

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium cordigerum D. Don

Distribution : INDIA: Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (Garhwal, Kumaon); TIBET (S. Xizang); PAKISTAN; NEPAL and BHUTAN .



Cypripedium cordigerum D. Don

Habitat: In wet and shady woods, open *Abies* (fir) forest on outskirts of forests or in open glades and in *Caragana* (pea) and *Juniperus* bushes on south facing slopes, at altitudes of 2000-4000 m.

Population status/Cause for RET : Rare. Loss of habitat has caused serious damage to its natural populations.

Description : Terrestrial herbs, up to 60 cm tall with a very short and stout rhizome. Leaves 4-5, alternate, 5-18 x 4-11 cm, orbicular to lanceolate, plicate, almost scattered. Flower solitary, 7-10 cm across, pale yellow to white; sepals longer than lip; lip bag shaped, white, often with purple spots outside; ovary fusiform, glandular pubescent. Capsules clavate, ca 3.8 cm long.

Fl. & Fr.: June-August.

Commercial/Ex-Im data : 150 kg of live *C. cordigerum* has been exported to the US from India during 2002 (CITES permit No. A 2609).

References :

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (1980). Threatened Plants of India. A State-of-the Art Report. P. 19.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1988). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 2, pp. 170-171.