

ORCHIDACEAE

Vanda coerulea Griff. ex Lindl.

Common English name : Blue Vanda.

Distribution : INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya; CHINA (S. Yunnan); MYANMAR and THAILAND.

Habitat : In mixed pine forests on hills at altitudes between 1300 and 2000 m and usually on *Quercus* species.

Population status/Cause for RET : Critically Endangered. Over exploitation and habitat destruction has decimated the natural populations. Nothing is known about the population dynamics. This species is cultivated in the National Orchidaria of Botanical Survey of India at Shillong and Yercaud.



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Photo Courtesy: C. Sathish Kumar

Description: Epiphytic herbs with stout 15-60 cm long stems. Leaves ligulate, stiff, leathery, 10-20 x 1.5-2.5 cm, apex obliquely truncate, dark green. Inflorescence many, 25-100 cm long, 6-12-flowered, erect or suberect. Flowers pale lavender or dark blue; sepals and petals 4-4.5 x 2-2.5 cm, obovate or orbicular, rotundate at apex; lip 3-lobed, side lobes ca 2 mm long, incurved, midlobe emarginate with two keels.

Fl. & Fr. : September – December / March – May..

Legal : Listed in Appendix II of CITES. Included in Negative List of Exports and 'Schedule VI' of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 of India.

References :

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