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Drosera burmannii

The carnivorous plant family Droseraceae comprises approximately 250 species of herbaceous carnivorous plants with two monotypic genera *Aldrovanda* and *Dionea* and one large genus *Drosera* (popularly known as sundew). In India as well as in Odisha, three species of *Drosera* have been reported (*Drosera burmannii* Vahl, *Drosera indica* L., and *Drosera peltata* J.E.Sm). Among this *Drosera burmannii* is a compact rosette sundew, known as tropical sundews, found mostly in marshy areas in grasslands and degraded deciduous forests and also in plains with poor nutrition in the wet and dry season in a temperate climate, distributed in India, Australia, China, West Africa, Sri Lanka, etc. In India it is found up to 3000m and in Odisha, it is distributed in Krishnamali and Khandualmali hills of Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalahandi, Gandhamardan hills, Bolangir, Mahendragiri hills, Gajapati, Coastal areas of Chandrabhaga. They show a specialized carnivory trap, known as active sticky flypaper trap, generally able to attract, capture, retain and digest prey animals using digestive enzymes. It is one of the fastest trapping sundews and can curl its leaves around its prey in only a few seconds. They are generally known to possess highly modified leaves covered with mucilaginous or glue glandular trichomes or tentacles. These carnivory herbs are annual or biennial with few fibrous roots. Bears flowers

between November to February. These species are ranges from less than 1 cm to about 3cm in diameter and maybe golden green, dark green, red or green with red tentacles. It lives for a few months during the warm rainy season, then dies off when the soil dries out, returning from seeds when the rains return. *Drosera burmannii* have high ethnomedicinal and pharmacological values. They contain medicinally active compounds like quinones plumbagin, hydroplumbagin glucoside, flavonoids and rosoliside, carotene, plant acids, resins, tannins, and ascorbic acid. It reported that this herb is used in curing bronchial infection, whooping cough, hyperglycemia, hypolipidaemia, tuberculosis, spasma, microbial infections, leprosy, malaria, cancer, fertility problems, arteriosclerosis, phthisis, asthma, etc. An Ayurvedic product named "Herba Droserae" is also prepared from *Drosera burmannii*. Popularly this herb is cultivated for its ornamental values. So now it's time to take a conservation approach to preserve this unique group of plants in order to achieve long-term conservation.

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