

MANIPUR

State Flower: Siroy Lily, Shirui Lily (Manipuri).

Botanical Name: *Lilium mackliniae* Sealy

Common Names: Siroy Kumudini (Hindi).

Family: Liliaceae.

Etymology: It is named after Jean Mackliniae, wife of Frank Kingdon-Ward, a British botanist, explorer and plant collector.



Description: Bulbous herbs; bulbs broadly ovoid, ca 4.5×4 cm; scapes pale yellow, outer 2 – 3 cm wide. Stem 22 – 40 cm high, hirsute, greenish or reddish brown. Leaves many in irregular spiral; upper leaves linear, $2.5 - 7.5 \times 0.4 - 0.7$ cm; lower ones linear-elliptic, to 15×1.2 cm, villose at base, midrib distinct in lower surface. Flowers one or a few nodding in raceme, broadly campanulate; pedicels 2.5 – 6 cm long, greenish or reddish brown. Perianth lobes oblong lanceolate, $4.5 - 6 \times 1.5 -$

2.5 cm, overlapping at base, white or purple outside and carmine at base. Nectaries 4 – 7 mm long. Stamens half of perianth; filaments subulate, ca 2 cm long, white; anthers oblong, $6 - 7 \times$ ca 2 mm, brick red, becoming brown. Ovary linear-oblong, $7 - 8 \times 2 - 3$ mm, green; style 2 – 5 cm long; stigma 3 – 4 mm wide. Capsules

broadly obovoid, abruptly constricted at base, 2.5 – 2.8 × 1.7 – 1.8 cm, pale yellow or light brown; seeds deltoid rotund, compressed, wide-winged, dull greyish brown.

Flowering & Fruiting: June – September.

Range of Distribution: India (Endemic).

Economic Importance: Siroi Lily is one of the most beautiful lilies in the world and is of high ornamental value.

Traditional Knowledge: Because of its beautiful flowers, in Manipur it is compared to a beautiful and modest girl.

Medicinal Uses: Due to antibacterial and antianthelmintic properties it is used in treating skin and stomach problems.

Note: It is an endangered species, confined to rocky localities and grasslands at altitudes ranging from 2290 to 2400 m in Manipur and Nagaland border areas.

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