

## ASCLEPIADACEAE

### **Ceropegia panchganiensis** Blatt. & McCann

*Vernacular names* : Mar.: Kharpudi, Khartundi.

*Distribution* : INDIA: Maharashtra: Satara (Mahabaleshwar - Lingmala, Kate's point, Hunter's point; Panchgani) and Ahmednagar (Harishchandragad) districts. Endemic.

*Habitat* : The plant grows in open areas of semi-evergreen forest at an altitude of over 1000 m.



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Photo Courtesy: S.R. Yadav

*Population status / Cause for RET* : Critically Endangered. It is very specific in its habitat requirements and therefore restricted in distribution. It is represented by about 100 individuals at Mahabaleshwar and about 50 individuals at Harishchandragad.

*Description* : An erect tuberous herb, perennial, 30-50 cm high. Stems terete, minutely pubescent above, glabrous at lower part, sometimes branched at the base, branches 2-3. Leaves ovate, 6-9 x 3-4.5 cm, apex acute, base rounded or subcordate, hairy above and glabrous beneath; petiole 1-2 cm long, puberulous, grooved above. Cymes 5-8 flowered; peduncles 5-15 mm long, hairy; pedicels 8-15 mm long, hairy; bracts few, 3-4 mm long, hairy. Calyx divided to base, ca 5 mm long. Corolla 2.8-3.5 cm long; tube 2.2-2.8 cm long, slightly curved, base inflated, inside a ring of hairs at the bottom, above narrow, cylindrical, purple coloured; lobes elliptic-ovate or obovate, ca 6 mm long, glabrous, greyish-white or yellow coloured. Outer corona of 5 shortly bifid, hairy lobes; inner erect, clavate, hairy. Pollinia five, pollen masses solitary in each anther cell, yellow, waxy with pellucid layer, attached by light-brown caudicles to dark-brown corpuscle. Follicles in pairs.

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

*Parts used locally* : Tubers are edible.

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

*References* :

Mishra, D.K. & N.P. Singh (2001). Endemic and Threatened Flowering Plants of Maharashtra. Pp.146-148.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, pp. 66-67.

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