

## ORCHIDACEAE

### **Paphiopedilum wardii** Summerh.

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

*Distribution* : INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh (Lohit District); SW CHINA and N. MYANMAR.



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Photo Courtesy: C. Sathish Kumar

*Habitat* : Grows on rock surfaces covered by mosses and leaf litter.

*Population status / Cause for RET* : Critically Endangered. *P. wardii* grows on rocks and earth banks more or less exposed to the sun and at altitudes between 1200 and 1500 m. Much exploited for its showy flowers. Nothing is known about the pollinator, population size and dynamics.

*Description* : Terrestrial herbs. Leaves 10-15 x 3.5-5.5 cm, oblong-elliptic, green or dull blue-green mottled with purplish-red spots beneath, glabrous. Scapes 15-20 cm long, erect, 1-flowered. Flowers 8.5-12.8 cm across; dorsal sepal 4-5 x 2.5 cm, ovate, white with parallel green veins, ciliate;

petals oblong, acute; lip 4-5 long, green with wine red spots, apex rotundate; staminode lunate, finely pubescent, lateral teeth incurved at apex, blunt.

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

*References* :

Nayar, M.P. & A.R.K. Sastry (1987). Red Data Book of Indian Plants. Vol. 1, p. 273.

Walter, K.S. & H.J. Gillett (1998). 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants. P. 716.