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Cover: A gravid praying mantis just before she laid her ootheca—digital art on procreate. © Aakanksha Komanduri.



Extended distribution of *Ceropegia bhatii* S.R.Yadav & Shendage (Apocynaceae)—an endemic plant from Haveri District, Karnataka, India

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The genus *Ceropegia* L. (Apocynaceae: Asclepidoideae: Ceropegieae) comprises 450 species in the world, distributed in Africa, Canary Islands, Arabia, India, China, Madagascar, New Guinea, and Australia (Bruyns 2014; Mabberley 2017; POWO 2024). The majority of *Ceropegia* species in India are distributed in the peninsular part where they occur along steep hill slopes, rock crevices at low to high-elevation lateritic plateaus, along with bushes, forest margins, grasslands of dry deciduous forests, shola forest margins and still others prefer to grow at drier habitats. Out of 61 Indian taxa, 44 (72%) are endemic (Kambale & Yadav 2019). In Karnataka, the genus was represented with 16 species, out of which 11 are endemic (Singh et al. 2015; Sanjappa & Sringswara 2019).

Ceropegia bhatii S.R.Yadav & Shendage, an endemic plant was first time reported from its type locality Davangere-Malebennur Ghat (14.3112°N, 75.7251°E) in the year 2008, Shendage 2550 & 2551, holotype CAL0000006905; isotypes BSI0000000171 (Yadav & Shendage 2010). The species is now recollected after 14 years for the first time outside its type location from the dry deciduous forest of Kanavisiddageri hillock of Jokanal beat of Hirekerur forest range in Haveri district, Karnataka state, and herbarium was submitted to the

Herbarium of Karnatak College Dharwad (HKCD).

Taxonomic Treatment

Ceropegia bhatii S.R.Yadav & Shendage, Kew Bull. 65(1): 107 (2010); S.S. Kambale & S.R. Yadav, Rheedea 29(1): 01–115 (2019) (Image 1).

Holotype: India, Karnataka, Davangere district, Malebennur Ghat, 14.3112°N, 75.7251°E 15.ix.2008, Shendage 2550. CAL0000006905.

Perennial twining herbs with tuberous rootstock. Roots a few, fibrous. Stem 1–2 mm diam., twining, terete, slightly pubescent towards base, glabrous at tip. Leaf linear-lanceolate, 3.0–7.5 × 0.3–0.8 cm, dark green above, pale below, hairy entirely, petioles ciliated 5 mm long, channeled above. Flowers solitary or 2-flowered cymes; peduncles c. 6 mm long, glabrous; bracts c. 4 mm, linear-subulate, glabrous; pedicels c. 1.0 cm long, glabrous, terete. Sepals c. 5 mm, subulate. Corolla c. 4.2 cm long; tube c. 2.5 cm long, slightly curved, gradually dilated at base, throat with funnel-shaped, narrow at middle, lower portion with purple blotches within, upper portion striated with dark purple lines up to the throat within (at the mouth of tube blotching is deep purple otherwise tube is yellowish-green within); lobes c. 2.2 cm long, linear, glabrous, slightly reflexed to their

