

## ASCLEPIADACEAE

In India, *Ceropegia* comprises 67 taxa, out of which 44 taxa are endemic. All the species of *Ceropegia* were earlier listed in Appendix II of CITES but have been deleted on 19.7.2000. However, all the species are listed in the Negative List of Exports of Government of India.

### *Ceropegia huberi* Ansari

Vernacular name : Mar.: Kharpudi.

Distribution : INDIA: Maharashtra - Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Satara districts. Endemic.



*Ceropegia huberi* Ansari

Photo Courtesy: S.A. Punekar

*Habitat* : Grows on precipitous gravelly and rocky crevices in well drained soil at an altitude of ca 1000 m. It prefers cool and misty climate.

*Population status / Cause for RET* : Critically Endangered. Habitat destruction due to natural and other causes is probably responsible for the depletion of its population. After type collection from Ratnagiri district, it was reported from Ganganbavda of Kolhapur district by Kulkarni & Thite in 1977. Thereafter it was reported from Vasota fort of Satara district by Bachulkar in 1993 and from Gaganbawda, Karul Ghat by Mishra & Singh (2001).

*Description* : A perennial tuberous twiner. Stem branched, glabrous, terete. Leaves petiolate; petiole up to 3.5 cm long, glabrous, grooved; lower leaves ovate-

acuminate, ca 12 x 4.8 cm, upper leaves lanceolate, ca 5 x 1.5 cm, acuminate at apex; lamina membranous, margins ciliolate. Flowers in few to many flowered lateral or subumbellate cymes; peduncles hirsute, up to 16 cm long; bracts small, subulate, 2-3 mm long. Flowers white; pedicels pubescent, up to 1.7 cm long. Calyx 5-partite, ca 3 mm long; lobes ca 2.5 mm long. Corolla up to 1.2 cm long, straight; tube ca 5 mm long, obtusely angled, pale pinkish and minutely scabrid along nerves outside, glabrous, pinkish-purple with dark purple longitudinal lines inside, broader in the middle; lobes ovate, ca 7 x 10 mm, deeply cordate, broader than long, the sides joined in the upper 2/3 part forming a circular flattened, slightly inclined, head ca 1.7 cm in diam.; corona biseriate, outer corona cupular, 5-lobed, entire, glabrous, ca 7 mm long, inner of 5 elongated conical creamy yellow processes, lobes ca 2 mm long, arising in between outer corona lobes, densely hairy on the dorsal side only, convergent, apices obtuse, opposite and incumbent on the anthers. Pollinia five, pollen masses solitary in each anther cell, yellow, waxy with pellucid layer, attached by light-brown caudicles to dark-brown corpuscle. Gynostegium 1.5-2 mm long. Follicles in pairs, ca 6 cm long, tapering at both ends, glabrous. Seeds many, ovate, oblong, ca 5 x 3 mm, prominently margined, comose, coma ca 10 mm long.

*Fl.* : July-September; *Fr.* : September-October.



*Ceropegia huberi* Ansari

Photo Courtesy: S.A. Punekar

*Commercial / Ex-Im Data* : Not available.

*References* :

Mishra, D.K. & N.P. Singh (2001). Endemic and Threatened Flowering Plants of Maharashtra. Pp.133-135.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, pp. 58-59.

Walter, K.S. & H.J. Gillett (1998). 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants. P. 64.