MIZORAM

State Flower: Senhri (Mizo).

Botanical Name: **Renanthera imschootiana** Rolfe

Common Names: Red Vanda (English); Kwaklei Hangampal, Kwaklei Angangba (Manipuri).

Family: Orchidaceae.

Etymology: The generic name, **Renanthera** has been derived from Latinized Greek words "renis" (= kidney), and "anthera" (= anther), however, it is a poorly fitting name, as there is no similarity to the flower/anther shape, and specific epithet is after the Belgium orchid enthusiast, M.A. van Imschoot, the collector of the type.

Renanthera imschootiana Rolfe

Description: Epiphytic herb. Stem erect, cylindrical, stout, ca 1 m long. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, somewhat obliquely rounded-bilobed, 8 - 12 × 2 - 3 cm, leathery. Inflorescence axillary, erect, 50 - 75 cm long, many-flowered; peduncle and rachis slender; floral bracts broadly ovate with obtuse apex. Flowers ca 4.5 cm across; sepals and petals brownish yellow, red-spotted; dorsal sepal subspathulate-oblanceolate with acute apex; lateral sepals obliquely elliptic-ovate, base contracted into a claw, undulate at margins, obtuse at apex; petals narrowly spathulate; lip bright red; side lobes triangular, acute at apex; mid-lobe oblong-orbicular with 2 minute projections, one

on each side at the junction with the side lobes and with 3 yellow contiguous knobs in between them; spur yellow with red tip; column cylindrical, terete, 4 – 5 mm long, brownish red; pollinia reniform, deeply bifid.

Flowering & Fruiting: May – July.

Range of distribution: India, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Economic Importance: It has ornamental values.

Traditional Knowledge: Not known.

Medicinal Uses: Not known.

Note: Due to destruction of habitat, the population of this species is gradually depleting in the wild and becoming endangered, and the species is also listed in Appendix I of CITES.

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