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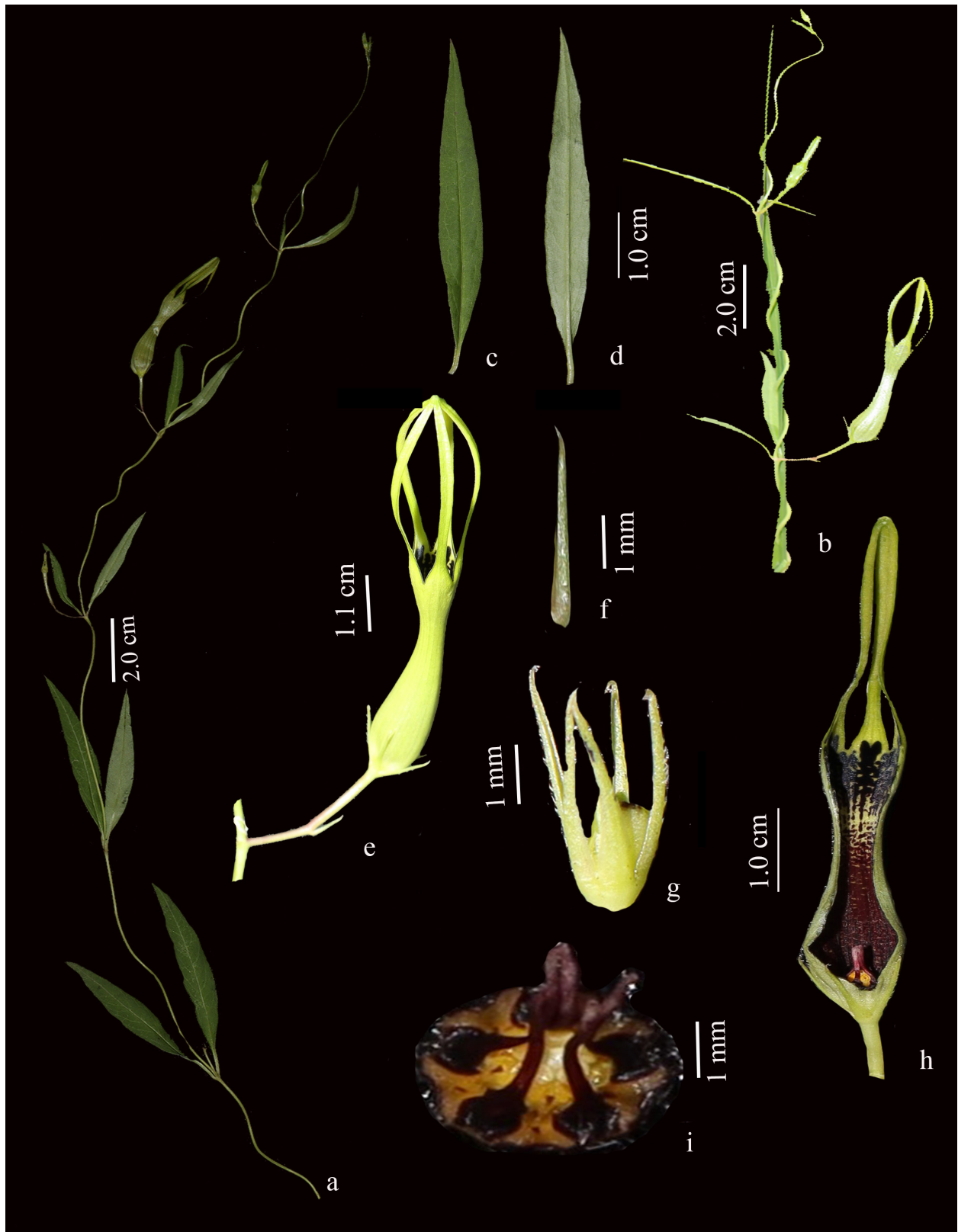
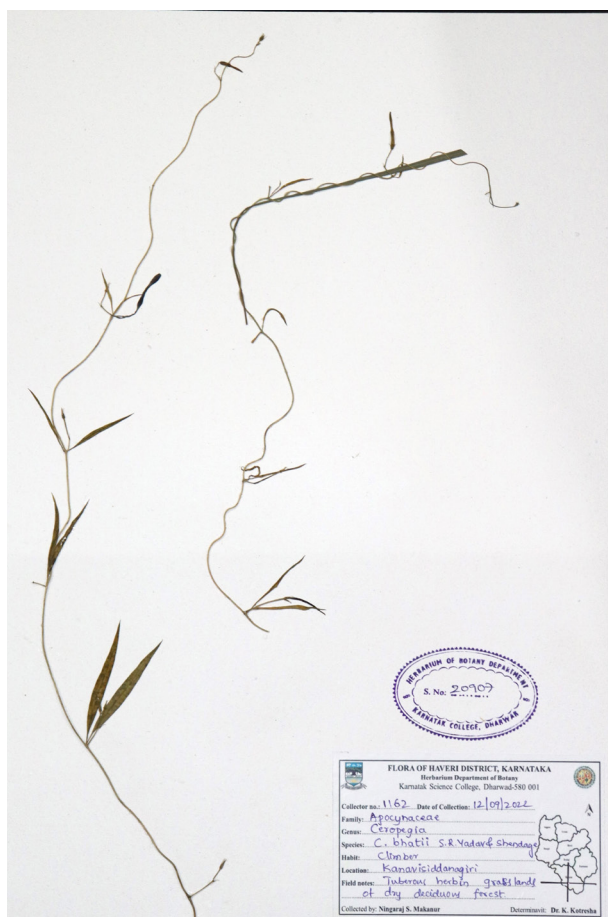
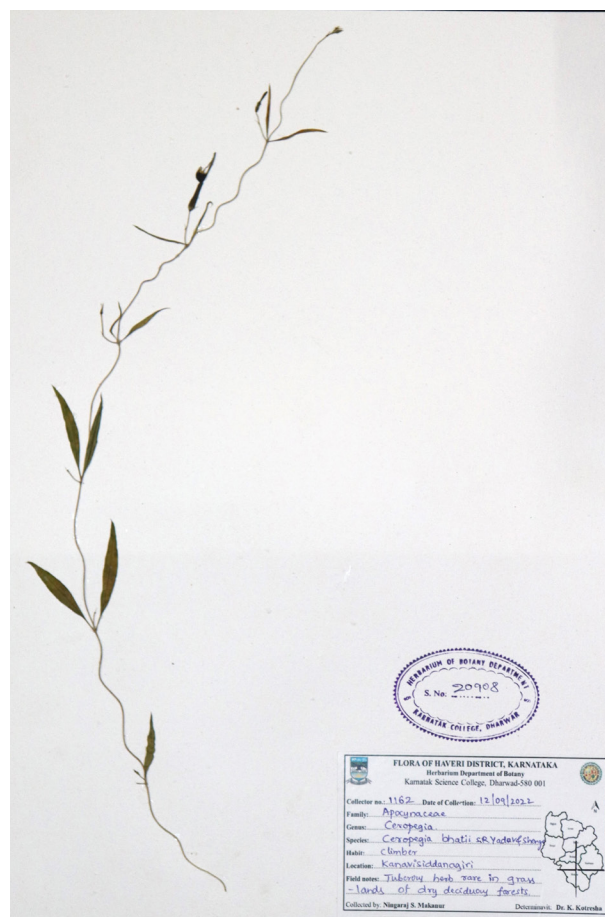


Image 1. *Ceropegia bhatii* S.R.Yadav & Shendage: a—flowering twig | b—enlarged twig | c & d—dorsal and ventral view of leaf | e—enlarged flower | f—bract | g—calyx | h—longitudinal section of flower | i—corona. © Ningaraj S. Makanur.

Image 2. Herbarium sheet of *Ceropegia bhatii* [HKCD 20907].Image 3. Herbarium sheet of *Ceropegia bhatii* [HKCD 20908].

back, connate at the tip forming an ovoid cage. corona 2-seriate, stipitate, c. 5 mm long; outer lobes 5-bifid, c. 2.3 × 3 mm long, saucer-shaped, green, ciliate along margins, yellow; inner lobes 5, c. 2.8 mm long, deep purple, sparsely hairy at the tip.

Flowering & fruiting: September–November.

Habitat: Grows in slopes of grasslands in dry deciduous forests, close association with *Cymbopogon coloratus* (Hook.f.) Stapf., *Blepharispermum subsessile* DC., *Argyreia cuneata* (Willd.) Ker Gawl., *Terminalia anogeissiana* Gere & Boatwr., *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb. and *Soymida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A. Juss.

Distribution: In Karnataka, Haveri district, around 15–20 individuals were observed (present study) and in Davanagere district.

Specimen examined: 20907 & 20908 (HKCD) (Image 2,3), 12.ix.2022 India, Karnataka, Haveri district, Hirekerur Forest Range, Rattihalli taluka, Kanavisiddanagiri hillock; 718 m, coll. Ningaraj S. Makanur & Kotresha K. 1162.

Threat status: The species was evaluated as critically endangered by Yadav & Shendage (2010). Since it has

been recollected again from a locality other than its type location, threat status needs to be assessed again in the light of new data.

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