

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium himalaicum Rolfe

Distribution : INDIA: Uttarakhand (Garhwal), Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh; CHINA; NEPAL and BHUTAN.



Cypripedium himalaicum Rolfe

Habitat : Amongst grass clad limestone boulders, in nooks and crevices, amongst small shrubs on steep hillsides, in pastures, on open rocky slopes, or in *Rhododendron-Cassiope* scrub, growing in partial shade at 2000-5000 m.

Population status / Cause for RET : Endangered. Loss of natural habitat due to rapid urbanization and tourism in its areas of distribution.

Description : Small terrestrial herbs, to 30 cm tall. Leaves 3-4, alternate, 5-10 x 2.4-4.7 cm, broadly ovate or elliptic, sessile, sheathed, puberulous, plicate. Flower very fragrant, solitary, ca 5 cm across; lip bulbous broadest towards apex in side view, bilaterally

compressed with a small mouth having toothed margin; ovary and stalk up to 2.5 cm long, densely pubescent.

Fl. & Fr. : June-August.

Commercial / Ex-Im data : 100 kg of live *C. himalaicum* plants have been exported to US during 2002 (CITES Permit no. A2609).

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 (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, pp. 245-246.