

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium tibeticum King ex Rolfe



Cypripedium tibeticum King ex Rolfe
Photo Courtesy: C. Sathish Kumar

Distribution : INDIA: Sikkim; CHINA; NEPAL and BHUTAN.

Habitat : In moist shady places at higher altitudes, alpine meadows, margins of coniferous and mixed woodlands, open limestone ledges and screes between 2200-4500 m.

Population status/Cause for RET : Endangered due to habitat loss. No information is available on population structure and dynamics.

Description : Terrestrial, stout herbs, up to 35 cm tall, with creeping rhizome. Leaves 6, upper most round to elliptic-ovate, obtuse to acute, 7-15 x 3.3-7.2 cm, ciliate, glabrous on both surfaces except towards the tips. Flower single, purple or dark maroon, usually with a darker lip with a white margined rim to the mouth and darker marked veins on the sepals and petals. Synsepal elliptic-ovate or oblong-elliptic, bifid at tip.

Fl. & Fr.: June - August.

Commercial/Ex-Im data : 160 kg of this species was exported to US during 2002 (CITES Permit No. A 2609).