
紫斑兰属  
Chen Xinqi (陈心启 Chen Sing-chi); Stephan W. Gale, Phillip J. Cribb

Herbs, terrestrial. Tubers ellipsoid to subellipsoid, fleshy; roots filiform. Stem erect, spotted with purple, usually with 1 or rarely 2 leaves near base. Leaves elliptic to ovate-oblong, base shortly petiolate and sheathing stem, apex acute or acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal raceme, with several to many well-spaced flowers; peduncle, rachis, floral bracts, pedicel, and ovary all spotted with purple. Flowers resupinate, all parts apart from lip pale purple, spotted with purple. Dorsal sepal connivent with petals and forming a hood, erect, obovate; lateral sepals spreading or reflexed, obliquely ovate-elliptic. Petals ovate; lip subovate to flabellate, base spurred, apex 3-lobed; spur conic, abruptly contracted near tip and then swollen to form a globose apex. Column short, with 2 lateral appendages (1 on either side of anther); anther sessile, erect, with 2 parallel locules; rostellum shallowly 3-lobed; lateral lobes protruding, not converging; pollinia 2, granular-farinaceous, sectile, each attached by a slender caudicle to a viscidium; viscidia small, naked, borne directly above spur mouth at apices of lateral rostellum lobes; stigma 2-lobed, set in cavity at posterior margin of rostellum. Capsule ellipsoid.

One species: SW China, NE India.

The sole species was referred initially to Habenaria, but it differs from other members of that genus in habit, structure of the stigma, and lack of obvious anther canals. The shallowly 3-lobed rostellum, the orientation of the rostellum lobes, and the positioning of the viscidia appear to distinguish it from Hemipilia, while the shape of the lip, the non-converging lateral rostellum lobes, and various vegetative characters distinguish it also from Brachycorythis.


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Plants 20–50 cm tall, with purple spots throughout. Tubers 2–4 × 1.5–2 cm. Stem erect, with 2–5 sterile scalelike bracts above leaf. Leaf usually 1, light purple abaxially, green spotted with purple adaxially, elliptic to ovate-oblong, 2–15 × 2–5 cm. Rachis 8–20 cm, 2–20-flowered; floral bracts shorter than ovary. Flowers pale purple; pedicel and ovary 1.3–1.5 cm. Dorsal sepal ca. 5 × 2 mm, 3-veined, apex rounded or obtuse; lateral sepals ca. 6 × 4 mm, apex obtuse. Petals ca. 5 × 4 mm, apex obtuse; lip subovate to flabellate, 10–11 × 9–10 mm, 3-lobed at apex; lateral lobes oblong, usually larger than mid-lobe, apical margin irregularly undulate; mid-lobe ovate, ca. 3 × 2 mm; spur 9–10 × 2–3 mm, with a large mouth, globose apex 2–3 mm in diam. Capsule with purple spots, ellipsoid, ca. 15 × 2–3 mm. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep.

Broad-leaved evergreen forests, grasslands, sandy soils along rivers; 2100–3400 m. SE Xizang [NE India (Assam)].