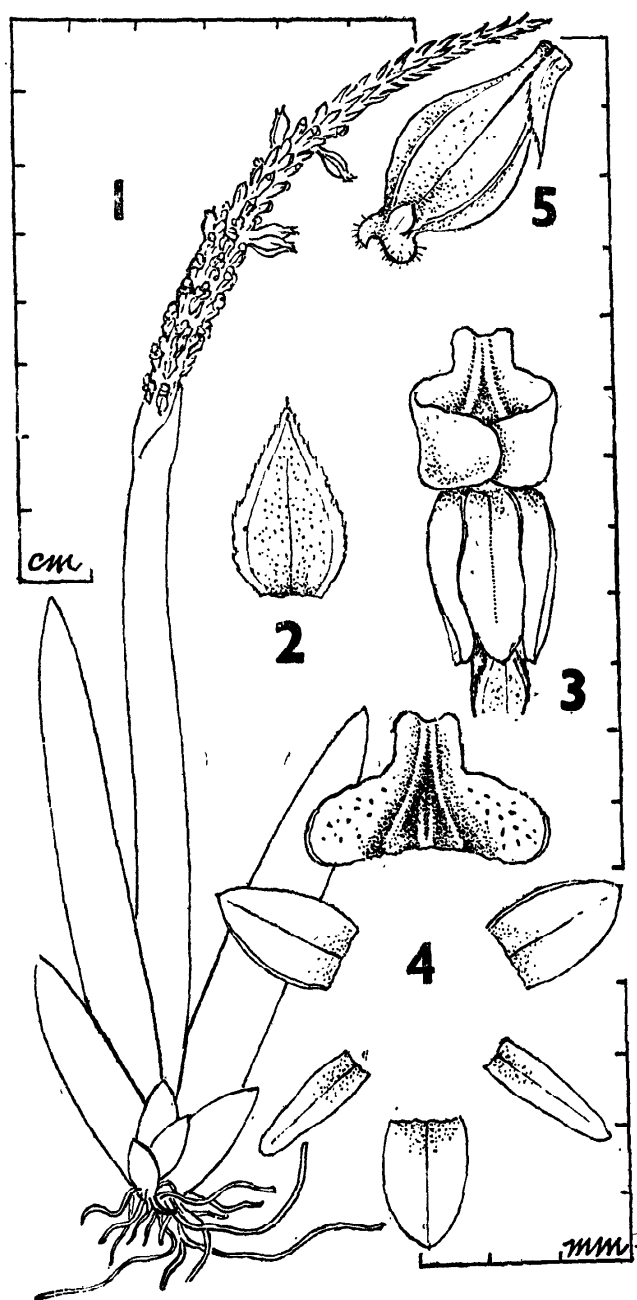


Fig. 1-5: *Oberonia seidenfadeniana* Joseph at Vajravelu.  
1. Habit. 2. Bract. 3. Flower. 4. Petals and Sepals. 5. Capsule.

scape and slightly arcuate spike. Scape compressed, as long as or shorter or longer than the terminal leaf,  $4-10 \times 0.4-0.8$  cm, subtended by a small falcate bract. Spike  $8-11 \times \pm 0.5$  cm, cylindric, tapering into a sterile tail. Flowers golden yellow, sessile, loosely imbricate, erect, adpressed to the axis. Bracts  $\pm 3.0 \times 1.5$  mm, lanceolate, irregularly toothed at margins, shortly acuminate at tip,

closely enveloping the ovary, erect, persistent, gland dotted, puberulous. Sepals  $\pm 2 \times 1$  mm, ovate, reflexed on the ovary, 1-nerved, mucronate at tip. Petals as long as or a little shorter and much narrower than the sepals, reflexed over the ovary, lanceolate, 1-nerved, obtuse. Lip erect, thick, trilobed,  $\pm 2$  mm high and  $\pm 3.5$  mm across; side-lobes  $\pm 2 \times 1$  mm, oblong, rounded at tip, much larger than the midlobe, encircling the column in front, ends overlapping, 3-nerved, 3-ridged adaxially, uneven at margins, gland-dotted; midlobe small, quadrangular, erect, truncate at tip, entire (or with a shallow sinus). Column short. Capsule  $\pm 7.0 \times 3.5$  mm, shortly pedicellate, with marcescent perianth, prominently 6-ribbed. (Figs. 1-5).

Holotype (CAL) Joseph 17476-A, Isotypes (MH) Joseph 17476 B-L, collected from Andiparaishola, Eastern side of Anamalai Hills, Tamilnadu (alt. 1350 m) on 22nd September, 1962.

Authors wish to point out, in the light of their study of specimens both herbarium and fresh collections of *O. platycaulon* Wt. with reference to Wight's Icones and original description, that the description and drawings of the specimen treated under *O. platycaulon* Wt. by Santapau and Kapadia in "the Orchids of Bombay" are more agreeing with our species than any other. Besides the single specimen is reported to have been received by them from mountains, bordering Travancore (Kerala State) from where our collections also hail. Gunnar Seidenfaden (1968) too in his account of "the Genus *Oberonia*, in Mainland Asia", expresses his doubt as to the authenticity of the identification of the specimen as follows "...Neither my own, nor Wight's or Lindley's figures have much resemblance with the drawing by Santapau & Kapadia".

The specific epithet is after Gunnar Seidenfaden, in appreciation of his work on the genus *Oberonia* in Asia.

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