The genus, *Thunia* Rchb.f. belonging to Orchidaceae, comprises six species, distributed in India, China and Southeast Asia (Pearce & Cribb, 2002). In India, the genus is represented by *T. alba* (Lindl.) Rchb.f. var. *alba* and *T. alba* var. *bracteata* (Roxb.) N. Pearce & P.J. Cribb. The typical variety is distributed in Himalaya, Andaman Islands, Peninsular, East and Northeast India (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 1989). *T. alba* var. *bracteata* is reported from Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Sikkim. It differs from the typical variety in lacking a yellow patch on the lip. Haines (1924) included it based on a collection by Fr. Cardon from Sarguj. Similarly, this taxon has also been included for the state of Bihar (Singh *et al.*, 2001) and Madhya Pradesh (Khanna, 2001) based on the same collection. However, Sarguj – the place of collection, is presently in the political boundary of Chhattisgarh state. Kumar *et al.* (2007) who recently surveyed the Orchidaceae of Chotanagpur, Jharkhand, also did not record this species. There is also no record or report on the occurrence of this species in any of the existing literature pertaining to the flora of Andhra Pradesh, including the recently published flora of Visakhapatnam district by Subba Rao & Kumari (2008).

Apart, there is neither a representative specimen of this taxon available in any of the Indian herbaria from the states of Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. During the floristic survey of the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, a specimen of *Thunia* was collected. Subsequently, KNR also collected it from the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh (Sapparla RF, Narsipatnam Forest division, Visakhapatnam district). On critical observation with authentic literature the specimens were identified as *T. alba* var. *bracteata* hitherto not reported from Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.


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**Fig. 1** Thunia alba var. bracteata (Roxb) N. Pearce & P.J. Cribb: Habitat and Habit

**Fig. 2** Close-up view

Epiphytic herb, up to 1 m high. Stem stout, erect; basal sheaths tubular, ovate, acute at apex, 1.5 – 2.5 cm long. Leaves many, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, acuminate at apex, 10.5 – 25 × 2 – 3.5 cm, membranous, glaucous beneath. Inflorescence pendent, 4 – 8-flowered; peduncles 2 – 5 cm long, sheathed; sheath 1, tubular, lanceolate, acute at apex, c. 4 cm long; rachis 2 – 3.8 cm long; floral bracts oblong or boat-shaped, acute at apex, 4 – 5.5 × 1 – 1.2 cm. Flowers 4 – 5 cm long; sepals and petals white; lip white; pedicel and ovary 1 – 1.5 cm long. Sepals narrowly oblong-ovate, acute to obtuse at apex, subequal, 4.5 – 6 × 1 – 1.2 cm. Petals oblong, acute at apex, 4.5 – 5.5 × 0.8 – 1 cm. Lip broadly oblong-pandurate (when spread), spurred, 4.5 – 5 × 2.5 – 4.5 cm (at base), strongly purple-nerved, basal half convolute into a tube, apical half-hooded, dentate-undulate at margins; disk with 5 to 9 dentate-fimbriate ridges; spur c. 1.5 × 0.3 cm. Column expanded and winged at apex, 1.3 – 1.4 cm long; foot short. Fruits narrowly ellipsoid, 3 – 3.5 × c. 1 cm.

Flowering & Fruiting: March – July. Habitat: Dry Deciduous Forests, at 800 m.

Distribution: INDIA: Andhra Pradesh (Sapparala RF, Narsipatnam Forest Division, Visakhapatnam District), Jharkhand (Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary; Rare), Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Sikkim. WORLD: Bhutan and Nepal.

Specimens examined: P. Lakshminarasimhan & C.R. Magesh 43929, Dalma Top, Saraikala District, Jharkhand, 27.viii.2008, (CAL); K.N. Reddy 6693, Narsipatnam Forest Division, R.V. Nagar Range, Sapparala RF, 1000 m, Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh, 2.ix.2010 (Herbarium, Laila Impex R & D Centre).

Note: An epiphyte on Terminalia tomentosa (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.

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References


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**Announcement**

**Advanced Training course in Ornithology**

29 December 2013 - 09 January 2014, Coimbatore

SACON is organizing, an advanced training course in Ornithology -School in Avian Biology, under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology's Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB) during 26 December 2013 - 9 January 2014. This is the first in the series of schools that DST-SERB is planning to conduct in avian biology. The School aims to train the participants in the fundamentals of avian biology and to provide them with exposure to current trends in ornithological research. The teaching faculty will include leading biologists and ecologists of the country drawn from different institutions. The course will comprise one Orientation Module and six Core Modules covering key areas of research in avian biology.

The programme is open to students of life/physical/environmental sciences, currently pursuing Ph.D. or Post-doc in India and young faculty members in their early research career. Applications from M.Sc. (final year) or M.Phil students showing exceptional interest in avian biology may also be considered. A maximum of 25 participants will be selected and will be provided TA (max. AC III train fare) and local hospitality. There is no registration / tuition fee.

The last date for submission of application forms is 24 October 2013. Please refer for further information on the course and application procedures.

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