Nerium isolate, disintegrated pectic acid randomly while *Hibiscus* strain failed to show Endo-PG. In contrast to this, both the strains showed Endo-PMG activity. Two strains significantly differed in the production of lyases. *Nerium* strain produced Endo-PAL, while *Hibiscus* strain elaborated Endo-PL.

The difference between the two strains of *C. filiformis* may be either due to genetical difference or due to the difference in cell wall components of the host. However, further work is needed to suggest its exact mechanism of operation.

From the present investigations it can be concluded that the *C. filiformis* produces cell wall degrading enzymes which probably help the haustoria to make entry into the host.

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THELASIS PYGMAEA LINDL.— NEW ADDITION TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBARS

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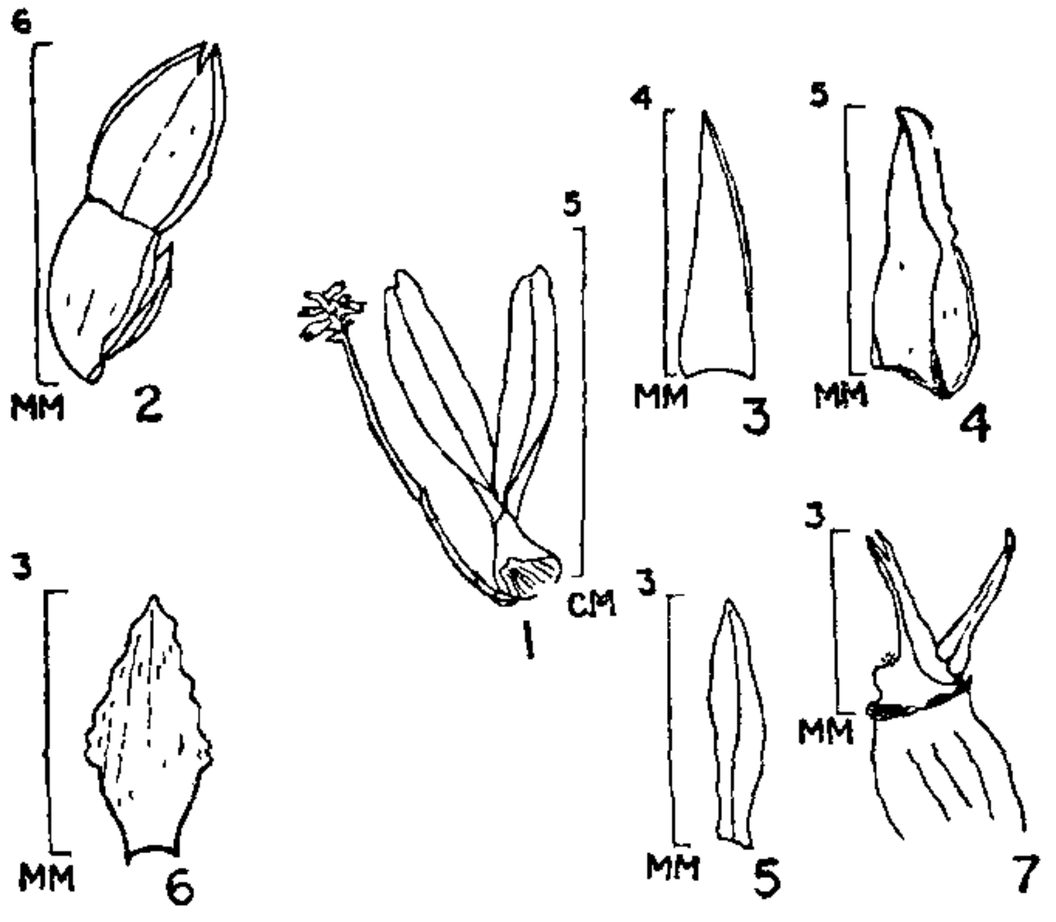
During a medico-botanical tour in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, an interesting orchid was collected from India's southernmost tip, Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar. It was identified as *Thelasis pygmaea* Lindl., reported earlier only from South India, Central and N.E. Himalayas, Sikkim, Nepal and Tenasserim in Burma[1, 2]. Studies carried out by the authors at Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair (PBL) revealed that the taxon has not been recorded from the islands. Hence, the same is reported with a brief description and illustrations, since any new finding from these islands is considered of phytogeographic significance. The study also extends the range of distribution of the taxon from the mainland to the southernmost tip in the islands.

Thelasis pygmaea Lindl. : Pseudobulbous 2-leaved tufted epiphytes. *Leaves* 2, linear-oblong, shortly and obliquely bified at apex, narrowed at sessile base. *Scape* as long as or shorter than the leaf and pseudobulb, arising laterally from the base of pseudobulb. *Spike* dense flowered at the tip of the scape. *Flowers* non-resupinate, not widely opening. *Bracts* ovate, acute, persistent. *Dorsal sepals* lanceolate, acute, *Lateral sepals* ovate-lanceolate, acute, strongly keeled. *Lateral petals* oblong, obtuse, involute at apical margins, 1-nerved. *Lip* ovate-lanceolate, fleshy, involute apically, sparsely gland-dotted in the middle. *Rostellum* deeply forked at apex (Figs. 1–7).



Figs. 1-7. *Thelasis pygmaea* Lindl. : Fig. 1. Plant; Fig. 2. Flower (non-resupinate); Fig. 3. Dorsal sepal; Fig. 4. Lateral sepal; Fig. 5. Lateral petal; Fig. 6. Lip, Fig. 7. Column showing forked rostellum.

Exsc. : *Simhan and party* 659, collected from the forests along North-South Road, rear Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar on 2nd April 1980, deposited at RRCB.

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