



Orchids of Eastern Ghats

INDIA



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EASTERN GHATS
(INDIA)**

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PREFACE

Orchids, the “Jewels” of plant kingdom, attracted the attention of both specialists and amateurs because of their beauty and complexity. The family Orchidaceae, is the most diverse family and account for eight percent of all flowering plants and majority are found in the tropics and subtropics. Orchids are generally forest living and prefer to grow in humid tropical climate. They were exploited till the end of last century ruthlessly for cut flowers and this has led to their inclusion in the Appendices I and II of CITES. In India, the family Orchidaceae is the one of the largest family and represented by about 1331 taxa and about 400 are endemic. India is phytogeographically divided into three regions namely, Peninsular India, Himalayan region and Andaman Nicobar Islands. Peninsular India is again divided three regions namely: The Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula and The Eastern Ghats.

The Eastern Ghats or Purva Ghat, also known as Mahendra Parvatam, are a discontinuous hill range of mountains run parallel to the Bay of Bengal. The Eastern Ghats encompass different types of vegetation and support rich Orchid flora. In the Eastern Ghats orchids species are at present in great danger of depletion and erosion due natural threats like climate change (unusual-rains, floods, temperature, and soil erosion), natural competition between species (native species and invasive species), lack of pollination (effect on seed formation) and natural degeneration *etc.* while man made threats include forest encroachment, mining activity, developmental activities, annual forest fires, grazing, illegal trade *etc.* Having realized the said issues there is urgent need to document orchids in Eastern Ghats and publish in a book form. At present there is no comprehensive account for Orchid flora of the Eastern Ghats. Authors taking note of this lacuna attempted to provide complete information supported by colour photographs.

We thank the authorities of Central National Herbarium (CAL), Howrah; Madras Herbarium (MH), Coimbatore; Deccan Regional Centre (BSID), BSI, Hyderabad; Forest Research Institute Herbarium (DD), Dehra Dun; authorities of Herbarium, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur; Rapinat Herbarium, Tiruchirapalli; Regional Plant Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar for permission to consult the Herbarium and Library. We thank to Dr. P. Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata for support. We are

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We hope this can be source book for field identification and taxonomic research. Readers are requested to bring out deficiencies and mistakes, if any, so that they can be rectified during further editions.

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