

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Ceropegia oculata Hook.

Distribution : INDIA: Kerala, Maharashtra - Ahmednagar, Kolhapur, Pune, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Satara, Sindhudurg and Thane districts; Tamil Nadu. Endemic.



Ceropegia oculata Hook.

Photo Courtesy: S.A. Punekar

Habitat : Grows on slopes of open deciduous forests and scrub jungles at altitudes from 200 to 1000 m.

Population status / Cause for RET : Least Concern. The cause of decline is probably due to forest clearing and consumption of tubers by natives. The species is sporadically but widely distributed in the western part of Maharashtra from Thane to Sindhudurg district (Mishra & Singh, 2001).

Description : A tuberous twiner, perennial. Stem sparingly branched, terete, slightly swollen at the nodes, glabrous. Leaves broadly ovate or ovate-oblong, 10-13 x 5.5-9.5 cm, acute or shortly acuminate at apex, rounded or cordate at base, sparingly pubescent above, glabrous or nearly so beneath. Cymes few-flowered; peduncles hairy; pedicels glabrous. Corolla ca 6.7 cm long; tube ca 5 cm long, inflated at base, narrow in the middle, widening into a funnel-shaped mouth, glabrous, green below, purple higher up on the outside, yellowish-green with purple longitudinal lines inside; lobes 1.5-2 cm

long, connate at tips to form a narrow beak, linear-obtuse, glabrous outside, pubescent inside, ciliate on margins, green above, greenish-yellow below. Outer corona cupular of 5 bifid lobes, not hairy inside; inner corona lobes linear-clavate, ca 3 mm long, glabrous. Pollen-masses kidney shaped, attached to pollen carriers by short caudicles.

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.144-145.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, pp. 62-63.

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



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