

Eulophia andamanensis Rchb.f.



Eulophia andamanensis is a beautiful terrestrial orchid, originally described by Reichenbach, Heinrich Gustav in 1872. This species has fragmented range of geographical distribution from Northeast India (Assam) and Myanmar towards Southeast Asia (Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra) through the corridor of Andaman Nicobar Islands. The natural occurrence of this species in Andaman-Nicobar archipelago is rather rare among isolated pockets of Little Andaman, North Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The flowering season of this pseudobulbous orchid species is during the summer (February to April). Inflorescence is usually in solitary racemes or rarely branched up to 100 cm. Flowers are with green sepals and petals with typical maroon striations on lips. Linear lanceolate leaves are deciduous on summer and the pseudobulbs produce new shoots during the beginning of rainy season. From horticulture point of view, this is a wild promising orchid for domestication. Large clusters of pseudobulbous habit, long linear dark green leaves and long inflorescence which remain for about 40 to 50 days are potential characteristic features of attraction for domestication as a garden plant. Regarding the etymology of the taxon, the generic name *Eulophia* was derived from the Greek words 'Eu' (well) and 'Lophos' (plum) referred to crested ridges of the lip found among several species of the genus. The specific epithet derived from the geographical locality referring to Andaman Islands

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