

## 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).

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## SCHNEIDER'S LEAF-NOSED BAT HIPPOSIDEROS SPEORIS (SCHNEIDER, 1800) - A FOOD ITEM OF AN ACCIPITER SPECIES

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On 7 July 2000, at about 1848 hr, after coming out of the cave where I was observing a colony of Schneider's Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros speoris* (Schneider, 1800) on the Samnar Hill Complex (ca. 9°55'N & 78°2'E and altitude 151.2m.) near Madurai, Tamil Nadu, I joined my colleagues who were observing a small diurnal raptor devouring one of the bats from the cave. I was informed that the raptor had caught the bat in flight and was eating it for the past 12 minutes or so (P.O. Nameer, pers comm.). The bat was still alive and the raptor had a hard time pulling its morsel. Basing on preliminary observations on the characteristic features the raptor was identified as an unidentified *Accipiter* sp. A photograph of the raptor reveals the presence of a faint, yet distinguishable, mesial stripe on its whitish throat.

Ali and Ripley (1987) and Ali (1996) indicated that the food spectrum of the Besra Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter virgatus*) includes bats. Muni and Hedge (1998) reported Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) preying on Short-nosed Fruit Bat (*Cynopterus sphinx* Vahl, 1797) near Neyveli, Tamil Nadu. Earlier, Manakadan and Natrajan (1992) mentioned about Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) and an unidentified *Accipiter* sp. preying on insectivorous bats at Vedaranyam near Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu.

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