

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Ceropegia noorjahaniae Ansari

Distribution : INDIA: Maharashtra (Satara district - Jarandeshwar, Kartikswami, Khambatki ghat, Munavale, Pateshwar, Wai-Panchgani ghat, Yavateshwar). Endemic.



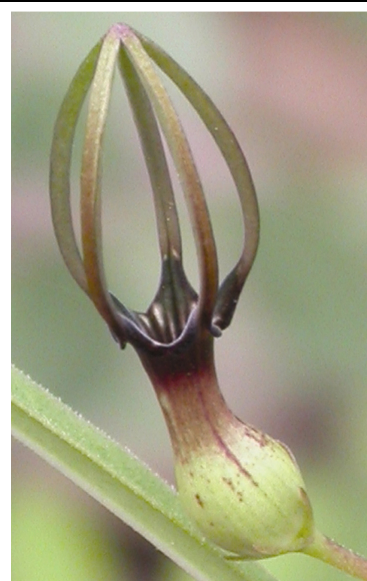
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Photo Courtesy: S.A. Punekar

Habitat : Found on the Western Ghats slopes along with grasses and herbs at an altitude of over 1000 m. It grows nicely in well-drained soil, cool and moist climate during peak monsoon season.

Population status / Cause for RET : Critically Endangered. Destruction of habitat for widening of ghat roads, is the cause for its decline.

Description : An erect tuberous herb, perennial, 15-40 cm high. Stem terete, minutely pubescent in the upper region, glabrous in lower region. Leaves opposite, subsessile or petiolate (petiole 4-7 mm long, glabrous), linear, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, 7-9 x 0.3-1.5 cm, acute at apex, tapering at base, hairy on the upper side, glabrous beneath except along midribs, margins minutely hairy. Flowers usually 3, in axillary or extra-axillary umbellate cymes; peduncles 3-4 mm long, glabrescent to glabrous; bracts subulate, 2-2.5 mm long; pedicels 6-7 mm long, glabrescent to glabrous. Calyx 5-partite; lobes ca 4 mm long, glabrous. Corolla 2-2.7 cm long, slightly curved; tube 1.2-1.4 cm long, inflated at base, in lower 1/2 - 2/3



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part, externally pale green in lower 3/4 part, pale to dark purplish-brown in the upper 1/4 part up to basal part of the corolla lobes, inside green with longitudinal purple lines, completely glabrous; lobes 0.9-1.3 cm long, nearly equal to the tube, linear-oblong with acute apex and deltoid base, greenish above, pale to dark purplish-brown near the base, margins partly reflexed all along, completely glabrous (without any purple hairs at base), connate at tips, forming an ovoid head. Corona biseriate; outer corona cupular, of 5 bifid or deeply emarginated lobes ca 1.25 mm long, 3 mm across, purple, glabrous outside and along the margins; inner of 5 erect, pale-purple, processes, ca 3 mm long, glabrous, straight at tips (inner convergent not hooked). Pollen masses minute, yellow, attached to brown pollen carriers by very short caudicles. Pistil ca 1.5 mm long. Follicles in pairs, ca 9 x 0.4 cm long, tapering at both ends, glabrous. Seeds many, ca 3.5 x 2.5 mm, ovoid, margined; coma ca 20 mm long.

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

Commercial / Ex-Im Data : Not available.

References:

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Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1988). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 2, pp. 52-53.

Walter, K.S. & H.J. Gillett (1998). 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants. P. 65.