Coelogyne mossiae Rolfe in the Upper Nilgiri Plateau

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The orchid *Coelogyne mossiae* has been recorded in only one location in the Nilgiris. The species occurs either as epiphytes or lithophytes; pseudobulbs conical, wrinkled, 6-8 x 3cm; leaves two per pseudobulb; scape covered by imbricating scales towards base; dorsal and lateral sepals ca. 6.5 x 1.7cm; lateral petals ca. 6 x 1.6cm; lip shorter than the other parts, ca. 5cm long.

Found on moss covered rocks by streams, the species was found in only one location in the western catchment area, Nilgiris. It is apparently rare.

Joseph (1987) could not collect this species from Nilgiris, while Sathish Kumar (1999) reported it to be rare in Walakkad in Silent Valley. Hence this collection from the western catchment area (ca. 2000m) is significant. It also occurs in the high ranges of Kerala (Shetty & Vivekananthan, 1973). The species was assessed as Endangered at the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) workshop for endemic orchids of the Western Ghats in 2000.

The author is growing the plant in his garden and it flowers every year. The flowers in the author’s collection are much larger (double the size) than mentioned by Joseph (1987).

References


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References


