27. ETHNOBOTANICAL INFORMATION OF *EULOPHIA EPIDENDRAEA* (RETZ) FISCHER (ORCHIDACEAE) IN THE KAMBLI MALAIKOVIL FOREST, TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

During a survey of medicinal plants of the Kambli Malaikovil forest, Kambli, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, we collected the terrestrial orchid *Eulophia epidendraea* from grassland forest growing on rocks as an epiphyte at an altitude of 50-100 m. This species is only known from two localities in southern Western Ghats, India and Africa (Abraham and Vatsala 1981). This is a new distributional record of *E. epidendraea* from the Kambli Malaikovil Forest. The medicinal use of *E. epidendraea* was recorded from the local forest dwelling Yadava community. A voucher specimen *E. epidendraea* (VMR 10) was deposited in the Environmental Carcinogenesis Research Unit, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

The Yadavas call *E. epidendraea* Kaattu Venkayam. The dried, powdered, bulb is taken orally in hot milk to control bronchitis, tumours, scrofulous infection of the glands of the neck and in diseases of the blood, twice daily before meals, for 20 days. This use as a drug is new to science. Further studies are in progress on systematic, phytochemical and pharmacological screening for antimicrobial properties and any potent principle(s) at ECRU.

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28. OCCURRENCE, FRUITING AND SEED MORPHOLOGY OF ENDEMIC *BULBOPHYLLUM FIMBRIATUM* (LINDL.) REICHB. F.

During a floristic survey of Kukadeshwar, Taluka Junnar, an interesting tiny epiphytic orchid was recorded on *Terminalia chebula* Retz. tree. The specimen was critically examined and identified as *Bulbophyllum fimbriatum* (Lindl.) Reichb. f. (syn. *Cirrhopetalum fimbriatum* Lindl.). It was confirmed by comparing it with old herbarium collections at Agharkar Herbarium (AHMA), Agharkar Research Institute, Pune and Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune.

The abundant occurrence of this species has been reported at Mahabaleshwar by a number of workers (Dalzell and Gibson 1861; Blatter and McCann 1906; Gammie 1906; Santapau and Kapadia 1964; Bole and Almeida 1986; Deshpande *et al.* 1993). Its occasional occurrence has been reported along Sawantwadi-Ramghat and Castle rock-Anmode areas (Vartak 1966; Kulkarni 1979). Cooke (1903-1908) reported it as apparently endemic; Sarkar (1995) described it as endemic and vulnerable. Tetali *et al.* (2000) however, do not support Sarkar (1995) on its vulnerable nature.

Hooker (1872-97) referred to *Bulbophyllum fimbriatum* (Lindl.) Reichb. f. growing in Bombay(=Mumbai) southwards along the Western Ghats. Scrutiny of herbarium specimens at AHMA, Pune and BSI, Western Circle, Pune as well as critical screening of floristic literature (Dalzell and Gibson 1861; Blatter and McCann 1906; Gammie 1906; Cooke 1903-1908; Santapau 1960; Santapau and Kapadia 1964; Hemadri 1970; Laxminarasimhan and Sharma 1991; Kothari and Moorthy 1993; Deshpande *et al.* 1993, Sharma *et al.* 1996) revealed that so far there has been no report of its occurrence beyond Satara district towards North in Western Ghats. One herbarium specimen of this species collected by H.P. Paranjape in 1908 from Ganeshkhind Botanical Garden, Pune, probably from cultivation, is the only exception. This report, therefore, is a new distributional record for this species from Taluka Junnar of District Pune.

The species was recorded at Kukadeshwar on two trees with less than 150 bulbs. The patch was studied *in situ* and *ex situ* for one complete phenological cycle. Critical observations showed some distinct variation in morphology



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