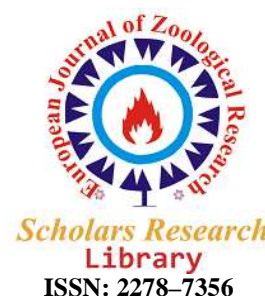




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### A New Species of *Globba* Sm. (Zingiberaceae) from Kokrajhar District of Assam, India

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#### ABSTRACT

“*Globba racemosa*” a delightful ginger plant belonging to the family Zingiberaceae with unusual bright yellow showy flowers, also commonly known as dancing girl ginger was recorded for the first time from the forest fringe areas of Kachugaon in Kokrajhar district. Its distribution is restricted to a small area at altitudes between 400 and 600m and so far is collected only from this type locality. Detailed taxonomical description is illustrated below.

**Keywords:** *Globba racemosa*, ethno botany, Kokrajhar district.

#### INTRODUCTION

The species of *Globba* are terrestrial, growing in lowland and montane evergreen forest forming a beautiful flowering area that puts out brilliant displays of bright yellow flower clusters that can be a great attraction for nectar seeking hummingbirds. The genus *Globba* with about 100 species is one of the largest genera in the tropics and is the third largest genus in the world. It is distributed throughout tropical and parts of subtropical Asia, ranging from India to southern China, Philippines and New Guinea with the centre of distribution in monsoonal southeast Asia, especially Thailand and Myanmar [1,2,3].

During a floristic survey of Kachugaon forest range in Kokrajhar district, a small population of the genus *Globba*, bearing bright yellow coloured bracts and flowers, was encountered. Observations of fresh specimens in the field enabled us to study the taxonomic characters well and provide better description of different morphological parts. Specimens were collected and herbarium was submitted to Botanical Survey of India, Shillong for authenticity. A critical study of the herbarium specimens and scrutiny of the literature reveals it to be *Globba racemosa*, a very rare species hitherto known only from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. This constitutes the first authentic record of this species from Assam and after considering all the above aspects it was realized that this plant is rare and its present record is new in Assam. Ethno botanically rhizomes of this plants are used by some Bodo medicine man as source of drug in reliving stomach pain, poor appetite, dyspepsia and in promoting digestion. Survey of literature reveals that, so far, this taxon is reported from Andhra Pradesh [4] and few locations of West Bengal [5] (Gopal Shukla 2013) however, the protologue was incomplete as the description was made based on ethno botanical information only.

***Globba racemosa*** Jahnovi Brahma, Binay Singh Kokrajhar, *sp. nov.*

**Type :** India, Assam, Kokrajhar district, Kachugaon forest, 17 July, Jahnovi Brahma 29716.

**Taxonomic description:** Under shrubs, plants slender, pseudostems erect usually 1.5m, leafy, rhizomes creeping and slender. Leaves are sessile or very shortly petiolate; ligule entire; leaf blade oblong, elliptic, or lanceolate.



Fig1. *Globba racemosa* in its flowering stage



Fig 2. *Globba racemosa* in its natural habitat

Inflorescence terminal, a thyrses or raceme, often lax; bracts each subtending a cincinnus of flowers, or flowers replaced by bulblets with bracteoles free to base. Inflorescences without bulblets; capsule smooth, calyx campanulate or turbinate, apex obtusely 3-lobed. Corolla tube slender; lobes ovate or oblong, sub equal, concave. Lateral staminodes petaloid. Labellum reflexed, adnate to filament to form a slender tube above lateral staminodes

and corolla lobes. Filament long, curved; anther with or without appendages on each side. Ovary 1-loculed. Capsule globose or ellipsoid, apex irregularly dehiscent. Seeds small; aril white, lacerate.

Flowering: June-September

Specimens Examined: Kachugaon Reserve Forest, Assam, *Jahnovi Brahma*

Distribution: India, Forest fringe evergreen wet forests of Kachugaon in Kokrajhar district bordering the state of Bhutan, rare, endemic

Habitat: Dense sub-tropical wet evergreen forests

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