

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium elegans Rchb. f.

Distribution : INDIA: Uttarakhand (Garhwal, Kumaon), Sikkim; CHINA (NW Yunan); TIBET (SE Xizang); E. NEPAL and BHUTAN.



Cypripedium elegans Rchb. f.

Photo Courtesy: C. Sathish Kumar

Habitat : At the edge of *Abies* forest and on steep slopes at edge of woodland, in clearings in bamboo and *Abies* forests, and under *Juniperus* bushes at 2800-4400 m.

Population status/Cause for RET : Rare. Destruction of habitat has led to the decline of this species.

Description : Terrestrial dwarf herbs, up to 30 cm tall. Leaves 3-4, alternate, 2.2-8 x 1.6-6.9 cm, broadly elliptic to oblong-lanceolate. Scape shorter than leaves. Flower solitary, ca 2.5 cm across, brownish with dark brown lines; dorsal sepal narrowly ovate; petals lanceolate, concave; lip shorter than sepals, depressed.

Fl. & Fr. : June-August.

Commercial/Ex-Im data : Not available.

References :

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

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (1984). The Indian Plant Red Data Book - 1, p. 118.

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, pp. 243-244.