

# JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

## *Ground orchids of Odisha: medicinally and ecologically important flowering plants*



*Epipogium roseum* in Bonai Forest  
Division, Odisha

Orchids are very unique creations of nature having socio-cultural, ornamental, horticultural, food, medicinal and ecological values. They belong to the family Orchidaceae along with numerous small seeds as a key of the species with modified petal as a lip. They can grow on trunk of trees, lianas, on rock and as a terrestrial plant. Ground or terrestrial orchids have less explored and they also show the saprophytic characters. The roots and tubers of ground orchids are edible and used for medicinal purposes. The most common ground orchids of the Odisha state are *Geodorum densiflorum*, *Goodyera procera*, *Habenaria commelinifolia*, *Habenaria furcifera*, *Habenaria marginata*, *Habenaria plantaginea*, *Habenaria panigrahiana*, *Nervilia crociformis*, *Nervilia plicata*, *Odisha cleisantha*, *Peristylus lawii*, *Zeuxine flava* etc. State enjoys saprophytic ground orchids like *Epipogium roseum* which indicates good forest, soil and high humus on forest floor. My team is working on Orchids diversity of Bonai Forest Division, Odisha, India and exploration works there and other parts of Odisha conclude that there is need of more exploration works, restorations and evaluation of their food and medicinal values along with what is the exact relationship with flora, microbes and faunal species.

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Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation