**ASCLEPIADACEAE**

_Ceropegia maccannii_ Ansari

**Vernacular name:** Mar.: Kharpudi.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Maharashtra (Pune: Mulshi, Purandhar, Sinhgad, Torna and Ahmednagar: Harishchandragad). Endemic.

**Habitat:** Found in open areas on hill tops and slopes among grasses.

**Population status / Cause for RET:** Critically Endangered and rare due to destruction of habitat and unrestricted collection of tubers by natives for consumption.

**Description:** A tuberous, tall, erect herb, 30 – 100 cm high, perennial. Stems terete, pubescent above. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, 9-12 x 4-6 cm, apex acute or acuminate, base mostly acute, sometimes rounded, hairy above, glabrous beneath except nerves; petiole 1-2 cm long, hairy and grooved above. Flowers 6 – 10 in lateral subumbellate cymes; pedicules up to 3.5 cm long, hirsute; bracts 3-4 mm long; pedicels 6-10 mm long, hairy. Calyx 4-5 mm long, hairy on the dorsal side. Corolla 1.7 – 2.3 cm long, slightly curved, white to purplish-grey outside, dark purple with inconspicuous greenish-white streaks inside, glabrous inside except for a ring of white hairs at the bottom of the inflated base only; lobes obovate, 2-3 x 2 mm, acute at tips, creamy white to yellow outside, yellowish-orange inside, glabrous, connate at tips forming a minute obovate or obconic head, 2-3 mm in diam. Outer corona cupular, 5 – lobed, each with a short notch in the middle or slightly bifid, hairy. Pollen masses yellow. Follicles in pairs, ca 1.5 x 0.5 cm, glabrous. Seeds small, comose.

*Fl.:* July-August; *Fr.:* September-October.

**Parts used locally:** Tubers are consumed by natives.

**Commercial / Ex-Im Data:** Not available.

**References:**