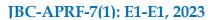# JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Orchid wealth of Bonai Forest Division, Odisha

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ARTICLE INFO

Orchids are monocot flowering plants belonging to the family Orchidaceae. They have been subjects of interest since the beginning of time because of their beautiful flowers, aromatic plant parts, unique uses, and amazing habit & habitat. Ecologically, they are very important, as they are known as climate indicators. They have microscopic and numerous seeds. The team of Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha, studied the orchid wealth of Bonai Forest Division (BFD), Sundargarh, Odisha, during 2021–2022, and enumerated about 74 species of orchids (Figure 1). Two saprophytic orchids are also observed in BFD. The most common observed orchid species in BFD are *Acampe carinata, Aerides multiflora, A. odorata, Bulbophyllum careyanum, Cymbidium aloifolium, Dendrobium formosum, D. herbaceum, Epipogium roseum, Geodorum densiflorum, Habenaria commelinifolia, Liparis deflexa, Luisia zeylanica, Oberonia falconeri, Pholidota imbricata,* etc. Among the enumerated species, *B. careyanum, Nervilia concolor, N. plicata,* etc. are edible, and *Vanda tessellata, Oberonia falconeri, Rhynchostylis retusa,* etc. have medicinal values. We documented the food and medicinal values after interaction with local communities in BFD. The leaf of *V. tessellata* is used against ear pain and skin infections by the Khadia and Munda tribes of BFD, respectively. There is a need for proper documentation on the orchid wealth of

India and its uses among tribal communities. Team APRF is thankful to the Field Staff and Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bonai Forest Division, Sundargarh, Odisha.

Figure 1: Team during survey works for diversity assessment of Orchid species in BFD