

Botanic name : *Crawfordia speciosa* Wall. -- Tent. Fl. Nepal. 2: 64. 1826 (IK)

Common name : Showy Gentian Vine

Family : Gentianaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial vine

Distribution : Eastern Himalaya, Nepal to Myanmar at 2400-3300m, msl. Over exploitations, slow regeneration, habitat degradation and loss of supporting plant are some of the major threats to the vine

Description : A climbing vine; rhizomes yellow, divaricate, fleshy. Stems twining, terete, glabrous; leaves linear to ovate-lanceolate, acute to acuminate at apex, irregularly toothed at margins, opposite with 3 prominent parallel veins; flowers axillary, bell-shaped, blue-purple, borne in stalked clusters of 1-3 flowers, tubular with five triangular lobes, spreading outwards; calyx campanulate, sepals connate, 5 tiny parts, lobes triangular, apex acute; corolla blue-purple to purple, campanulate; lobes broadly ovate-triangular, acute at apex; plicae semiorbicular to truncate, oblique, margin crenulate at margins; stamens inserted at middle of corolla tube; filaments linear-subulate, anthers sagittate; nectaries narrowly ovate.; style 2-lobed; fruit capsule; dark brown, ellipsoid, compressed, included in corolla to exserted; gynophore 1.5-3.5 cm. Seeds brown

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins

Medicinal/Economic uses : In Arunachal Pradesh (India), Monpa tribes dry roots and flower which is crushed together to prepare powder and then mixed with water to prepare paste to treat wounds. Leaves and flowers are cooked along with rice and eaten