

Photo by: David Titmuss

Liparis parviflora (Blume) Lindley

Section: *Coriifoliae* Ridley

Dr. Carl Blume first named this plant in 1825, as *Malaxis parviflora*. Dr. John Lindley transferred the generic epithet in 1830, in his *Genera and Species of Orchidaceous Plants*. The specific epithet refers to the small flowers of this attractive species.

Growth habit: upright, sympodial. **Pseudobulbs:** ovate, up to 6 cm long by 2.8 cm wide; somewhat flattened; bearing one or two leaves. **Leaves:** elliptic, up to 24 cm



numerous bracts at the base. **Flower colour:** sepals and petals cream to pale green, labellum is dull red. **Dorsal sepal:** linear, 5 mm long by 1.5 mm wide. **Petals:** linear, 5.5 mm long by 1 mm wide. **Lateral sepals:** linear, 5 mm long by 2 mm wide. **Labellum:** oblong; 6 mm long by 3 mm wide (when flattened); distinctly bent in middle; cleft at apex; minute white hairs around the edge.

Habitat and Distribution: *Liparis parviflora* has been found in Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Sulawesi (Celebes) and Borneo. In the Philippines it has been recorded from the provinces of Benguet, Kalinga-Apayao, Laguna, the Mountain Province, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Quezon and Rizal on Luzon; the islands of Mindoro; the south-western island of Busuanga; Leyte in the Visayan Sea; and Agusan, Cotabato and Davao on Mindanao; and the island of Basilan in the Sulu archipelago. It grows as an epiphyte at elevations of up to 2,000 metres. In the province of Pangasinan I have observed this plant growing in full sun.

Notes: The colour of this species is extremely variable, some clones are all cream to green, others have pink tips to the segments and others are totally pink. This is a very attractive orchid, in any of its colour variations.