

## ORCHIDACEAE

### **Paphiopedilum druryi** (Bedd.) Stein

*Common English name* : Lady's Slipper Orchid.

*Distribution* : INDIA: Kerala (Agasthyamala, Travancore hills). Endemic.



**Paphiopedilum druryi** (Bedd.) Stein  
Photo Courtesy: C. Sathish Kumar

*Habitat* : Inhabits withered rocks and on sandy loam soils in the plains or on the slopes, montane grasslands, often in partial shade along with tall grasses, shrubs or small stunted trees; sometimes reported to be epiphytic on *Euphorbia* spp.; found between 1000-2000 m.

*Population status / Cause for RET* : Critically Endangered. The species was originally collected by Drury in 1865 from Travancore hills and later by Beddome from Kalakkad hills in 1875. Since this is a very much sought after species in the genus *Paphiopedilum* for its attractive flowers it has been collected indiscriminately from its wild habitat. It is being cultivated in some botanic gardens and orchid nurseries all over the world. It is also being cultivated in the National Orchidarium of Botanical Survey of India at Yercaud.

*Description* : Perennial herbs, rhizome ligulate up to 1 m long, producing 5-6 shoots; stems up to 30 cm long, purplish. Leaves 20-30 × 3-5 cm, glossy green. Flower solitary, yellowish-green to golden-yellow with purple stripes; upper sepal broadly ovate, margins hairy, other sepals fused to the apex; lateral petals spreading or slightly drooping with dark purple median stripe; lip slipper like, 3.5-4.5 cm long, bright yellow, purple spotted; ovary

ca 5 cm long, purple-brown.

*Fl. & Fr.* : February - April.

*References* :

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