

## ASCLEPIADACEAE

### **Ceropegia maccannii** Ansari

Vernacular name : Mar.: Kharpudi.

Distribution : INDIA: Maharashtra (Pune: Mulshi, Purandhar, Sinhagad, Torna and Ahmednagar: Harishchandragad). Endemic.



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Photo Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

*Habitat* : Found in open areas on hill tops and slopes among grasses.

*Population status / Cause for RET* : Critically Endangered and rare due to destruction of habitat and unrestricted collection of tubers by natives for consumption.

*Description* : A tuberous, tall, erect herb, 30 – 100 cm high, perennial. Stems terete, pubescent above. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, 9-12 x 4-6 cm, apex acute or acuminate, base mostly acute, sometimes rounded, hairy above, glabrous beneath except nerves; petiole 1-2 cm long, hairy and grooved above. Flowers 6 – 10 in lateral subumbellate cymes; peduncles up to 3.5 cm long, hirsute; bracts 3-4 mm long; pedicels 6-10 mm long, hairy. Calyx 4-5 mm long, hairy on the dorsal side. Corolla 1.7 – 2.3 cm long, slightly curved, white to purplish-grey outside, dark purple with

inconspicuous greenish-white streaks inside, glabrous inside except for a ring of white hairs at the bottom of the inflated base only; lobes obovate, 2-3 x 2 mm, acute at tips, creamy white to yellow outside, yellowish-orange inside, glabrous, connate at tips forming a minute obovate or obconic head, 2-3 mm in diam. Outer corona cupular, 5 – lobed, each with a short notch in the middle or slightly bifid, hairy. Pollen masses yellow. Follicles in pairs, ca 1.5 x 0.5 cm, glabrous. Seeds small, comose.

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

*Parts used locally* : Tubers are consumed by natives.

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

*References*:

Mishra, D.K. & N.P. Singh (2001). Endemic and Threatened Flowering Plants of Maharashtra. Pp.138-139.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1988). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 2, pp. 47-48.

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



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Photo Courtesy: S.A. Punekar