MATERIALS AND METHODS.

The present study has been undertaken in 1979 based on author's collections all over Nagaland state from 1973 to 1983 and the historical collections preserved in the Kanjilal's Herbarium (ASSAM), Shillong (Meghalaya) and in the Central National Herbarium (CAL), Howrah (West Bengal) of Botanical Survey of India. An attempt has been made by the author to collect in the field all the orchid species in good condition for introduction in the B.S.I. "National Orchidarium" Shillong, so that descriptions and illustrations could be based on living specimens. All Data collected supplemented with observations in the field of live populations have been made use of in this study.

Identification of the species has been done after proper analytical study and confirmed with the authentic herbarium specimens available in different herbaria in India. In case of few critical specimens, the specimens were sent to Dr. Gunnar Seidenfaden, presently Authority of the "Orchidaceae of South East Asia", who helped in several ways to come to definite conclusion.

Nomenclature of the taxa has been verified and brought up-to-date to confirm to the requirements
of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, 1966. The binomials are followed by reference to original publication and also certain selected literature pertaining to the work of this region. In this investigation, 2 new taxa were established, while at the same time a series of taxa have been reduced to synonyms.

In the text, an introductory part of the history of orchidology in Nagaland; a brief account of the area - its location, physiography and climate; notes on conservation, cultivation, important and uses, ecology and distributions, morphology and salient taxonomic characters, particularly to Nagaland orchids are given.

The main objective of this study is mainly systematic to bring together a descriptive account of the orchids. It is aimed to establish keys to the genera and species for easy identification.

In the taxonomic part, the family description is followed by a key to the genera of the orchids of Nagaland. Keys to the genera are artificial based mainly on morphological characters, sometimes supplemented by other characters like habitat, colour etc. Some of the genera and species have been keyed more than once. However, the sequence of the genera in the description part follows that of Hooker's Flora of British India.
except in the case of split or new genera, consequent on recent monographic studies which are placed in the related genus.

The generic descriptions are followed by the citation of the Type species (wherever possible), number of species in the world and in Nagaland, with distributional records and a key to the species. Very short nomenclatural note of some genera is given as an attempt to solve the conflicting opinions regarding their generic limits. The sequence of the species is followed that in the key of the species under each genus.

The description of each species is followed by phenological data and a reference to the plate number and the citation of voucher specimens with collector's name(s) with locality and collection number (if any). Customary abbreviations are used like: ca (Circa - near about); s.l. (Sine locus - where the precise locality is not known); s.n. (Sine numero - where the collection number is lacking). Further the citation of 'Kanjilal's Herbarium', BSI, Shillong is indicated as - (ASSAM) and of 'Central National Herbarium', BSI, Howrah as - (CAL) respectively, as per the standard abbreviation in the list of International Herbaria.
All orchid species have been illustrated. Each illustration represents the analytical sketch and an inset distribution map of Nagaland to show the exact collection locality of the species. A few species are provided with photographs.

An outline map of Nagaland and the graphs showing climatological data are included. As an appendix, author’s publications related to this study are enclosed. A Bibliographical account is appended which was consulted during this study but all references are not referred in the Text.

Author’s collections of live and herbarium specimens mentioned in this study are deposited in the Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Shillong - 793003, Meghalaya.