

***PONERORCHIS CHUSUA* (ORCHIDACEAE):
SYSTEMATICS, DISTRIBUTION IN RUSSIA**

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The article gives a review of systematics and the distribution in Russia of one of the rarest Russian Orchid species, *Ponerorchis chusua*. Generic position of this species is discussed in the view of several existing classifications. Important new data about the distribution in Russia are presented. According to the literature sources, in Primorsky Krai it was reported from the only one locality, whereas in fact 5–6 localities can be traced. A new finding of this species in the vicinity of Vladivostok on the Muravyov-Amursky peninsula is described, which is most likely one of the last localities of this species in Russia. The arguments are given for the former presence of this species in the Flora of Irkutsk Region. The considerable decline of this species over time is evidenced. The conservation of this species is considered as one of the highest priority.

Keywords: Orchidaceae, *Ponerorchis chusua*, Red Data Book, Primorsky Territory, Irkutsk Region

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